

KISSINGER MEETS WITH THO 6 HOURS ON VIETNAM TRUCE

Fourth Day of Sessions at
Villa Near Paris Is Broken
by Walks in Garden

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NO WORD OF PROGRESS

But Stand of Canadians on
Joining Cease-Fire Panel
Indicates One Problem

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Special to the New York Times

PARIS, Nov. 23—Henry A. Kissinger and Le Duc Tho met for six hours today in continuing efforts to complete an agreement for a cease-fire in Vietnam.

After the fourth consecutive day of talks that had been described as the final round, there still was no word on whether the United States and North Vietnamese negotiators had made any progress or how much longer their meetings, being held in suburban Gif-sur-Yvette, were likely to go on.

For the first time, Mr. Kissinger, who is President Nixon's national security adviser, and Mr. Tho, a member of the North Vietnamese Politburo, allowed the heavy green gate shielding the house they are using for the meetings to be opened so photographers could catch them without clambering up on walls and ladders.

Take Walks in Garden

Twice during the session, which lasted from 10:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., Mr. Kissinger and some of his advisers left the house and walked in the walled garden for 10 minutes while the North Vietnamese remained inside. At another point, presumably after they had lunched together, Mr. Kissinger, Mr. Tho and an interpreter carried on an animated conversation in the garden.

Mr. Kissinger wore a dark gray coat and Mr. Tho was in a heavy black tunic with a gray scarf.

In the absence of any news on the talks, allied diplomats and other observers resigned themselves to noting the smiles that Mr. Kissinger and Mr. Tho displayed for photographers.

Question by Canadians

Some thought their willingness to pose for pictures was a very good sign, while others said that it offered no basis for conclusions.

One clue to the difficulties in completing an agreement apparently has come from the Canadians, who have been asked to take part in an international commission to police a cease-fire.

The Canadian Minister for External Affairs, Mitchell Sharp, indicated at a news conference in Ottawa yesterday that there were still no answers to some key questions on the role and duties of the commission. Canada wants the questions settled before deciding whether to join.

The only commitment Canada has made so far, Mr. Sharp said, is to permit Canadians now serving in Saigon on the old International Control Commission to act as observers for the first month of a cease-fire. Canadian diplomats here said there were about 20 people in the Saigon mission.

Requirements Listed

Mr. Sharp said Canada had the following requirements before she would agree to send the much larger contingent Washington has suggested:

¶The request must come jointly from all four belligerents, meaning that Saigon and the Vietcong as well as Hanoi and Washington must reach agreement on details about the supervisory force.

¶There must be an effective international authority to receive the commission's reports,

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and the reporting procedure must be "workable." A unanimity rule has paralyzed the 18-year-old commission set up after the Geneva accords on Indochina in 1954.

¶The new commission must be guaranteed freedom of movement anywhere in South Vietnam. The old one required permission from the local governments to make investigating trips.

Mr. Sharp said the commission would not be a peace-keeping force, such as the United Nations force in Cyprus to which Canada contributes. It would just "observe and report," he added.

Canada also wants some kind of terminal date or agreed formula to end the new commission's duties and is not willing to join on an indefinite basis, Mr. Sharp indicated.

The draft cease-fire agreement published on Oct. 26, which is the basis of the current negotiations, provides for political talks between the Vietcong and Saigon leading to elections. The two sides "shall do their utmost" to reach agreement on elections within three months after cease-fire, it says, but there is no fixed deadline.

Long Struggle Foreseen

The positions taken by Saigon and the Vietcong since the draft was published have led to widespread doubts that there is any chance of such a political agreement until after an intense and probably protracted period of struggle for advantage.

Until there has been a cease-fire and things have settled down, it appears, neither the Saigon Government nor the Vietcong can really know how much support they have among the population.

Many parts of the country are Saigon-controlled in the daytime but open to the Vietcong at night. The local population often contrives to make both sides consider them loyal, since that is an essential for survival. In other areas, local commanders have made quiet arrangements to stay out of each other's way.