

Hanoi Aides Glum After Paris Talks

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PARIS, Nov. 22 — The United States and North Vietnam today held their shortest negotiative sessions since they resumed their search for a final cease-fire agreement on Monday.

Against the background of a total news blackout, observers were reduced to noting that, for the first time since Monday, North Vietnamese negotiators Le Duc Tho and Xuan Thuy looked glum upon emerging from a suburban villa where they conferred with White House adviser Henry A. Kissinger for three and a half hours. However, Kissinger, smiled and waved at newsmen outside the two story villa at Gif-sur-Yvette. Both Monday and Tuesday, the North Vietnamese were seen smiling and even joking with Kissinger and his team.

Indeed, for several hours after the afternoon meeting ended, there was speculation that the talks had run into trouble since there was not even a hint of a new session scheduled for Thursday. But there was finally a White House announcement that a meeting would take place Thanksgiving Day.

Earlier in the day, Kissinger flew back from a brief overnight visit to Brussels, where he conferred at the Belgian royal palace for an hour early in the morning with Indonesian President Suharto and Foreign Minister Adam Malik. The Indonesians are on a series of official visits to West European capitals.

Informed sources in Brussels suggested that the thrust

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of Kissinger's visit was to enlist Suharto's support in persuading South Vietnamese President Thieu to accept the reworked draft cease-fire accord being hammered out with the North Vietnamese.

There was no confirmation of suggestions that Kissinger informed the Indonesians of North Vietnam's rejection of their membership in the four-power cease-fire supervisory commission to police a Vietnam cease-fire. North Vietnamese and Vietcong officials have criticized Indonesia's alleged lack of neutrality in Vietnam. The other proposed members are Canada, Hungary and Poland.

Upon returning from Brussels, Kissinger conferred with Pham Dang Lam, South Vietnam's ambassador to the formal peace talks. Although the South Vietnamese are obviously pleased that for the first time since the secret talks began in 1969 they are being kept up to date by the United States, informed sources reported they had dropped none of their objections to the draft accord disclosed by Hanoi last month.

Taken at face value, that line would suggest that the current secret talks have not made much progress in resolving problems raised by Saigon.

Washington shares Saigon's concerns on some, but by no means all, of the outstanding issues, especially the South Vietnamese demand that all North Vietnamese troops be pulled out as part of the cease-fire accord.

The sources also indicated that the private talks are trying to work out an agreement about exactly what kind of elections should take place in South Vietnam after a cease-fire and their timetable. The draft accord leaves this major problem up to the coexisting Saigon and Vietcong governments to discuss after a cease-fire, a situation which could allow the Vietcong to

block a strong presidential government and delay establishment of a weaker regime.

Saigon is still said to fear that acceptance of the October draft accord would signify total victory for the Communists and that language acceptable to both sides should be found to reflect the basic stalemate.

Meanwhile, French President Georges Pompidou took time off from his official visit to Upper Volta in West Africa to defend his foreign minister, Maurice Schumann, against charges of being anti-American.

The current issue of Newsweek says that William J. Porter, the U.S. ambassador to the formal peace talks, had said the United States no longer trusts Schumann and that, consequently, Washington vetoed Paris as the site of the international conference to be held within 30 days of a Vietnam cease-fire. Newsweek said Schumann was in danger of losing his job as a result.

Porter denied the Newsweek assertions earlier this week. But Pompidou told newsmen he found it "incredible" that anyone could imagine he would change our foreign minister as a result of the intervention of another government, even a friendly and allied government. This would, in fact, be the best way of strengthening the minister in his post.

Despite the denials, it is well known that American officials involved in the Vietnam negotiations have increasingly dealt with Schumann's deputy, Andre Bettencourt, who was appointed in July as "minister delegated to the foreign minister."

Pompidou himself felt obliged to reformulate French policy on Indochina in a September news conference which was visibly more even-handed than Schumann's earlier statements backing Communist demands of that period for a three-part coalition government.