

LETTER BY NIXON IS SAID TO PRESS THIEU ON A TRUCE

Note Is Reportedly Carried
by Haig, Kissinger Deputy,
Who Is in Saigon for Talks
—NOV 10 1972
MISSION IS HELD CRUCIAL

Aides in Washington Predict
Final Parleys Next Week
if General Succeeds

NYTimes
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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9 — President Nixon has sent a personal letter to the South Vietnamese President, Nguyen Van Thieu, urging him to accept a cease-fire plan as soon as possible, well-placed Administration officials said today.

These officials said that the sealed message was carried by Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., the President's deputy adviser on national security, who left Washington for Saigon yesterday to deliver the plea and to conduct last-minute substantive negotiations.

General Haig is due back this weekend. Officials say that if his mission is successful—and Administration aides throughout Washington express optimism—Henry A. Kissinger could be in position to conduct a final series of negotiations on a cease-fire package with North Vietnamese representatives in Paris late next week.

Progress on Truce

Diplomatic and military sources, meanwhile, reported that progress was being made in setting up a 5,000-man truce supervisory force, which was expected to consist of 1,250 men each from Canada, Indonesia, Poland and Hungary.

In a press conference two weeks ago, Mr. Kissinger, President Nixon's chief adviser on national security, said it was hoped that this supervisory force could be placed on the ground "at the same time that the cease-fire was promulgated."

Today, officials said that this might not be possible, both because the Hungarians and Poles were not moving as fast as Washington had hoped, and because the Indonesians and Canadians had to work out arrangements on what vehicles and other equipment they could provide, and what must be provided to them.

Mobilization Stressed

But arrangements are being discussed to have an interim truce force made up of representatives of the United States, South Vietnam, North Vietnam and the Vietcong supervise a standstill cease-fire for up to 60 days, while the international truce team is assembled and put in place.

Officials would not discuss the contents of the President's letter to Mr. Thieu. But they said that General Haig would certainly point out, among other things, that in the last two weeks the United States had rushed hundreds of jet fighters, transports, helicopters, artillery and tanks to South

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Vietnam—much of this equipment beyond scheduled level—to improve the South Vietnamese Government's ability to defend itself against the roughly 145,000 North Vietnamese troops on its soil.

General Haig was also expected to argue that a partial demobilization of Saigon's million-man army, along with a proportionate withdrawal of the North Vietnamese Army, would not place the Saigon Government in jeopardy.

As one senior American official said of the North Vietnamese today: "We don't think they'll really take any major actions during the 60 days while we are pulling out our troops. After the President's landslide victory, they must realize his hand is strengthened. They don't want to do anything to stop or reverse our disengagement."

F-4's Sent to Taiwan

In a related development, Administration sources said that the United States had flown at least one squadron of American-manned F-4 fighter-bombers to Taiwan to help fill the gap caused by the Chinese Nationalists' shipment of 30 to 40 F-5A fighters to South Vietnam.

And the United States will soon turn over to the South Korean Air Force another squadron of F-4's for the same reason, the sources added. South Korea already has a

squadron of F-4's in its Air Force and thus has the pilots and maintenance personnel to handle the craft; Taiwan does not.

Over the long run, officials say, the United States would hope to provide new F-5E aircraft, an advanced version of the F-5A, to South Korea, Taiwan and Iran, which together shipped 116 F-5A's to South Vietnam in recent days.

In another action related to the moves toward peace, the helicopter carrier *Inchon* left Norfolk, Va., today for Southeast Asia. Sources said that it could be used as a platform for special American helicopters to help North Vietnam clear its ports of mines once the truce took effect. One official noted that the helicopter carrier *Okinawa* was already in the area and could serve the same purpose.

Supervisory Procedures

Administration officials said that the procedures of the international supervisory force remained to be worked out. But most likely, they said, small four-nation teams would be scattered over South Vietnam to monitor the movement of replacement weapons to military units of both sides and to investigate reports of troop movements or other truce violations.

Officials also said that the flow of additional aircraft to South Vietnam had virtually been completed. Besides the F-5A's deliveries have included:

66 A-37 close-support jet planes, 32 C-130 jet transports, 18 A-1 propeller-driven, close-support planes, 20 AC-119 reconnaissance plane and more than 200 helicopters.

Numbers of tanks and other ground combat equipment to be shipped by sea will arrive during the next couple of weeks, military officials said.

Bunker Confers With Thieu

Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Nov. 9—Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker spent 45 minutes with President Thieu early this morning, about the time that the White House was announcing General Haig's departure.

A Government source said that the South Vietnamese leader had found out about the Haig visit only when the American aide was already on his way.

The embassy never discloses the substance of these meetings, but presumably Mr. Bunker was telling President Thieu of recent secret contacts between Washington and Hanoi and reassuring him of the American stand in the wake of President Nixon's election triumph Tuesday.

But he sent a congratulatory message to President Nixon today that reflected no trace of disagreement or worry.

"The overwhelming support

that the American people has shown to you in this historic election is most gratifying for the friends and allies of the United States, because it is a most impressive endorsement of the high ideals you stand for," the cablegram said, in part.

U. S. Optimistic at Paris

PARIS, Nov. 9 (AP) — The United States delegation to the Vietnam talks again expressed optimism today that peace was near, despite another fruitless session at the conference table.

This optimism was reflected neither by the Communist side nor by the South Vietnamese delegation. The three-hour, 166th weekly session brought sharp recriminations between the opposing Vietnamese delegates.

But the United States delegation spokesman, David Lambertson, said at the end of the session: "I am optimistic that an additional private meeting is going to take place relatively soon, that the matters still unresolved will be taken care of and agreement will be reached."

The North Vietnamese spokesman, Nguyen Thanh Le, said that Le luc Tho, Hanoi's negotiator in the secret talks, was at home and added that he knew of no plans for his return to Paris to resume secret talks with Mr. Kissinger.