

# U.S. and Hanoi Reported In Accord on Truce Body

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PARIS, Oct. 31—An international commission to supervise a Vietnamese cease-fire has been agreed upon by the United States and North Vietnam, according to diplomatic sources here.

In the discussions between Henry A. Kissinger and North Vietnamese representatives earlier this month it was decided that the commission would include Poland and Hungary on one side and Canada and Indonesia on the other.

Although no date has been set for a further round of United States-North Vietnamese negotiations for a cease-fire, "lots of activity, lots of work is going on," a source close to the American delegation reported.

## Peace Still Held Near

The source, who refused all other identification, said that his latest information sustained the assessment of Mr. Kissinger that "peace is at hand."

American sources indicated that intensive exchanges were going on between the two sides, despite Hanoi's refusal so far to arrange the "last" bargaining session that Mr. Kissinger has requested because several points remain to be settled, in the United States view.

Two subjects under discussion, presumably through messages forwarded by third parties, were suggested to be the withdrawal plans for North Vietnamese forces in South Vietnam and the installation of international supervisors when a cease-fire is proclaimed.

## Deadline Passes

Today was the deadline that the North Vietnamese said had been agreed upon by Washington and their envoy for formal signature of the cease-fire.

Both the North Vietnamese and Vietcong delegations issued statements denouncing the United States for having failed to live up to what they called an agreement, but which Washington has said was only a hope, not a firm engagement.

The Vietcong's National Liberation Front used the stronger language, as usual, attacking the "bad will and duplicity of the American Government" and saying that its acts "put the chances for a peace seriously in danger." The North Vietnamese spoke of "the nonserious attitude of the Nixon Administration."

But both made clear that they were still ready and eager to sign the cease-fire "as soon as possible," although they gave no hint of willingness to renegotiate what Mr. Kissinger has called "six or seven minor points" in need of clarification.

## Americans Optimistic

Americans here were understood to expect that the 166th session of the formal four-sided Vietnam conference on Thursday will reflect the nearness of peace for the first time.

South Vietnamese sources here made clear that they still considered outstanding disagreements to be crucial, and did not go along with the American view that they could be cleared up easily in a few meetings.

Further, the position expressed by Saigon representatives remained that any agreement signed by the United States and North Vietnam could have no validity in South Vietnam until Saigon also signed.

But in the flurry of harsh language, no doubt reflecting efforts to exert last-minute pressure, the word about the United States outlook remained "optimistic."

Prince Souvanna Phouma, the Premier of Laos, also repeated that view despite the fact that cease-fire negotiations in Vientiane are "not advancing."

## Laotian Expects Progress

The Prince, who returned to Paris from New York and Washington last weekend, said he had the impression that the outstanding issues between Hanoi and Washington were "minor." Further, he said that he expected the pro-Communist Pathet Lao to "soften" its stand as soon as a Vietnam agreement was sealed, since, he said, they are "teleguided from Hanoi."

In an interview, Prince Souvanna said that he "deplored" the general offensive launched "exclusively by North Vietnamese troops" in Laos Oct. 15. Its purpose, he said, was an effort to win territory for the Communists so as to improve the Pathet Lao position in the Laotian negotiations.

Saigon has insisted that cease-fires must be simultaneous across Indochina, including Lao and Cambodia. Mr. Kissinger said last week that the United States was seeking to improve agreements with Hanoi so as to "compress" the time gap between the cease-fires.

According to both Prince Souvanna and South Vietnamese sources, the Cambodian negotiations may be the most difficult to conclude. The Laotian prince said "it all depends on [Prince Norodom] Sihanouk," the exiled Cambodian leader now in Peking.

Publicly, Peking has given full support to Prince Sihanouk's refusal to consider any compromise with the regime of Marshal Lon Nol in Phnompenh. It is hoped that the British Foreign Minister, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, now visiting Peking, will bring back some clearer signs of China's intentions.

But, Prince Souvanna pointed out, "Peking's position is complicated" by the fact that the

Soviet Union still recognizes Lon Nol and maintains an embassy in Phnompenh. Reports from British newsmen accompanying Sir Alec have stressed that, in their conversations, the Chinese seem to have put "anti-Soviet" attitudes before most other considerations.

However, Vietnam remained the central problem and there was no sign that Saigon would achieve its demand that an all-Indochina cease-fire be proclaimed on a single day.

The Americans, according to informed sources, expect to convert the long, sterile four-sided Vietnam talks at the Hotel Majestic here into a center where disputes arising in the wake of a Vietnamese cease-fire can be handled.

This was the first clear indication that the conference might continue to meet after an agreement is signed. The Washington-Hanoi accord, as disclosed by the North Vietnamese, provides for both a four-sided "mixed military commission" and a Saigon-Vietcong "mixed military commission" to handle troubles on the spot.

If the American idea is accepted, it now appears that when the commissions disagree, the Paris conference will be asked to take up their problems.

## 0-Day Limit Seen

Presumably, however, this forum would not endure beyond the 60-day deadline for full American withdrawal from South Vietnam and the pledge of no further American intervention.

The informed sources said that 60-day deadline did not affect United States economic aid to South Vietnam or the continued functioning of American economic advisers. Further, there was a suggestion that "economic aid" could be construed to include continued United States budgetary support for salaries and other non-munition expenses of the South Vietnamese army.

United States troops in Thailand and the Seventh Fleet would not be affected by the withdrawal agreement, the sources said, though they would be required to stop all acts of war in Vietnam.

An additional agreement that has come to light here calls for the participation of Kurt Waldheim, as Secretary General of the United Nations, in the conference slated to be held within 30 days of the signing of the accord drawn up by the Americans and the North Vietnamese.

The conference would be attended by the four belligerents—the United States, North Vietnam, South Vietnam and the Vietcong. Britain, the Soviet Union, France and China would attend as signatories of the 1954 Geneva agreements that led to the present status of North and South Vietnam. The four members of the cease-fire commission would also participate.

## Guarantees Are Sought

The purpose of the conference is to provide international guarantees for the arrangements under which the Vietcong and Saigon authorities and forces are to coexist peacefully while attempting to work out a formula for elections and, eventually, a national government.

In addition, American sources have indicated that the conference would itself be expected to work out some of the arrangements in more detail.

One point that has caused some comment is that two nations whose military forces have fought in South Vietnam—Australia and South Korea—will not be represented.

According to diplomatic sources here, the four proposed members of the cease-fire commission have already been asked to participate. It is not known whether they have answered formally, but it is generally assumed that they will agree.

The commission replaces the control commission consisting of India, Canada and Poland that was supposed to supervise the 1954 Geneva agreements. The United States is said to feel that a group in which each side had two commission members favorable to it was preferable to the old arrangement under which a "neutral" number cast the deciding vote.

## Many Questions Remain

The old control commission could only act when there was unanimous agreement, so the deciding vote had more moral than practical significance. In fact, the commission's work proved almost totally ineffective.

There is no clear understanding in diplomatic circles here as to just how the new cease-fire commission would do its work, nor how big its observer contingent would have to be.

In any event, the United States is eager to get the commission working immediately after the cease-fire agreement. The North Vietnamese have favored leaving the commission to be formally set up by the international conference, which itself would not begin until 30 days after the agreement.

Today a source close to the American delegation at the weekly peace talks here indicated that the United States favored using the four-nation peace group itself as a means for getting the commission started.