

U.S. Is Said To Agree With Hanoi on Framework of a Cease-Fire; Expects Saigon to Accept Soon

REPORT BY FRENCH

Washington Believed Pressing for Thieu's Quick Acceptance

By FLORA LEWIS

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, Oct. 25 — A wide measure of understanding on a cease-fire and a subsequent political settlement in Vietnam has been reached between Henry A. Kissinger and the North Vietnamese negotiator Le Duc Tho, a high-ranking French source disclosed here today.

French officials, who now consider themselves well informed on the recent swirl of Vietnam diplomacy, understand that the United States has undertaken to make sure that Saigon accepts the terms.

There is some discord among top French officials in their estimate of how successful the United States will be in hurrying approval by President Nguyen Van Thieu—and, therefore, how soon the accord can be put into effect.

Communists Comment

A flurry of comment from Hanoi and the Vietcong charging that "the Nixon Administration does not want peace," appeared to rebut French assertions of progress. But the Communist statement, focusing on what was called American responsibility for Mr. Thieu, was taken here as an attempt to intensify pressure on Washington rather than a signal that diplomacy had failed.

The cease-fire would leave the South Vietnamese and the Vietcong administering the zones they hold at the time the fighting stops, according to the French source. President Nguyen Van Thieu would remain in his present position until elections produced a new government.

Above that level, according to the account, would be a

commission or committee composed of the three major groupings in South Vietnam — the Saigon Government, the Vietcong and the neutralists.

The neutralists, it was said, would play a most important role. It was not clear whether that meant that they would have more than a third of the posts on the commission or that their third would function as referee

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between the two belligerents.

The commission idea is clearly a compromise between the Communists' insistence of a three-part transition government and President Thieu's refusal to step down or to take part in such a government.

Furthermore, an international control commission would be established to supervise the elections and guarantee the ensemble of political and military accords. It would not be the existing, and ineffective, commission, composed of India, Canada and Poland, that was established by the 1954 Geneva agreements ending the French war with the Communists in Vietnam.

The plan is to convoke a sizable international conference in Paris to set up the new control commission. Since the conference would not have to negotiate a cease-fire or other basic accords, the expectation was that it could complete its work quickly.

It could be convened in 48 hours, one source said, so as to have the commission in being when the cease-fire came into force.

With regard to the new control commission, all sides were said to have agreed that India should be dropped and France added. Canada and Poland would apparently be retained, and Britain has been proposed as a fourth member.

Role for Japan Suggested

Some sources reported that Japan would be the fifth member, as advocated by the Laotian Premier, Prince Souvanna Phouma, who has been in Paris. The existing commission has responsibilities in all of Indochina, presumably the new one would also have supervisory tasks in Laos and Cambodia as well as Vietnam.

But the Vietcong spokesman, Ly Van Sau, made it clear at a news conference here that his side opposed the inclusion of Japan. He said it was because of the "role the Japanese Government is playing at the present moment, a less than shining role in this war." He added that the Japanese Government had "always followed the U.S. policy of aggression

POWs

in South Vietnam, but the Japanese people have been on our side.

Indeed, a responsible French source said that Japan would not be included and that China would be the fifth commission member. If so it would be a dramatic reversal of recent Chinese policy against international policing bodies, but it would assure China continuing involvement in Vietnam.

The commission would operate under the authority of the conference, whose major members would guarantee the peace settlement. The conference members envisioned would be those that took part in the 1962 Geneva conference on Laos, which was slightly larger than the 1954 Geneva conference on all of Indochina.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government proclaimed by the Vietcong did not exist in 1962, but would be included now. The participants then were Britain, Burma, Canada, China, France, India, Poland, Thailand, the Soviet Union, the United States and the Indochinese states—Cambodia, Laos and North and South Vietnam.

Publicly, the French Government made a veiled reference to the advancing diplomatic plans. A spokesman quoted Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann as having told the Cabinet today: "The French Government expresses its hope that at the moment when the per-

pouring out arguments, each evidently designed to nudge the others. There was no sure measure of how many of the heated words could be taken at face value and how many covered last-ditch bargaining attempts.

The pending American election has created the atmosphere of the last lap of a race to settle the war by agreement.

It was evidently in President Thieu's interest to delay agreement until after the election, when President Nixon might be less eager to push him into a political settlement he clearly does not like.

New South Vietnamese laws providing the death penalty for possession of a Vietcong flag or tract were viewed by Western sources here as preparation for competing with Communist claims of territorial control when a cease-fire comes. There has been substantial fighting in the Saigon region lately and many areas are under dispute.

The Vietcong spokesman here mentioned the law as evidence of "fascist measures so Thieu can prolong the war."

It was in the interest of the Vietcong and North Vietnam to insist that President Thieu was the obstacle to peace and that the test of whether President Nixon was seriously seeking settlement was his support of Mr. Thieu.

It was apparently in the interest of Mr. Nixon to confound critics by keeping the world guessing—and hoping.

And France has been interested all along in playing a visible role as peacemaker and welcome friend of all sides.

The parties involved shaped their latest statements and silences to their current tactics.

The Vietcong spokesman was harsh in his condemnation of Mr. Thieu and of the United States for supporting him. But when he was asked the purpose of the weekly session of the four-sided Vietnam conference here tomorrow, he said: "It will be important. You will see tomorrow."

'Deceitful Maneuvers'

North Vietnam issued several statements. One, by the Hanoi radio, said Mr. Nixon "was using all manner of deceitful maneuvers and measures to create a false veil of peace, perfidiously trying for political purposes to create the impres-

sion that he is actively pursuing the path of negotiations to end the Vietnam war."

"While practicing this deceit," the broadcast said, "the tricksters are using their lackey Nguyen Van Thieu to block peace so that the Nixon aggressors can continue their war of destruction against our country."

In Paris, the North Vietnamese delegation released an editorial from the Communist party newspaper in Hanoi, Nhan

Klein Doesn't Expect A Truce by Election

Herbert G. Klein, President Nixon's director of communications, said yesterday he did not expect a cease-fire in Vietnam before the Nov. 7 election.

He gave that answer to a question at Hotel Roosevelt news conference, but he stressed that this was his personal opinion and that he was not "a part of the talks" aimed at a peace agreement.

Asked about charges that the peace effort was designed to help Mr. Nixon's chances, he said such charges were "silly."

spectives of peace are growing sharp as a result of the courageous efforts of the parties involved, there will be no last-minute difficulties."

The Communists' statements from various quarters concentrated, nonetheless, on warnings that they would fight on to victory if a settlement was not reached. There were renewed accusations that peace reports were a "political trick" by the United States designed to "dupe public opinion."

In the absence of any comment from Washington, the other parties involved were

based on the 1962 agreement, which was never fully implemented, aim at re-establishing the coalition government of rightists, neutralists and Communists that has been accepted in principle.

who left for the United States, said at the airport that the progress of talks in Vientiane, where his Government today proposed a cease-fire, will all depend on what happens in Vietnam—what Hanoi does, the Pathet Lao will do.

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Dan, calling on the population to fight for victory. The editorial, entitled, "Let us redouble vigilance, let us continue the fight with perseverance and vigor," said that "the Vietnamese people still must endure numerous difficulties, and tests, but it is fully willing to fight on if necessary, and will finish with total victory."

The Laotian negotiations, Prince Souvanna Phouma,