

Kissinger, Duc Hold Last-Minute Talks

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Presidential adviser Henry A. Kissinger met twice yesterday with South Vietnamese President Thieu's emissary in an intensified effort to win Saigon's acquiescence to the terms of a cease-fire agreement.

The talks with Nguyen Phu Duc, Thieu's foreign policy adviser, continued almost to the hour Kissinger was scheduled to leave for Key Biscayne. There he was to hold a final meeting with President Nixon before returning to Paris for

what could be the last round of talks with the North Vietnamese.

The series of meetings with Duc for the past three days is believed to have been directed at reassuring the South Vietnamese that the tentative agreement reached with Hanoi's representatives will safeguard Saigon's interest and toward assuaging fears over the departure of U.S. forces.

The administration has consistently sought to avoid an open breach with Saigon while making it clear that South Vi-

etnam would not have a veto over an agreement that the United States considered right.

At a session with reporters yesterday, White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler dismissed as "rumor and speculation" a report from Saigon that the United States had presented South Vietnam with an ultimatum to the effect that if it did not go along with the agreement all U.S. economic and military aid would be cut.

Knowledgeable diplomatic

sources discount such an ultimatum although they stress that the implicit threat is always present. Thieu, on the other hand, has some leverage, these sources note, because a collapse of the Saigon regime would leave the clear impression that the United States abandoned an ally at a crucial moment.

Kissinger met with Duc for 2½ hours in the morning and saw him again starting at 3:45 p.m. That meeting continued into the evening. Kissinger's

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departure for Key Biscayne was scheduled for 8 p.m. from Andrews Air Force Base.

Duc met twice with the President, for 2½ hours on Wednesday and for an unexpected second meeting lasting 35 minutes on Thursday. A White House spokesman said no further meetings were planned either with the President or Kissinger. He said Kissinger was leaving for Key Biscayne and there was virtually no possibility that he would have any time to see Duc again before departing for Paris Sunday.

Duc has refused to meet with reporters. A secretary at the South Vietnamese embassy said it was expected Duc would return to Saigon while Ambassador Tran Kim Phuong would be present in Paris while Kissinger met with North Vietnam's chief negotiator, Le Duc Tho.

Reports persisted in Saigon that a cease-fire is near, possibly by Dec. 15, possibly by Christmas. But, ironically, both sides were putting out statements emphasizing that a cease-fire did not mean an end to the war for the Vietnamese.

The South Vietnamese ambassador to Tokyo, Do Vang

Ly, said in an interview with the Japanese daily Mainichi that "one must not mistake the 'cease-fire' as a 'war settlement' as did former French Premier (Pierre) Mendes-France in 1954. Nguyen Thi Binh, foreign minister of the Vietcong's Provisional Revolutionary Government, was quoted in another interview as saying, "We do not think that this agreement will end the war. Even after it has been signed, we will have to continue our struggle so that it will be fulfilled."

In the same interview Madame Binh virtually conceded Communist acquiescence to the inclusion of Indonesia on the supervisory commission being set up to keep checks on the implementation of the agreement. Indonesia had been the target of Communist propaganda attacks for its support of the U.S. position in Vietnam. She said: "We are fully aware of Indonesia's stand on the Vietnam question. As you know, however, the composition of the supervisory commission cannot be decided by us alone."

U.S. officials said that both sides in the talks agreed on the countries that would be asked to participate in the

commission. In addition to Indonesia, they are Canada, Poland and Hungary.

The tentative agreement made public Oct. 26 provided for a cease-fire, the withdrawal of U.S. forces within 60 days and the release of American prisoners of war. It set up a National Council of Reconciliation and Concord to arrange elections in South Vietnam and left to the Vietnamese the question of future demobilization of forces.

Saigon has raised strenuous objections to various parts of the agreement, but has taken greatest exception to the fact that there is no provision requiring North Vietnamese forces to leave the south. The tentative agreement not only legitimizes their presence but provides for their resupply.

Soviet Sources Say

No Demands Dropped

From News Dispatches

South Vietnamese peace talks delegation officials in Paris yesterday denied reports that Saigon had scaled down its terms for accepting a cease-fire.

The delegation officials said South Vietnam stood by its demands that a cease-fire must cover South Vietnam, Laos

and Cambodia and that the Demilitarized Zone be re-established.

The South Vietnamese statement followed a report in yesterday's Washington Post saying that statements by South Vietnamese delegates indicated that Saigon had narrowed down its demands to one basic issue, the withdrawal of North Vietnamese troops from the South.

The story quoted South Vietnamese Ambassador Pham Dang Lang as saying at Thursday's session of the peace talks that "everything else will follow" if North Vietnam agrees to withdraw its troops from the South. South Vietnamese press spokesman Nguyen Trieu Dan also told newsmen after the negotiating session: "If the withdrawal problem is solved satisfactorily, believe me, then everything else will follow."

A South Vietnamese source suggested yesterday that the statements had been misinterpreted.

In another development, official sources in Saigon said a secret directive has been issued to Cabinet ministers and other high level department heads telling them to prepare for a cease-fire.

The directive issued by Premier Tran Thien Khiem called for a strengthening of the Saigon guard and increased vigilance to prevent the Communist side from exploiting a truce politically and military, sources said.