

# Reports of Wider Cease-Fire Talks

## Accord on Terms May Be Near

N.Y. Times Service

Washington

Indications mounted yesterday that intensive negotiations are under way for a cease-fire to end not only the Vietnam war but also the fighting in neighboring Laos and Cambodia.

From comments made by officials in Saigon, Phnom Penh and Laos, as well as in Hanoi and Washington, it seemed that agreement was near on the terms for implementing an Indochina-wide cease-fire as the first step in an over-all settlement.

But conclusion of a settlement that would prove acceptable to all interested parties, still seemed uncertain because, so far, Hanoi and Saigon appeared far apart on the kind of political alignment that would emerge in South Vietnam once the fighting stopped.

### KISSINGER

In the middle of these secret and highly delicate negotiations was Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's national security affairs adviser, who continued his efforts yesterday to gain concurrence of South Vietnam's President Nguyen Van Thieu

on a compromise solution.

Kissinger, who has held lengthy negotiations in recent weeks with North Vietnamese officials in Paris, was reported to be assuring Thieu of American support for the future of South Vietnam while at the same time urging him to agree to a formula that would allow the Viet Cong to participate in postwar Vietnamese political life.

The Indochina solution, under negotiation involves a "military" part — the cease-fire, withdrawal of

See Back Page

### From Page 1

American and North Vietnamese forces, and release of prisoners of war; and a "political" part in which Hanoi is demanding a "neutral" government that would include Communist and neutral representation along with that of the current Saigon government.

### COLLAPSE

The whole package could collapse, officials here have said, if any of the major elements cannot be negotiated successfully.

As usual, there were no statements issued here or in Saigon on the progress of Kissinger's talks, but there were these developments:

• A high Saigon official said Thieu had set up a 50-man group to come up with ideas on how a cease-fire could be implemented in a situation where there were no clear-cut front lines. Similar plans have been undertaken by the Pentagon as well.

• Apparently to ease concern in Cambodia, Kissinger

flew to Phnom Penh for four hours to brief Cambodian President Lon Nol on developments. Saturday, William H. Sullivan, a high State Department official accompanying Kissinger, went to Laos and Thailand to inform officials there.

• Laotian Premier Souvanna Phouma, who was briefed by Sullivan, flew to Paris yesterday on his way to the United States for talks. In a carefully worded statement at the Paris airport, Phouma said the news reports about an imminent settlement of the Indochina war are "generally well-informed." Preliminary talks began in his country last week between Communist Pathet Lao and government officials on a cease-fire and resolution of the strife in that country, and he said, "I hope that soon all will be settled."

• In Cambodia, a high official was quoted in a published report as saying that government officials had recently held a series of meetings with the North Vietnamese-backed Khmer Rouge rebels aimed at ending the fighting in that country. Presumably, if the North Vietnamese complied with the cease-fire being worked out, most of the fighting would stop in Cambodia and Laos.

The progress toward a cease-fire followed an apparent concession in recent weeks by North Vietnam, which earlier had rejected cease-fire proposals put forth by the U.S. In the past, Hanoi had said a cease-fire could only come about after a political settlement was reached.

### STEPS

Now, according to comments made by Premier

Pham Van Dong and other North Vietnamese officials, Hanoi is willing to accept a cease-fire provided that Saigon also agrees to follow-up political steps.

These would include agreement by Saigon and the Viet Cong on the "neutral" members of a three-sided interim government that would rule the country for about six months until general elections were held and a new government and, presumably, a new constitution were created. The tripartite group would consist of Viet Cong, South Vietnamese and neutralist elements in equal numbers.

Reliable neutralist and North Vietnamese sources have said that Thieu could remain as head of the South Vietnamese "third."

### FEAR

Well-placed Saigon officials, however, have said that none of Hanoi's political proposals is acceptable to Thieu, who in recent days has repeated his refusals to share political power with the Communists, fearing that they would seize power in Saigon through subversion and terror.

To prevent a Communist takeover, Kissinger was thought to be proposing to Thieu various "guarantees" in which third countries could supervise elections and make sure they were held fairly. France has been mentioned as one possibility.

The emphasis of recent comments by the North Vietnamese has been that Hanoi was doing all it could to facilitate a settlement, but that Thieu was being recalcitrant.