

Kissinger May Make Secret Viet Pact

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

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By Jack Anderson

President Nixon has such complete confidence in Henry Kissinger's negotiating skills that he stopped reading the complete transcripts of the secret truce talks long ago. He used to go over every word of the transcripts until he found that Kissinger was responding with precisely the points the President himself would have made.

The President is particularly pleased with Kissinger's ability to keep the negotiations on the main track and not become distracted by side issues. Nor has he allowed the Communists to panic him into making hasty statements or agreeing to unintended concessions.

At the latest Paris meetings, Kissinger has placed great stress on international supervision at the very start of the cease-fire. He brought with him to Paris secret intelligence reports warning that both government and Communist cadres were preparing their forces for furious fighting to improve their positions between the time a cease-fire is declared and the international supervisors arrive to enforce it.

As one captured Communist document declares, "the big guns will cease firing, but the small guns will still fire."

The biggest issue that Kissinger sought to resolve, however, was the presence of North Vietnamese troops in South Vietnam. He has worked

out a secret formula to reduce the number of North Vietnamese troops in the south. Under the proposal, Hanoi would deploy the bulk of its troops into evacuation areas. Eventually, they would be flown and shipped back to the north. Only 20,000 troops would stay behind to police the Vietcong controlled areas.

The trouble with this agreement is that Hanoi has maintained all along that no North Vietnamese troops are stationed in South Vietnam. Hanoi can't sign a public agreement, therefore, that it will remove troops it claims aren't there. And Kissinger has promised that all agreements will be made public. It's unlikely Hanoi will repudiate its past public statements. It's more likely that Kissinger will agree to a secret understanding.

Cuba's Fidel Castro changed his mind about negotiating a skyjacking agreement with the United States, apparently because of the crime involved in piracy.

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