

ABRAMS SWORN IN, SENT TO VIETNAM

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**Trip by Army's New Chief
Called Routine but Some
Link It to Paris Talks**
NYTimes

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 16 — Gen. Creighton W. Abrams was sent to South Vietnam today less than 12 hours after he was sworn in as Army Chief of Staff.

Officially, the trip was portrayed by Pentagon spokesmen as a routine on-the-scene assessment of growing South Vietnamese military capabilities. But talks with a number of Administration sources turned up indications that the trip might be connected with the signs of some movement in the secret Vietnam talks in Paris:

¶The general had told Army officers he planned a trip to West Germany immediately after taking his post to check on reports of morale, race and drug problems among American troops. At midweek he suddenly said the European trip would be delayed, but did not mention the Vietnam visit.

¶At 4 P.M. today General Abrams, accompanied by Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird, went to the White House to talk with President Nixon.

¶Gen. Alexander M. Haig, the deputy adviser on national security to the President, who will soon take over as deputy chief of the Army, made a Vietnam inspection tour less than two weeks ago.

"There's little that has happened militarily in Vietnam in the four months since General Abrams was there," one officer said, "and Al Haig was just there. If there were any gaps in our knowledge about Vietnamization, he could fill them in."

Sources familiar with the contents of Henry A. Kissinger's latest round of talks in Paris have said that they

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Abrams, New Army Chief, Sent to Saigon

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thought it unlikely that any agreement could be reached before the election Nov. 7. They said, however, that Mr. Kissinger, President Nixon's adviser on national security, had engaged the North Vietnamese negotiators in the most substantive talks since negotiations began at the private level three years ago.

Other officials said that the Joint Chiefs of Staff have recently worked up a detailed study for the National Security Council of the effects of a cease-fire and what kind of rules and machinery might be useful in policing a cease-fire.

Thieu Sees Top Aides

Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Oct. 16 — President Nguyen Van Thieu conferred with his ambassadors to the Paris peace talks and to the United States for eight hours today.

The South Vietnamese Foreign Minister, Tran Van Lam, and some of the President's closest aides and advisers also attended the long meeting at the Presidential Palace.

"This is a crucial time for us," one participant said this evening.

The high-level session was called by President Thieu after

an unprecedented four days of secret talks in Paris last week between Henry A. Kissinger and officials of North Vietnam.

Tran Kim Phuong, the Ambassador to the United States, and Pham Dang Lam, the chief of the South Vietnamese delegation to the Paris peace talks and the Ambassador to France, arrived in Saigon over the weekend. Government officials had initially said that the Ambassador to Britain, Vuong Van Bac, was also returning home for "consultation." But a spokesman said today that Mr. Bac would remain at his post.

Allies Assure Tho

HONG KONG, Oct. 16 (Agence France-Presse) — Le Duc Tho, North Vietnam's adviser to the delegation at the Paris peace conference, received Soviet and Chinese as-

surances of support when he stopped in Moscow and Peking on his way to Hanoi, the North Vietnam News Agency reported tonight.

It said that Mr. Tho told Soviet leaders Saturday of the "struggle waged by the Vietnamese people against U. S. imperialist aggressors on the military, political and diplomatic fronts."

The Russians, the news agency said, stressed the "resolute support" of the Soviet Communist party and Government.

In Peking yesterday, Mr. Tho met Premier Chou En-lai, and the deputy premier, Li Hsien-nien.

Mr. Chou, the agency reported, "expressed China's firm support for the Vietnamese people in their struggle against U. S. aggression."