

# PRESIDENT CALLED STILL CONFIDENT ON TRUCE ACCORD

White House Seeks to End  
Rumors That an Impasse  
Caused Recess in Talk

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ENVOY OF THIEU COMING

Aide Suggests Time Was  
Needed to Consult With  
Saigon on Progress

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By BERNARD GWERTZMAN

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 26 —

The White House said today that, after conferring with Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon remained confident that an Indochina settlement would be achieved, but it was unclear how long this might take.

Mr. Nixon met with his adviser on foreign policy late last night at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York after Mr. Kissinger returned from Paris. The private talks with North Vietnam were recessed yesterday until a week from tomorrow.

The two men conferred again this morning for an hour and plan to meet again at Camp David tomorrow, in advance of Mr. Nixon's meeting on Tuesday or Wednesday with Nguyen Phu Duc, a special envoy of President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam. Mr. Thieu, who has objections to some portions of the settlement being worked out by Hanoi and Washington, had sought the meeting between Mr. Duc and Mr. Nixon.

## Week at Camp David

Mr. Nixon planned to spend the week at Camp David, in the nearby Catoctin Mountains of Maryland, following his return to Washington this evening from New York where he spent the weekend with his family, the White House said.

Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, strove in his briefings yesterday and today to dispel rumors that the Paris talks between Mr. Kissinger and Le Duc Tho, Hanoi's chief negotiator, were recessed because they had reached an impasse.

Several times Mr. Ziegler cautioned against "excessive speculation" along those pessimistic lines, and at one point, seemed to suggest that the recess was needed to allow time for the United States to consult with South Vietnam on the talks, which the Administration hopes will produce a cease-fire and political arrangement in Vietnam and lead to cease-fires in Laos and Cambodia.

"You have to keep in mind that we have two Vietnamese parties to deal with," Mr. Ziegler said, adding that the recess "gives us time to consult with the South Vietnamese."

## The 'Right' Settlement

After last night's Nixon-Kissinger meeting, Mr. Ziegler told newsmen about midnight that "President Nixon is confident that we will achieve the right kind of settlement, and that is the objective we are shooting for."

"President Nixon feels that the important thing is to achieve a settlement that will last, not just for the short term but for the long term. He is prepared to take the time that is necessary to achieve that kind of settlement, a settlement that will last," Mr. Ziegler said.

The emphasis on Mr. Nixon's refusal to be rushed into anything but the "right" settlement suggested that the Administration was intent on clearing up as many ambiguities as possible before any agreement is signed.

The nine-point draft agreement worked out by Mr. Kissinger and Mr. Tho early last month contains provisions deal-

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ing with the future political structure of South Vietnam and the cease-fire machinery that presumably will require considerable work to avoid later disagreements over interpretation.

Mr. Ziegler, who refused to discuss details of the negotiations in Paris, did not disclose whether problems had arisen in Paris over efforts by either Hanoi or Washington to reopen major sections of the draft agreement.

## Pressed on Withdrawal

Reports from Paris have asserted that Mr. Kissinger pressed Mr. Tho to agree in the settlement to the eventual withdrawal of all the North Vietnamese forces now in South Vietnam, even though the draft agreement permitted them to remain.

Administration officials earlier said that Hanoi might agree tacitly to remove some of the troops, estimated by the United States at 145,000, but could not be expected to pull back forces needed to protect the Vietcong areas legitimized by the accord.

Mr. Thieu has made the withdrawal of North Vietnamese troops a major condition for his approval of the settlement. But Hanoi, in public statements recently, has sharply attacked such proposals and insisted that there could be no such withdrawal except as part of a demobilization agreement to be worked out in the future by Saigon and the Vietcong.

Presumably, the withdrawal issue will be discussed at length when Mr. Duc meets with Mr. Nixon at Camp David.

The President is expected to repeat his belief that the time is opportune for an end to the Vietnam war, and that Saigon should not fear a settlement.

In recent weeks, the United States has dramatically bolstered Saigon's forces with equipment and the bombing of the southern panhandle of North Vietnam has continued to cut down North Vietnam's ability to reinforce its troops in the South.

Mr. Nixon has made it clear that he wanted to avoid being put in the position of appearing to "sell out" Saigon. He has been urging Mr. Thieu to join in the agreement, for more than a month, through visits to Saigon by Mr. Kissinger and his deputy, Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., through personal messages, and now through his meeting with Mr. Duc this week.

With Mr. Kissinger due to return to Paris in a week to resume talks with Mr. Tho, Mr. Nixon can be expected in the coming week to press even harder to gain Saigon's concurrence to make it possible to reach an accord in a relatively short period of time.