

KISSINGER'S AIDE FLYING TO SAIGON TO TALK TO THIEU

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Final Paris Truce Meeting
Expected After Haig Visit
—B-52's Set a Record*

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 8—The White House announced today that Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., chief aide to Henry A. Kissinger, was flying to Saigon to confer with President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam on the efforts to conclude an Indochina settlement.

It is widely assumed here that following General Haig's talks with Mr. Thieu, Mr. Kissinger may hold a "final" round of meetings with North Vietnamese negotiators to complete details of the nine-point agreement, first worked out in a draft form last month.

*[In Saigon, the United States command disclosed that American B-52 planes had set a record for concentrated bombing of a single province in South Vietnam. At the same time, attacks on North Vietnam dropped to a low point. Page 2.]

Report on Progress

Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, announced General Haig's mission, asserting that he would confer with Mr. Thieu "on the progress of the peace negotiations and make a general assessment of the situation in Vietnam."

General Haig was accompanied by John D. Negroponte, the chief Vietnam specialist on Mr. Kissinger's staff, and Maj. Frederick Brown, military aide to General Haig. Mr. Ziegler said that General Haig was due to return to Washington on Saturday or Sunday.

Earlier Disagreement

On Oct. 26, Hanoi announced that the United States and North Vietnam had agreed on a nine-point draft accord in Paris earlier that month. Mr. Kissinger, President Nixon's advisor on national security, confirmed this. Hanoi insisted that

the United States had promised to sign the accord by Oct. 31, but Mr. Kissinger denied this, asserting that "six or seven concrete issues" remained to be settled.

Some of the problems arose from Mr. Thieu's refusal to give his consent to the agreement when he met with Mr. Kissinger and General Haig in Saigon between Oct. 18 and 23.

The agreement includes provisions for a "cease-fire in place," the withdrawal of all American forces from South Vietnam, and establishment of machinery to hold new elec-

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tions in South Vietnam, in which the Vietcong would play a major role.

Mr. Kissinger said on Oct. 26 that he needed only one more extended negotiating session with the North Vietnamese to resolve the remaining problems. High Administration officials have said that Saigon would also be consulted and its approval sought before the projected settlement was signed.

Continued Attack by Hanoi

Since Oct. 26, Hanoi has kept up a polemical attack on Mr. Nixon for not signing the accord by the end of October. Mr. Nixon, in the last days of his election campaign, stressed that he would not be stampeded into signing.

A few days ago, a high Administration official flatly declared that the efforts to secure a settlement were "on track" and said that movement would be evident by the end of this week.

It is expected that Le Duc Tho, the chief Hanoi negotiator, will leave North Vietnam soon and return to Paris for the last round of talks with Mr. Kissinger.

General Haig, who next year will become the Army's deputy chief of staff, is known as a tough negotiator well suited for difficult diplomatic assignments such as confronting Mr. Thieu.

Thieu Approval Expected

Administration officials, noting that the negotiations with Mr. Thieu have been "rough," have nevertheless expressed the view that the South Vietnamese President would not risk an end to American support by refusing to concur in a "final" settlement.

To meet Mr. Thieu's concerns, the United States dramatically accelerated arms shipments in the last two weeks to bolster the South Vietnamese armed forces before a cease-fire. In addition, Mr. Kissinger has publicly pledged to seek incorpora-



Associated Press

Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr.

tion into the agreement some of Mr. Thieu's demands, such as the right of Saigon to sign it along with Hanoi and Washington.

But Mr. Kissinger and other Administration officials have also stressed that when Mr. Nixon believes the agreement is "right," it will be signed, with or without Saigon's concurrence.

"We will not be stampeded into an agreement until its provisions are right," Mr. Kissinger said on Oct. 26. "We will not be deflected from an agreement when its provisions are right." Administration officials speculated today that Mr. Nixon's

landslide victory would increase pressure on both Saigon and Hanoi to reach an early settlement.

Mr. Thieu, recognizing that he has few important backers in the United States, can gain little by delaying, the officials said. Likewise, Hanoi, aware of Mr. Nixon's strong backing, must consider the alternatives if the peace talks collapse.

One leading official said that Hanoi has probably also noted the prompt, friendly message sent to Mr. Nixon by the Soviet President, Nikolai V. Podgorny, today congratulating him on his re-election. Moscow, as Hanoi's main military supplier, is also believed here to have urged prompt settlement.

Mr. Thieu was objected to the provisions in the accord allowing North Vietnam to maintain its 145,000 troops in South Vietnam. But Administration officials have said that Hanoi has indicated that it would remove at least 35,000 men from the

northern parts of South Vietnam, and that more might be removed as part of a "thinning out" of forces by both Saigon and Hanoi.

In his speeches, Mr. Thieu has also opposed formation of a coalition government with the Communists. But the U.S. maintains that the administrative structure in the accord does not amount to such a coalition, and recently Mr. Nixon pledged that no coalition would be imposed on Saigon.