

KISSINGER MEETS NIXON TO PREPARE FOR PARIS SESSION

Also Talks to Other Officials
About 'Crucial' Round of
Negotiations With Hanoi

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THO STOPPING IN PEKING

South Vietnam Aide, Leaving
for Parley, Says Changes
in Draft Are Necessary

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 14 — Henry A. Kissinger conferred with President Nixon and other high officials today as he prepared to depart for Paris to begin what the Administration regards as a crucial round of talks with North Vietnam's chief negotiator, Le Duc Tho.

Mr. Tho, who left Hanoi this morning, was reported in Peking this afternoon, on his way to Paris. He was returning there in response to the American request for an extended negotiating session to resolve issues that have delayed the signing of a nine-point Indochina settlement worked out in draft form last month.

Administration officials said that Mr. Tho would probably stop in Moscow before arriving in Paris Thursday. They expected that Mr. Kissinger, who is Mr. Nixon's chief adviser on foreign policy, would leave Washington in the next few days—possibly tomorrow night or Thursday.

Meanwhile, Pham Dang Lam, the chief South Vietnamese delegate to the larger semipublic peace talks, left Saigon for Paris during the day, saying there still were some "necessary changes" to be made before South Vietnam could accept the draft peace settlement. [Page 14.]

Tho's Position Is Key

A high Nixon Administration official said that Mr. Kissinger believed the Vietnam war could be ended in "a matter of

weeks" if Mr. Tho showed the same conciliatory attitude that he did between Oct. 8 and 11 when he and Mr. Kissinger were able to work out the draft accord in Paris.

Under Mr. Kissinger's tough timetable, the United States can resolve remaining problems with Hanoi in talks that could range from three to four days, or possibly a little longer. Then, it is expected that Mr. Kissinger, or his deputy, Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., who arrived from Saigon yesterday, would return to South Vietnam to seek President Nguyen Van Thieu's concurrence.

This might take another week, a high official said, and any remaining textual matters could probably be handled through diplomatic channels with Hanoi.

But even though Washington has had extensive diplomatic exchanges with Hanoi in recent weeks the Administration was described as unsure of what Mr. Tho's instructions would be when he met Mr. Kissinger, the high official said.

"Tho may be told to act tough and refuse to reopen any

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points," one official said, "and this might delay Henry's time frame."

But in general, the Administration tried to convey the view that negotiations were going well, and that American prisoners of war might be home by Christmas.

North Vietnam, in agreeing to the draft accord last month, had stipulated that it be signed by Oct. 31. But Washington, after running into objections in Saigon, sought more time to settle remaining problems.

Hanoi Criticized Delay

This delay was sharply criticized by Hanoi, which made public the outline of the nine-point accord on Oct. 26, and which has insisted up to now that the agreement be signed without further substantive negotiations.

Hanoi's announcement today about Mr. Tho's departure said it had agreed to the American request for another private meeting in Paris "to show clearly its goodwill and serious attitude."

"The Vietnamese people demand that the United States Government be truly serious and have goodwill accordingly," it said, "so that the war can quickly come to an end and peace can be restored in Vietnam. If the United States side still tries ways to prolong

the negotiations, to delay the signing of the agreement and to continue the war, the Vietnamese are determined to persevere in and step up their fight until their achievement of true independence, freedom and peace."

Kissinger Talks to Nixon

Mr. Kissinger spoke by phone with Mr. Nixon for about 25 minutes this morning, Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, said.

He also conferred, it was understood, with General Haig and William H. Sullivan, deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asian affairs, who is the top Administration specialist on Southeast Asia.

Mr. Kissinger and General Haig spent an hour and a half with Mr. Nixon at Camp David yesterday after the general's return from two days of talks with Mr. Thieu in Saigon.

A high Administration official said that problems still remained in getting Mr. Thieu's

concurrence. But he said that General Haig had told Mr. Thieu that the United States was ready to proceed with an agreement to end the war and would not be deflected by complaints of Saigon that Washington could not support.

Reassertion of Confidence

The official refused to discuss what would happen if, in the end, Mr. Thieu still objected to the accord. He repeated Mr. Kissinger's publicly stated confidence that Saigon and Hanoi would agree to the final agreement at about the same time.

Mr. Ziegler said at the White House today that the Administration was "satisfied with the pace of the negotiations" with both Saigon and Hanoi.

Saigon's chief objection to the accord is that the cease-fire in place contemplated in the agreement provides for the withdrawal of American and South Korean forces, but allows North Vietnam to retain the 145,000 troops it is estimated to have in South Vietnam.

Some Troops to Stay

The Administration has told Saigon that Hanoi must maintain at least some of the troops to defend the Vietcong areas allowed under the accord. It has promised Saigon that North Vietnam would withdraw many of the troops tacitly as part of an understanding reached out-

side the agreement. Moreover, North Vietnam has never acknowledged that its troops were in the South, and therefore would not agree to mention their withdrawal in any document.

Mr. Kissinger has said that the Administration planned to raise with Hanoi some other issues of concern to Saigon that Washington supports. These include Saigon's right to sign the agreement, along with Hanoi and Washington; affirmation that a three-sided electoral commission set up under the accord does not amount to a coalition government; provision that an international control group will be in place as soon as the cease-fire goes into effect to decrease the likelihood of last-minute fighting, and agreement that the cease-fire in Vietnam is followed by simultaneous ones in Laos and Cambodia.

Hanoi already has publicly indicated that there would be no problem in agreeing to most of those issues.

Tho Said to Meet Chou

PEKING, Nov. 14 (Reuters) — North Vietnam's chief negotiator, Le Duc Tho, met Premier Chou En-lai here today, informed sources said. Mr. Tho was believed to have discussed the position that North Vietnam would take in the new round of talks with Henry A. Kissinger, the sources said.