

Kissinger Says Peace On the Way

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — Henry A. Kissinger said Saturday he is confident a cease-fire for all of Indochina "will emerge in a series of steps" all falling "within the same general time frame."

President Nixon's No. 1 foreign policy adviser and chief Vietnam negotiator said progress toward a settlement ending the war "is essentially as outlined" in his White House news conference week before last.

"There may be blips up and down," he said in chatting with newsmen aboard the presidential Air Force 1 jet en route from Washington to a campaign rally here.

The United States has been pushing for a cease-fire that would embrace Laos and Cambodia as well as Vietnam. In campaign appearances Friday Nixon forecast such a development.

"He knows what he's talking about," Kissinger said. Nixon brought a number of key aides with him on the campaign trip, which will wind up with a three-day stay at the Western White House in San Clemente, Calif.

There has been speculation that the United States and Hanoi are engaged in long-distance negotiations even though Kissinger and North Vietnamese representatives have not been in face-to-face contact for more than a week.

In response to a question, Kissinger said that any suggestion the United States is delaying a settlement in order to build up the military arsenal of the Saigon government was utter nonsense.

He agreed both sides are trying to improve their positions, but contended that would have happened in any event in advance of a cease-fire.

Kissinger at one point volunteered that details of the current draft agreement go beyond the nine points already made public. He said a full text of the proposed settlement has not been made public because the two sides do not want to publicize a benchmark against which possible future changes in the agreement could be checked.

Asked whether North Vietnam could, under the agreement, reinforce its units in South Vietnam from those now positioned in Cambodia and Laos, Kissinger said they could not. He said he expects those troops to return to their homeland via the Laotian trail they used to get to their present locations.

As for Communist forces in South Vietnam, Kissinger said that of 140,000 reported to be in the South, 35,000 are Viet Cong and 40,000 North Vietnamese regulars are in Military Region One. The rest, he said, are strung out along the border.