

# Hanoi Said to See Difficult Talks Ahead

PEKING, Oct. 23 (Agence France-Presse) — Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the deposed head of state of Cambodia, said here today that Le Duc Tho had told him a week ago that "the most difficult and delicate" part of the Vietnam peace talks still remained to be held.

One-fifth of "the road toward negotiated peace in Vietnam" is still to be traversed, Mr. Tho, a member of the North Vietnamese Politburo, was quoted as having said.

Mr. Tho spoke with the Prince during a stopover on his way home from four days of private talks with Henry A. Kissinger in Paris. The stopover came just before President Nixon's national security adviser arrived in Saigon for five days of meetings with President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam.

Prince Sihanouk declared in an interview that Mr. Tho had said that he expected to continue his conversations with Mr. Kissinger but that he would be "intransigent" on the North Vietnamese demand for a three-part interim coalition in Saigon and for recognition of the existence of "two armies" in the South. The reason, Mr. Tho was said to have explained, was to avoid falling into "the trap of elections controlled by Thieu's police machinery."

According to the Prince, agreement appears to have been reached on the principle of in-

national control of a cease-fire, with the details still to be settled.

The Prince quoted Mr. Tho as having told him that the North Vietnamese Government had softened its position on the future of President Thieu "in order to achieve peace that permits reconstruction of Vietnam."

But Hanoi's "flexibility," Prince Sihanouk said, merely concerns "points of detail," and there has been no change in its "fundamental position" regarding Mr. Thieu. That has been that the South Vietnamese President must give up his seat of power.

Prince Sihanouk said he had been told that if the political discussions failed, the Viet-

namese Communist forces were "absolutely prepared to launch a terrible offensive during the dry season now about to start."

He also said it was "quite possible" that Mr. Kissinger might go to Hanoi and Peking in the coming days. But the Prince added that thus far he had received "no indication" from Chinese authorities of any such development.

He also said Mr. Tho had reiterated to Mr. Kissinger in Paris and to Premier Chou En-lai here in Peking that the Cambodian problem could be settled only with Prince Sihanouk.

The Prince, who left Cambodia after he had been deposed by Lon Nol in March, 1970, said that in the event of an early cease-fire in Vietnam and Laos, he would be able to return to what he described as the liberated zone of his country to head his resistance fighters.

He indicated that he thought this might be before Christmas.

The Prince said that a cease-fire in Vietnam and Laos would not automatically mean the end of the fighting in Cambodia because "we are not ruled by Hanoi and the North Vietnamese are not empowered to negotiate in our name."

The Prince said several times that he would refuse any cease-fire that "would permit the traitors in Phnompenh to survive."

He said that if he returned, he would play the "very constitutional" role of head of state and "will leave the reins free to the resisters and the Red Khmers" in accordance with the promise he made to them.

"The power is yours," he said he had promised. "Even if you are left wing, you are above all Cambodians."

OCT 24 1972

## LAOTIAN SEES TRUCE BY END OF OCTOBER

PARIS, Oct. 23 (UPI) — The Laotian Premier, Prince Souvanna Phouma, said today that he expected an Indochina cease-fire to be announced before the end of the month, but that a full peace settlement would come later.

"It's difficult to say when actual peace will come because I haven't got all the elements of appreciation," Prince Souvanna said, speaking in quiet, well-weighed words with a small group of journalists.

"The sooner will be the better," he said. "But a cease-fire will come inevitably, I think before the end of the month."

Prince Souvanna said that a settlement would take longer to work out than an armistice because of the tangled situation, which is different in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

The Laotian leader added that he expected a general accord to lead to a repeat of the conditions of 1961 and 1962, when there was cooperation between his neutral Cabinet and the Communist Pathet Lao, headed by his half-brother, Prince Souphanouvong.

Prince Souvanna said he did not believe that there would be a big-power guarantee of any settlement. "No one proved capable of guaranteeing the 1962 Laotian neutrality accord, since Laos was invaded by the North Vietnamese," he recalled.