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Kissinger

Meets for Last Phase

PARIS — (UPI) — White House Adviser Henry Kissinger drove to a township 30 miles west of Paris for his second meeting today with Hanoi diplomats on an agreement to end the Vietnam war. Even the reluctant South Vietnamese said the talks were in the "final" stage.

Kissinger met for two and half hours this morning with Hanoi Politburo member Le Duc Tho at the North Vietnamese villa in suburban Choisy Le Roi and drove this afternoon even further from Paris for the second meeting of the day.

With full teams from both sides participating, the afternoon session also lasted two and a half hours. Both sides emerged with broad smiles after both sessions. The White House said there would be another session tomorrow.

Indicating the sensitive stage of the discussions, President Nixon was said to have been in close touch with Kissinger by cable between today's two meetings.

At Key Biscayne, Fla., White House Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler said:

"The President responded to an earlier cable from Dr. Kissinger prior to the afternoon session. We have received the report (on the first session) and further in- and further instructions

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instructions have gone back to Dr. Kissinger."

Paris diplomats were expressing optimism about peace prospects and there was growing belief a cease-fire could be initiated by the United States and North Vietnam by Dec. 12 or 15, with American prisoners to start coming home in time for Christmas.

Newsmen who tailed the presidential envoy said the site of the second talks session — chosen by the Americans — was a small white house in Saint Gemmes, a village in the Yvelines area.

The house owned by a Paris industrialist, once belonged to Group Capt. Peter Townsend, a British World War II fighter pilot and one-time suitor of Britain's Princess Margaret.

Air of Optimism

Kissinger and his aide, Gen. Alexander Haig, emerged smiling from the first round of talks — the 22nd round of secret talks — and French television and radio networks reported an air of optimism surrounding the talks which were suspended nine days ago for further consultations between Kissinger and President Nixon.

Diplomatic sources said it was possible Kissinger would initial a draft peace accord, leaving a full-fledged signing ceremony for later in the month.

The Paris Le Monde newspaper said the Saigon government had instructed army and administration officials to prepare for an armistice on Dec. 12.

Final Phase

The chief Saigon negotia-

tor, Pham Dang Lam, used the expression "final" phase for the first time today in a speech to a foreign press luncheon in Paris as Kissinger was meeting Tho for the first session.

Asked if Saigon's demands had been met he said he had been briefed by the American side "but I cannot go into details in this final stage."

"South Vietnam will sign this cease-fire treaty later if the key points are resolved in a manner acceptable to us," Lam said.

"Naturally, the accord which concerns us must limit the cease-fire."

Lam said he had no confirmation North Vietnam agreed to pull out its troops. Asked about published reports of a partial withdrawal, he said: "That I have read only in the press."

Hanoi 'Retreat'?

Asked if Saigon would accept verbal assurances, Lam insisted: "It is essential that the principle of North Vietnam's retreat be inscribed one way or another in the agreement." If this were done, he said there would be no difficulty in finding a formula.

Kissinger, accompanied by Haig, was the first out of the morning session. He was smiling.