

Hanoi: 'Peace Is At Tip of a Pen'

Examiner News Services

The North Vietnamese spokesman in Paris insisted today that the peace agreement reached with the United States be signed Tuesday.

He added that Hanoi negotiators would be willing to meet Henry Kissinger though "there are no remaining questions that need another meeting."

"But if after the signing of the agreement on Oct. 31, Dr. Kissinger wants to meet with Le Duc Tho and Xuan Thuy to discuss problems of common interest we are ready," Hanoi spokesman Nguyen Thanh Le said.

"The peace is at the tip of a pen," Le said, insisting that the United States carry out the agreement to sign next Tuesday.

Not Precise

Le told a news conference that "it was the President of the United States who proposed the date of Oct. 31 for the signature."

It was not precisely clear whether he was making the signing of the agreement a condition for another negotiating session. And under persistent questioning by newsmen he refused to say.

Le thus left unanswered the question of whether the North Vietnamese would be prepared to resume negotiations on parts of the treaty text which Washington has indicated it wants to clarify.

"We believe that the U.S. demands for a renegotiation of the text are pretexts to delay the signing of the already agreed treaty," Le said.

He scoffed at what he said was Kissinger's need to compare texts of the accord to clarify questions of linguistics.

"This question has already been settled definitely," Le said.

He said that at a secret meeting on Oct. 11 that finished at 2 a.m. Oct. 12, expert translators of both sides compared the text of the agreement.

In another meeting on the afternoon of Oct. 12, experts of the two sides again worked on the text in Viet-

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namese and English, he added.

Le said that on Oct. 17 Kissinger and Xuan Thuy, chief of the North Vietnamese peace delegation, "went over the text chapter by chapter, article by article, sentence by sentence, word by word. There is no question of linguistics pending."

Le spoke at a news conference in reply to correspondents' questions on whether the Hanoi peace negotiators would respond to Kissinger's call yesterday for one final meeting to refine some parts of the treaty, disclosed earlier in the day by Hanoi.

No Signal

In Washington, U.S. officials indicated they have not yet received a signal one way or the other from Hanoi on reopening the talks that Kissinger said yesterday could bring peace to Vietnam "in a matter of weeks, or less."

The American officials did not take Le's statement today as an answer to Kissinger's request that Hanoi decide if a new meeting is to be held.

They said the real answer probably would go through private channels and would not be presented by a lower-ranking official in a public forum.

It was also indicated that the Nixon administration expects a barrage of negative statements and public criticism from Hanoi in the next few days while the private efforts continue quietly.

In Hanoi, echoing a government broadcast by Hanoi Radio yesterday, the official newspaper Nhan Dan said that the difficulties the United States indicated it has encountered with South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu "are only an artificial pretext, a maneuver to cover the bad faith of the Nixon Administration with regard to what it has agreed upon and committed itself to implement."

After Le spoke today in Paris, Xuan Thuy, a senior Hanoi negotiator, and Viet

Cong Foreign Minister Mme. Nguyen Thi Binh appeared, pushed through a milling crowd of newsmen and also insisted that the U.S. sign the peace treaty on Tuesday.

Mme. Binh declared South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu should quit. "If peace is to be achieved, the United States must stop backing the present warlike ruling group in Saigon and Nguyen Van Thieu must resign," she said.

Thuy said: "Let the Nixon Administration carry out immediately the accords agreed upon by (North Vietnam) and the United States."

The nine-point pact provides for a cease-fire, an exchange of prisoners and withdrawal of all American troops within 60 days of the signing ceremony.

Paris

But privately, in the lobbies of the Paris conference hall, the talk was not so tough.

Communist sources said the apparently intransigent stand of the North would help Nixon put pressure on the Saigon regime. Sources on the South Vietnamese side also said there was a feeling a cease-fire was inevitable soon.

Caution Urged

In Washington, also, U.S. sources cautioned against considering the latest reaction by Thieu as an indication that Saigon is necessarily opposed to the terms outlined yesterday by Hanoi and Kissinger.