

Kissinger, Tho Meet Again-- Hints of Trouble

Associated Press

Paris

Henry A. Kissinger and Hanoi's Le Duc Tho met privately for an hour yesterday amid reports that their secret five-day-old peace session has run into serious difficulties.

Kissinger later conferred with Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann and was reported to have told him

the United States remains hopeful of an early settlement.

In a statement issued after Kissinger's 45-minute talk with Schumann, the foreign ministry said it would maintain "the greatest discretion" on details of the meeting, but added:

"It is stressed in authorized circles that the pessimistic rumors presently circulating on the subject of Vietnam appear to be highly exaggerated."

'DIFFICULTIES'

French and U.S. officials refused to elaborate. The French news agency Agence France-Presse, earlier had cited "reliable sources" as asserting that Kissinger's secret negotiations with Tho have run into "serious difficulties."

For the first time since the secret talks opened Monday, the North Vietnamese delegation to the Paris peace talks openly attacked the United States for stepping up the war while putting forward "unjustifiable pretexts" for refusing to sign the agreement Kissinger and Tho drafted last month.

A delegation communique made no reference to the secret talks. It said the intensification of the war by the U.S. shows "the absence of

any desire on its part to settle the Vietnamese problem peacefully."

The U.S. delegation spokesman, David Lamberston declined to comment on the communique.

MEETING

Kissinger and Tho sought to avoid newsmen and photographers by meeting at a new location. Their meeting was the shortest of the current session.

Kissinger told newsmen he would meet Tho again today.

Early in the day, the Ha-

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noi delegation said there would be no Friday meeting at all. A delegation spokesman added: "You will be informed in due course when the next meeting takes place."

The U.S. delegation tacitly confirmed the announcement. But it appeared later that the announcement referred to the full-scale talks held Monday through Thursday in a villa at suburban Gif-sur-Yvette, 15 miles southwest of Paris. Kissinger, Tho and all their top advisers have conferred there for a total of almost 20 hours behind a total news black-

out.

LOCATION

The day's super-secret restricted meeting took place in a Hanoi-rented house in Choisy-le-Roi, four blocks from the North Vietnamese delegation headquarters.

Kissinger went there accompanied by none of his aides or interpreters. A CBS television crew managed to trail him despite the security precautions of his French police escort.

Tho received him flanked by the other top Hanoi negotiator, Xuan Thuy, and North Vietnam's deputy foreign minister, Nguyen Co Thach. Kissinger emerged with his usual smile but had trouble opening the door.

"How do you get out of there?" he was heard to exclaim.

Asked when the next meeting would be, he said "tomorrow."

SILENCE

American and North Vietnamese delegation spokesmen maintained their mutually agreed refusal to disclose any details of the negotiations or even the subjects under discussion.

The spokesmen also refused to comment on indications from Saigon and the Viet Cong that the talks are making little progress.

Kissinger has said six or seven points in the draft agreement need to be clarified, but that this could be done in "three or four days"

secret talks with Tho. When he arrived in Paris on Monday, he said President Nixon had instructed him to pursue the negotiations "as long as it useful."