

# KISSINGER HOLDS 4TH STRAIGHT DAY OF TALKS IN PARIS

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Again Delays His Departure  
for U.S.—French Official  
Reports 'Rapid Progress'

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 11—Henry A. Kissinger and the North Vietnamese representatives in Paris held their fourth consecutive secret negotiating session today. The White House again refused to say whether they were making any progress.

The White House announced earlier in the day that Mr. Kissinger would return to Washington in time to report on the latest round of talks before President Nixon leaves for Atlanta tomorrow morning for a campaign appearance. This evening, however, the White House said that the Presidential aide would stay in Paris for one more night.

### More Time Needed

Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press spokesman, said that there was no indication that Mr. Kissinger, the President's adviser on national security, was extending his talks.

[Jean-Philippe Lecat, the French Information Minister, when asked in a television interview about the progress of the talks, said: "Certainly, the partners are making progress, and lately they have been making rapid progress," United Press International reported from Paris.]

Yesterday, Mr. Kissinger extended at the last moment his stay in Paris because, according to White House officials, both sides agreed they needed more time for discussions in the current phase of the negotiations. This led to the fourth meeting today with Le Duc Tho, a member of the Hanoi Politburo, and Xuan Thuy, the chief North Vietnamese negotiator.

### No Reiteration of Policy

While Mr. Ziegler declined this morning to comment on

the substance of the extended talks, Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird told a news conference here that the "private negotiations" in Paris "are in a very serious, sensitive and significant stage."

The State Department also appeared to suggest that some changes in the official negotiating postures of the two sides might be in the offing.

Thus, Robert J. McCloskey, the department's chief spokesman told newsmen that he would no longer reiterate publicly the American and North Vietnamese stands.

"In present circumstances, I cannot refer back to previous statements by any party at the risk of intruding in the process

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described as 'sensitive,' he said.

This was a reference to the language used by President Nixon at his news conference last Thursday to describe the Paris talks now.

Other Administration officials said privately that the State Department preferred to avoid publicly freezing the United States negotiating stance at a time when Mr. Kissinger, in his Paris talks, might have moved to modify in some manner the earlier American positions.

At the same time, however, Mr. McCloskey said that he had no quarrel with statements in Saigon and Washington earlier this week that there was no change in the basic allied and Communist positions.

### Talk of Breakthrough

Mr. Kissinger's extended Paris stay—his four meetings this week with Mr. Tho and Mr. Thuy constituted the longest series of continuing sessions they have ever held —

gave rise to renewed diplomatic speculation here that a breakthrough might be near.

But the opinion among informed Administration officials, speaking privately, was that "a lot of work is still ahead," as one of them said today.

These officials believed that additional consultations by White House spokesmen would be held in Saigon with President Souh Vietnam, the central figure in the narrowing negotiations on the political aspects of a peace settlement, and that Mr. Kissinger would be going back to Paris one or more times before any final agreement could be reached.

### Radio Newsmen Reports

Last night on the Columbia Broadcasting System's evening news program, John Hart, who recently returned from Hanoi, quoted an "authoritative" source as saying that President Thieu would be "acceptable" as the leader of one of the factions in the three-part government proposed by the Communists.

"A North Vietnamese who speaks with authority said in a conversation last week that it

would be all right for President Thieu to lead one of the three factions in any future coalition government," Mr. Hart said in the C.B.S. radio report.

"If you make the fantastic supposition that Mr. Thieu is for a coalition and for neutrality, he is acceptable," Mr. Hart quoted his source as saying. "He said the most recent public proposals by the guerrillas in the South mean that the Saigon regime can still exist, still supported by the

United States, but not in war."

Asked at the State Department today about Mr. Hart's broadcast, Mr. McCloskey said that "it was noted."

But Mr. McCloskey added, he could not say whether such a possibility as reported by Mr. Hart is a factor in the present deliberations.

As far as the official negotiating positions are concerned, the principal difference between Washington and Hanoi is South Vietnam's political future.