

SFXaminer

Viet Role?

OCT 10 1972

French Talk To Kissinger

By Milt Freudenheim

PARIS — (CDN) — White House adviser Henry Kissinger interrupted secret talks with Hanoi officials today to report his progress to the French government.

Kissinger and U.S. Ambassador Arthur Watson called on Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann. Later Schumann reported to French President Georges Pompidou, and, according to a source in Pompidou's office, filled in the president on Vietnam.

French sources have denied that France is being asked to play a role in guarantees for a Vietnam settlement along with China and Russia.

Everyone Mum

However, all information about negotiations is being closely held, and conflicting or misleading statements leak out frequently.

Pompidou recently moved closer to the American position on Vietnam peace, backing away from an apparent endorsement by Schumann of the Communist

call for a three-party coalition.

Kissinger and his deputy, Gen. Alexander Haig, also met today with top Hanoi officials in an unprecedented third day of secret meetings.

Le Duc Tho, North Vietnam politburo member, and Xuan Thuy, Hanoi's chief negotiator at the Paris talks, met the White House envoys at a secret location on the edge of Paris.

North Vietnamese and U.S. delegation spokesmen continued today the "no comment" policy followed by both sides.

Wide Gaps

After past Kissinger secret sessions here, Hanoi spokesmen have repeated that "a wide gap" still separated the American and Communist positions.

Hanoi spokesmen Tran Thien Can couldn't even say today whether there would be a comment on the secret sessions before Thursday's regular session of the

—Turn to Page 16, Col. 1

SFXaminer French Get Briefing on Viet Talks

—From Page 1

semi-public weekly Vietnam talks.

The "two crucial questions," according to the French Communist Party analyst Jean-Emil Vidal, are power in Saigon and elections.

Writing today in the party paper L'Humanite, he stressed the Communist argument that the South Vietnamese "can't use the right of self-determination until they get rid of the pro-American dictator (President) Nguyen Van Thieu."

London View

A similar point was made by the conservative financial Times of London: "The U.S. has not yet taken the crucial decision which seems necessary to win agreement from Hanoi — that of explicitly withdrawing its support from President Thieu."

Trying to qualify under the Communist proposal for a three-part temporary coalition, a group of South Vietnamese ex-officials in exile identified themselves as "neither for the Saigon administration nor for the National Liberation Front."

They include Gen. Nguyen Chanh Thi, former South Vietnamese commander, now in Paris, and former members of parliament Nguyen Cong Duc and Pham

Thi Duc

A South Vietnamese spokesman dismissed the group as "very small and representing nobody."

The Communist peace plan calls for a coalition to

include members of the present Saigon regime without Thieu, representatives of the Viet Cong and provisional revolutionary government, and neutral third parties.