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URGENT

Kissinger Bjt 2nd Lead

By GEORGE ESPER

Associated Press Writer

23 OCT SAIGON AP - Henry A. Kissinger met with President Nguyen Van Thieu Monday for the sixth time in five days in quest of an Indochina peace settlement, then prepared to leave Saigon, apparently for the United States.

As Kissinger and U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker wound up a 2 1/2-hour meeting at the presidential palace, Kissinger's Air Force jetliner was ordered in from Bangkok to pick him up.

The U.S. presidential adviser's route and destination were not disclosed, but informants said he most likely was returning to Washington.

Kissinger also met with Thieu on Sunday morning, flew to Cambodia for a three-hour conference with President Lon Nol and then returned to Saigon for another meeting with the South Vietnamese president that lasted nearly two hours past dusk.

In a related: 4th graf Bjt a211 eliminating lead a314.  
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URGENT

Kissinger Bjt Lead

By GEORGE ESPER

Associated Press Writer

SAIGON AP - Henry A. Kissinger broadened the quest for an Indochina peace settlement Sunday in a round of commuter conferences with the presidents of South Vietnam and Cambodia. Then on Monday morning he met here with President Nguyen Van Thieu for the sixth time in five days.

The U.S. presidential adviser conferred with Thieu for two hours Monday. He had met with Thieu Sunday morning before flying to Phnom Penh for a three-hour conference with President Lon Nol. Later on Sunday Kissinger commuted back to Saigon for another meeting with the South Vietnamese President that lasted nearly two hours past dusk.

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By GEORGE ESPER

Associated Press Writer

SAIGON AP - Henry A. Kissinger broadened the quest for an Indochina peace settlement Sunday in a round of commuter conferences with the presidents of South Vietnam and Cambodia.

Although there was no official word on his next move, it appeared that the U.S. presidential adviser would extend his stay in Saigon to a fifth day.

Kissinger conferred with President Nguyen Van Thieu for two hours Sunday morning, flew to Phnom Penh for a three-hour conference with President Lon Nol, then commuted the 20 minutes back to Saigon for a second meeting with Thieu that lasted for nearly two hours past dusk. He then returned to the U.S. Embassy.

In a related development, Premier Hang Thun Hak announced shortly before Kissinger's visit to Phnom Penh that the Cambodian government had "reached agreement in principle" for peace talks with the Khmer Rouge, the Communist-led Cambodian insurgents allied with the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese.

Only a few months ago, the Cambodian government had refused to acknowledge the existence of the Khmer Rouge. But the Khmer Rouge strength has increased from a little more than 5,000 last March to about 40,000 now.

The premier of Laos, Prince Souvanna Phouma, said in Paris that peace may come soon in Indochina and that negotiations in his country had got off to a good start. The Pathet Lao is the adversary of Souvanna's government.

The prince made his remarks in a statement at the airport while en route to the United States. Before leaving Laos, the prince conferred with one of Kissinger's aides.

Kissinger has held five conferences with Thieu since he arrived last Wednesday night, underscoring the intensity and seriousness of the peace talks. North Vietnam's premier, Pham Van Dong, said in an interview with Newsweek magazine that the three-way secret negotiations "are in an extremely important phase."

The U.S. Embassy declined to say what Kissinger's next move would be. His schedule appeared flexible. There was no immediate word when he would return to Washington to report to President Nixon.

But the flurry of conferences, Dong's statements and reports that some military bases in the United States were on special alert in preparation for possible evacuation of American prisoners of war from North Vietnam touched off a new round of speculation that some kind of a settlement may be in the works.

Time magazine said that United States and North Vietnamese negotiators in Paris had agreed in principle last week to a settlement providing for a cease-fire, formation of a new South Vietnamese government and national elections.

MORE

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Kissinger Sub

SAIGON Kissinger Bjt a211-212, sub for 10th and 11th grafs: Nixon.

Sources at two U.S. Air Force bases reported the cancellation Sunday of special alerts for air transport units, at first thought possibly to be in preparation for evacuation of U.S. prisoners from North Vietnam.

The Pentagon said that no "unusual action" had been taken with regard to the POWs.

However the special alerts, together with the flurry of conferences and statements by Dong, touched off speculation that some kind of peace settlement was in the works.

Time and Newsweek magazines reported Sunday that the United States and North Vietnam had agreed to a peace settlement under which Thieu would stay in office until replaced by a caretaker government.

Time said Hanoi "has agreed to negotiate directly with the Thieu government." Both magazines said a cease-fire would be in effect while negotiations went on.

Newsweek said the plan calls for the cease-fire to be followed by a short-lived interim government and a national election supervised by France. Time said a committee composed of Communist, neutralist and Thieu government factions would create the caretaker government to replace Thieu.

Newsweek said: 12th graf which 1st graf insert a222.

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Kissinger Insert

SAIGON Kissinger Bjt A211-212 insert after 11th graf: elections. Newsweek said it learned that the United States and North Vietnam had reached agreement in Paris on ending the war, with one point still unsettled: whether an interim government should be made up of Thieu's followers and the Viet Cong or a three-way government of Thieu, neutralists and Viet Cong. Thieu has said he is opposed to the latter. Newsweek also said that France would act as a neutral supervisory power to guarantee that honest elections would follow. Thieu: 12th graf-1st graf A212.  
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SAIGON Kissinger Bjt take 2: elections. 440

Thieu has been strongly emphasizing his opposition to a coalition government and other concessions to the Communist side ever since Kissinger arrived in Saigon. Radio Saigon broadcast over the weekend a reaffirmation of Thieu's "four no's," saying it is necessary to stress them once more "to both our friends and enemy."  
"We do not accept coalition with the Communists, we do not share lands with the Communists, we do not accept Communist-type neutrality and we do not allow the Communists to operate in South Vietnam under any form," the broadcast said. But some here view this as a campaign intended only to maintain public confidence in the government and the military and to avoid rampant speculation that peace may be near. Some South Vietnamese officers express concern about the effects of peace speculation on their troops. One general, discussing the outlook for a cessation of hostilities, said: "No soldier wants to be the last one to die before a cease-fire."  
Kissinger's side trip to Phnom Penh and visits earlier to Laos and Thailand by a member of his traveling party, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State William Sullivan, indicated the talks were being focused on an Indochina wide cease-fire. Both Thieu and Nixon have insisted publicly that any cease-fire must embrace all of Indochina and be internationally supervised. The Communist side has opposed Thieu's plan, saying that an interim Saigon government would still control the machinery of an election and could rig it in favor of Thieu or one of his allies. Washington's position has been described by informants as one in which the United States will continue to support South Vietnam's military effort but would take a hands-off position in a political settlement, leaving a decision on any interim government and Thieu's own future to the South Vietnamese president himself. This position appears to closely parallel that of the North Vietnamese premier.  
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