

New Talks Seen Soon; 4 Points Trouble Hanoi

Pact Delay Hinted

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Another round of negotiations between presidential adviser Henry A. Kissinger and North Vietnam's Le Duc Tho is expected soon in Paris to try to complete an Indochina accord, but not to sign it, authoritative sources in Washington said yesterday.

If the "modifications" the United States wants in the present peace draft can be resolved in several more days of bargaining in Paris, Kissinger probably will go back to Saigon with the final draft, perhaps after a stopover in Washington. Not until that process is completed, according to present planning in Washington, would there be a formal accord ceremony.

This timetable would virtually preclude completing the process by election day, Nov. 7.

The United States will send neither Kissinger nor Secretary of State William P. Rogers to Paris Tuesday to initial the present draft accord, or sign it, sources in Washington said flatly yesterday.

Instead, it was said, the United States will proceed with its announced plan for further negotiations to make "six or seven" changes in the pending nine-point accord which was made public by North Vietnam in summary form on Thursday.

North Vietnam's spokesman in Paris, Nguyen Thanh Le, said on Friday that his government will "insist" that the original agreement be signed Tuesday, as "agreed." Afterward, he said Kissinger could "discuss other matters" if he wishes.

That left open the diplomatic possibility of having Kissinger "initial" the agreement to ease the stalemate, and then conduct more negotiations to revise the initialed draft, which diplomats sometimes do.

The Nixon administration, however, sees no need to take such a course, authoritative sources said yesterday, and White House planning is based not on what Hanoi's spokesman says in Paris, but on continuing private communications between Washington and Hanoi. The U.S. position is that there is no need for "initialing" at this point, because Kissinger's press conference on Thursday

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"affirmed" the accord that he secretly negotiated with Le Duc Tho.

Despite North Vietnam's claims that the Oct. 31 signing date was proposed by the United States, the Nixon administration contends that the "deadline" concept was Hanoi's, not Washington's, and the varying dates proposed were only target dates, not absolute commitments.

The White House, as customary, will not discuss in advance when Kissinger will go to Paris for his expected meeting with Le Duc Tho. The usual pattern is that these projected meetings become publicly visible when Le Duc Tho leaves Hanoi, stopping off in Peking and Moscow en route to Paris. It is presumed that pattern will be followed again.

Kissinger has said that he expects the next negotiations to produce the "final" accord, and that they should be completed in "three or four days." Whether that expectation is attainable or not, however, administration sources now emphasize, depends on both sides and not just on the United States.

Some American officials regard that estimate as highly optimistic. Both sides now have had additional time to find imprecise points or unresolved issues in the voluminous draft text, which has been made public only in summary form.

The agreement, in essence, disengages the United States from the Vietnam war with a cease-fire in Vietnam, the release of American prisoners and the total withdrawal of U.S. troops, leaving the Saigon

regime and the Vietcong in a continuing struggle for the rule of South Vietnam.

One of the main revisions the United States wants to make is to establish a closer link between the halt in the fighting in South Vietnam, and the end of warfare in adjoining Laos and Cambodia. This is ambiguous in the present draft, along with clouded points on the three-segment National Council of Conciliation and Concord for South Vietnam—which North Vietnam calls a form of its long-sought "coalition."

It is possible, U.S. sources now concede, that the expected next single round of Kissinger-Tho talks in Paris may be interrupted by consultations in home capitals, and then resumed.

As a result, no authoritative official source is now forecasting a total wrapup of the end-of-war accord by Nov. 7.

However, even with conclusion of the settlement left dangling over the presidential election, the political impact can be almost equally advantageous for the Nixon administration.

Politically, there can be minuses, as well as pluses, for signing an accord on the very eve of the election. The administration has the advantage of having the basic terms of the intended agreement to disengage the United States from the war temptingly out in public as a result of Hanoi's disclosure of the nine points on Thursday. Although North Vietnam's move was a result of its suspicions about U.S. intentions, its action was a political windfall for the Nixon administration.