

Haig Flies Home and Reports to Nixon

By **BERNARD GWERTZMAN**
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WASHINGTON, Nov. 13 — Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr. returned to Washington this afternoon and immediately flew by helicopter to Camp David to report to President Nixon on his special mission to Saigon to persuade President Nguyen Van Thieu to join with the United States and North Vietnam in reaching an Indochina settlement.

Henry A. Kissinger, Mr. Nixon's chief adviser on foreign policy, was at Andrews Air Force Base when General Haig's jet landed, and accompanied his deputy on the helicopter flight to Camp David, the Presidential mountain retreat near Thurmont, Md.

The White House declined to provide details on the results of General Haig's five hours of conversations with Mr. Thieu on Friday and Saturday. But one official said he was encouraged by reports from Saigon that indicated some softening in the South Vietnam Government's objections to the nine-point draft accord worked out last month by Hanoi and Washington.

Kissinger Due in Paris

Before General Haig's return, Administration officials said that they expected Mr. Kissinger to go back to Paris late this week to resume talks with the North Vietnamese on concluding the Indochina settlement.

Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, again refused to disclose when such a meeting would take place.

"Dr. Kissinger is here today," he said. "We'll let you know when Dr. Kissinger goes to Paris."

At his news conference on Oct. 26, after Hanoi's disclosure of the nine-point draft agreement, Mr. Kissinger said he needed one more extended session with the North Vietnamese, "lasting, I would think, no more than three or four days" to settle the issues that had prevented the signing of the accord by the deadline of Oct. 31 demanded by Hanoi.

Further Consultations Due

But a few days later, a high Administration official said that Mr. Kissinger would still have to hold further consultations with Saigon following the "final" session with Hanoi.

The official also said he would not rule out some last-minute consultation with Hanoi, beyond the "final" negotiating session.

The pledge to continue consulting with Saigon was seen as necessary to reassure Mr. Thieu that the United States was not trying to negotiate away South Vietnam's interests.

To add force to this pledge, already believed to have been made privately to Saigon, Mr. Ziegler said at his news briefing today that after Mr. Kissinger's expected Paris meeting with the North Vietnamese, "there will be further consultations required."

In answer to questions, he said that those consultations would be with the South Vietnamese, and possibly with North Vietnam.

View Still Optimistic

But Mr. Ziegler insisted that these additional consultations did not signify any change in Mr. Kissinger's basically optimistic view that "peace is at hand."

Mr. Kissinger's view, as expressed publicly and privately by his aides, is that a settlement can be achieved, "within weeks, or less" of the time that Le Duc Tho, the chief Hanoi negotiator, resumes talks with him in Paris.

So far, Mr. Tho has not left Hanoi for Paris, but officials here said on Saturday that they expected him to do so "any day now."

Pullout Believed Issue

The Administration has been working on the assumption that despite its publicly stated reservations, Saigon will concur in the settlement by the time it is ready for signature. Mr. Kissinger, who met with Mr. Thieu for four days last month, has said that the United States supports some of Saigon's objections but rejects others.

General Haig was believed to have been instructed by Mr. Nixon to urge Saigon to drop its opposition to those points that Washington does not support, in particular Saigon's desire to have the cease-fire provide for the withdrawal of all North Vietnamese troops from South Vietnam.

Mr. Kissinger has said on many occasions that it is unreasonable to expect North Vietnam to surrender at the negotiating table what it has not lost on the battlefield. In the Administration's view, Hanoi has been able to hold on to certain areas of South Vietnam despite efforts by Saigon and American forces to dislodge them. Any agreement must take this into account, the Administration has said.

General Haig, who carried a message from Mr. Nixon to Mr. Thieu, was said to have been instructed to repeat the American view that Saigon was now able to hold its own against the Communists, both politically and militarily. The general was also reportedly told to communicate again the American belief that Hanoi would withdraw some of its forces although without being bound to do so by a formal accord, thereby preserving the fiction that it had no forces in the South.

In addition to meeting with General Haig and Mr. Kissinger after the general's return this afternoon, Mr. Nixon met privately for 80 minutes this morning with Mr. Kissinger to discuss the Haig trip, which included stops in Pnompenh, Cambodia, and Seoul, South Korea, on the way home yesterday.