

KISSINGER MEETS WITH THIEU TWICE; BOTH SIDES SILENT

OCT 20 1972

Sessions Last 5 Hours and
Include Bunker and Aide
From State Department

COALITION AGAIN SCORED

President Reported to Tell
Legislators Foe Wants
a Role at All Levels
NYTimes

By CRAIG R. WHITNEY

Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Oct. 19—President Nguyen Van Thieu, Henry A. Kissinger and Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker conferred twice today for a total of five hours.

There was no official comment from either the Americans or the South Vietnamese on the substance of the talks. Last night, however, President Thieu reportedly told about 100 pro-Government legislators at a meeting that the Communists wanted a three-part coalition government not only in Saigon but also at the hamlet and village level, a demand that he said was "unacceptable."

'Democratic Means' Crucial

The closest thing to an official comment came in the form of a news release issued by the Ministry of Information, which said:

"Political observers in Saigon remarked that at the arrival of the American delegation in Saigon, President Nguyen Van Thieu continued to meet with representatives of the Senate, the lower house, the Supreme Court and various political parties, and reasserted our firm position never to accept a tripartite proposal, that is, a coalition government in which Communists, neutrals and some representatives of the present Saigon Government would take part.

The statement also expressed opposition to "any other political solution which has not been agreed upon by the people of South Vietnam through democratic means."

The news release, which was read at the daily press briefing by a spokesman, Vu Khanh, touched off a fresh burst of speculation that Mr. Kissinger, President Nixon's adviser on national security, might have arrived at some sort of agreement in his secret discussions with North Vietnamese negotiators in Paris and that the political aspects of that agreement might be offensive to the Saigon Government.

Some low-level American of-

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ficials in the embassy here have not discouraged such speculation, and there have been hints in Washington that some kind of agreement, in principle at least, has been reached.

Vietnamese political circles tend to be suspicious of American motives, especially now that Mr. Kissinger, Gen. Creighton M. Abrams, the Army Chief of Staff, and William H. Sullivan, a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, are in town. All of them accompanied Mr. Kissinger and Ambassador Bunker into this morning's meeting with President Thieu at the presidential palace, from 9 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

Possibly to allay these suspicions, the Government newspaper Tin Song said of today's discussions:

"The North Vietnamese Communists are invaders, and the South Vietnamese are victims. The invasion has failed. The Republic of Vietnam stressed the right of self-determination of the South Vietnamese people and said clearly that it will not accept any two-part, three-part or four-part Government. President Thieu will explain the problem to the people and let them decide."

Another Lawmakers' Meeting

The President also met tonight with about 50 South Vietnamese legislators and other politicians, both pro-Government and Opposition, at a dinner at the presidential palace following his second meeting with Ambassador Bunker and Mr. Kissinger.

Last night, according to Nguyen Van Thong, one of those present, President Thieu said that Mr. Kissinger would come to Saigon and that they would have some talks.

"But the important problem, he told us," Mr. Thong said, "was: How many people do the Communists control? If we wanted to find out, he said, we could have elections, with two ballot boxes, one with the national flag and one with the flag of the National Liberation Front, and see how many people preferred each one.

'Years of Sacrifices'

"He said he hoped the United States would respect South Vietnamese self-determination and not throw away their years of sacrifices in South Vietnam, and he reaffirmed that until today, there was no pressure on him from the United States Government," Mr. Thong reported.

The morning session of today's talks was well attended and not private. In addition to Mr. Kissinger, Ambassador Bunker, and Mr. Sullivan, those present included Deputy Ambassador Charles S. Whitehouse and General Abrams. President Thieu had Vice President Tran Van Huong, Premier Tran Thien Khiem, Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam, a special assistant for foreign affairs, Nguyen Phu Duc; the South Vietnamese representative to the Paris peace talks, Pham Dang Lam; the Ambassador to Washington, Tran Kim Phuong, and his secretary Hoang Duc Nha.

Habib Summoned to Saigon

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 19 — The State Department said today that Philip C. Habib, the United States Ambassador to South Korea, had been summoned to Saigon to join Mr. Kissinger in his intensive talks with President Thieu.

Mr. Habib, who served as a deputy ambassador to Saigon from 1965 to 1967 and later became acting head of the United States delegation to the Paris peace talks, is one of the top American experts on South Vietnamese politics and personalities.

His arrival in Saigon seemed to lend credence to a widely held view here that Mr. Kissinger, as part of his mission to Saigon, had been trying to persuade Mr. Thieu to agree to some formula that would allow the Vietcong some political representation.