

Dobrynin Called to Moscow

11/17/72 JW

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Associated Press

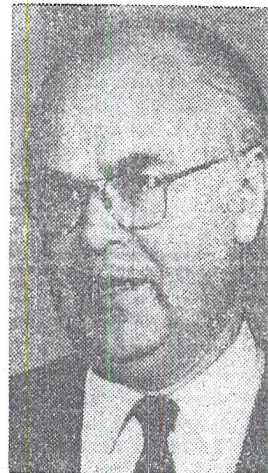
Hanoi delegate Xuan Thuy at 167th peace talks session.

Soviet Ambassador Anatoliy F. Dobrynin, who has been an important middle-man in secret Vietnam bargaining, was suddenly summoned to Moscow this week just before North Vietnam chief negotiator Le Duc Tho arrived there Wednesday, it was learned yesterday.

This disclosure came as North Vietnam drew a sharp distinction between adding "technical details" to the draft peace plan to end the war in Vietnam, and making changes of "substance," which Hanoi insists are firmly ruled out. South Vietnam is pushing for substantive changes in the next round of private talks in Paris between Le Duc Tho and presidential adviser Henry A. Kissinger.

No official would make any direct connection between Dobrynin's summons to Moscow and Le Duc Tho's arrival there.

As of yesterday, North Vietnamese sources in Moscow and Paris still were saying that Le Duc Tho will probably arrive in the French capital today. There was no public indication of any new barrier to the planned talks between



ANATOLIY F. DOBRYNIN
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Kissinger and Tho, which have been expected to move the Vietnam peace talks toward a delayed conclusion.

President Nixon conferred at his Camp David, Md., retreat yesterday with Secretary of State William P. Rogers on Vietnam, general foreign policy and government reorganization plans, White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler told newsmen.

See TALKS, A20, Col. 3

TALKS, From A1

Kissinger will meet with the President at Camp David today on the Vietnam negotiations and other foreign policy matters, Ziegler said. When newsmen asked if Kissinger would be leaving from Camp David for Paris, Ziegler replied "No," reiterating that Kissinger's travel plans will be announced in advance.

In the formal Paris peace talks, U.S. Ambassador William J. Porter yesterday continued to talk of the "restoration of peace in Vietnam" as an imminent prospect—but without mentioning the time factor.

If the circumstantial indications about Dobrynin's trip to Moscow are correct, one purpose could be to supply Le Duc Tho with Dobrynin's assessment of the American negotiating position in advance of the Tho-Kissinger meeting. Beyond that, the Soviet Union could be having difficulty with its North Vietnamese ally over American insistence on making several "modifications" in the peace accord, which was originally projected for completion on Oct. 31.

Dobrynin left Washington, on very short notice, on Tuesday, flying from Dulles Airport aboard TWA, rather than on the regular Soviet Aeroflot flight from New York later in the week. Soviet embassy officials were unreachable last night for comment on his trip. Dobrynin has been a very frequent participant in U.S.-Soviet exchanges about Vietnam, in Washington and Moscow.

No mention of Dobrynin has been made in the brief Soviet statements about Tho's activities since his arrival in Moscow on Wednesday.

The Soviet news agency Tass reported yesterday that the Soviet Union "stated its invariable support for the just cause of the Vietnamese people struggling against the American aggression" in its current talks with Tho.

Tass said Tho met with Soviet Politburo member Mikhail Suslov, who is the Kremlin's chief ideologist, Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko, and Konstantin Katushev, secretary of the Communist Party's Central Committee. (Dobrynin is also a member of the central committee.)

The discussions, said Tass, "passed in a friendly and heartfelt atmosphere"—which is rather unusual Communist phraseology. The statement added that, "Together with all the peoples of the world, Soviet people demand that the obstacles created by the American side on the road to the conclusion of the said [peace] agreement be removed . . ."

From Paris, Jonathan C. Randal of The Washington Post Foreign Service reported that the North Vietnamese and Vietcong delegations at the 167th session of the formal talks continued to press yesterday for a very short session

of secret talks to end the negotiations. The regular delegations in Paris agreed to skip their next meeting, Nov. 23, because of the Thanksgiving holiday.

If the United States were to insist on more than one private meeting between Kissinger and Tho, said Hanoi spokesman Nguyen Thanh Le, "The American attitude would become incomprehensible, for Dr. Kissinger said Oct. 26 that it would only require one more meeting."

Le added, "If the United States proves to be serious, one might think that an hour—or even less—would be enough to settle the problem." Le, of course, was aware that on Oct. 26 Kissinger spoke of a session of "three or four days." Subsequently, the Nixon administration said that was an illustrative time frame, not a precise one, with the duration also dependent upon North Vietnam. In addition, U.S. officials have said, there would then be consultations in Washington, in Saigon, and possibly further consultations with North Vietnam.

North Vietnam's delegation chief, Xuan Thuy, said yesterday: "We firmly reject all the pretexts put forward by the United States and Saigon, seeking modification of the substance of the agreement."

The use of the word "substance," however, is a word of diplomatic art, leaving a path open for changes that can be called "technical," "clarifications," etc.

That is exactly the distinction that is being made in Hanoi, the Tokyo newspaper Asahi reported, in a Nov. 13 interview with Hoang Tung, editor of the official North Vietnamese newspaper Nhan Dan. Tung, in the translated interview, was quoted as saying that Le Duc Tho's trip to Paris "is to discuss still unsettled practical and military matters and not to revive discussions on basic problems that have been settled over and over again."

The report from Hanoi said, "If the U.S. idea really is anxious to end the war, there could be some technical compromises based on the mutually agreed upon accords," but "if it is a proposal for resuming discussions on the problem of 'mutual withdrawal' from South Vietnam, there would be no room for discussions."

"Mutual withdrawal" means insisting on withdrawal of North Vietnamese, as well as American and allied forces, from the war. The question of North Vietnamese withdrawals have been finessed in the proposed accord, as a problem to be left to the Vietnamese to resolve, with a reported tacit Washington-Hanoi understanding that some of the North Vietnamese troops will be withdrawn early. The United States wants to harden this understanding—and South Vietnam is demanding an ex-

PLICIT withdrawal pledge, which North Vietnam adamantly opposes.

According to sources in Paris and Washington, the proposed international confer-

ence of guarantor nations for a Vietnam peace treaty will be held in a capital other than Paris, at least in part because of objections raised by South Vietnam. The United States re-

portedly has agreed there should be a "neutral" site for this conference, which is expected to be attended also by the Soviet Union, China, France and other nations.