

Hanoi Says Tho, Kissinger to Hold New Paris Talks

NOV 1 1 1972

No Promise Made to Alter Pact

By Jonathan C. Randal

Washington Post Foreign Service

PARIS, Nov. 10—North Vietnamese negotiator Xuan Thuy said today that his colleague Le Duc Tho will return to Paris to hold new secret talks with White House adviser Henry A. Kissinger.

But in signalling Hanoi's willingness to meet again with Kissinger, Thuy avoided any commitment to accept changes in the draft accord demanded by the United States before it agrees to sign the cease-fire document.

In an interview with the French news agency Agence France-Presse, Thuy said, "It is necessary to wait for the eventual meeting" between Kissinger and Tho, the senior North Vietnamese Politburo member who has been in Hanoi for almost a month, to determine if minor changes could be accepted.

Thuy declined to specify when the next Kissinger-Tho meeting would take place, but he said that the press would be informed in advance.

Thuy also reiterated that as a concession to the United States, Hanoi had agreed to release American prisoners of war before political prisoners and detainees were let out of South Vietnamese prisons.

"South Vietnamese civilians will be freed within three months in keeping with agreed arrangements between the two South Vietnamese parties, but the United States must use its

influence with the Saigon administration to urge it to carry out this clause," Thuy said.

He said 300,000 prisoners were detained in 1,000 South Vietnamese jails.

Earlier in the day, sources close to the Communist peace-talks delegations said the United States has promised Hanoi that all political prisoners and detainees held in the South will be released no later than 90 days after a cease-fire.

The sources said that the verbal American commitment was part of the draft agreement worked out last month. They also maintained that the United States had agreed that the South Vietnamese government would honor the commitment.

[In another development, Agence France-Presse reported from Hanoi today that informed sources said American prisoners of war will be repatriated by sea under the cease-fire agreement.

See TALKS, A10, Col. 3

TALKS, From A1

[Observers in Hanoi linked this to yesterday's report from Washington that a U.S. mine-sweeping force was being assembled to clear North Vietnamese ports of the mines laid in May, AFP said.]

In the AFP interview, Thuy also apparently sought to quiet American fears about the exact description of the National Council of Reconciliation and Concorde, a tripartite organism on which Vietcong, Saigon and neutralist elements would be equally represented.

He said the English translation of its functions as an "administrative structure" was correct. However, on Oct. 27, his press spokesman, Nguyen Thanh Le, said much the same.

Observers noted that Thuy did not give the Vietnamese translation of the wording which has been rendered as a "structure of power," an interpretation which has caused South Vietnamese President Thieu to charge that the proposed Council was a disguised version of the coalition government he rejects.

Thuy repeated Le's earlier arguments that the Vietnamese language experts on Kissinger's staff had collated the documents, and that there was nothing requiring change.

Using the vague wording, Thuy, in an apparent gesture to quiet Saigon's fears, said the National Council "will not yet be a government."

But he did little to allay Saigon's fears of maneuvers to such an end. He merely reiterated the vague language of the Hanoi Radio version of the draft accord, which said the council should help "activate" the Vietcong and Saigon regimes after the cease-fire to carry out the agreements.

He reiterated the draft agreement language which said the council should also fix the modalities of elections and organize them during the transition period.

[Thuy's acknowledgement of the U.S. interpretation of the language in the draft agreement coincided with a furious denunciation of President Thieu by the official Hanoi daily, Nhan Dan.

[In an editorial entitled "Obstacles to be Removed," Nhan Dan said Thieu "is an obstacle that needs to be eliminated in order to reach the signing of the approved agreement and insure its serious implementation." Thieu was denounced as a man "nagging his U.S. bosses and writhing like a leech caught in lime" to block an end to the war.]

As in the past, Thuy was not specific today when asked to

specify what kind of elections would take place. He repeated that the Vietcong's Provisional Revolutionary Government wanted elections for a Constituent Assembly while Saigon wanted presidential elections. The two co-existing South Vietnamese governments would have to solve that problem in negotiations after a cease-fire, he said.

Thuy also reiterated earlier Hanoi denials that North Vietnamese troops would be regrouped in enclaves after the cease-fire, as Saigon would prefer. "There will be a cease-fire in place," he said. "There will be no regroupment zones."

In other points, Thuy:

- Reiterated earlier Hanoi hopes that Paris would be the site of the international conference to be called 30 days after

signature of the cease-fire accord.

- Declined to confirm the membership of the International Cease-fire Supervisory Commission, which American sources have said will include Canadian, Indonesian, Hungarian and Polish contingents.

- Denied that plans exist for an international commission to supervise elections, and said the cease-fire group would also be responsible for elections, troop withdrawals and the one-for-one replacement of war material.

- Praised the French government for its hospitality and help, and suggested Franco-North Vietnamese relations would further improve after the war.

In Saigon, President Thieu met for two hours today with Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., Kissinger's deputy who arrived earlier in the day.

The U.S. embassy declined to confirm or deny reports that Haig carried a personal letter from President Nixon. Haig was expected to confer with Thieu again Saturday and leave for Washington Sunday.