

Kissinger, Tho Hold Two Long Sessions

Cease-Fire Agreement May Be Completed Before the Weekend

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Paris

Presidential adviser Henry A. Kissinger and his American negotiating team spent more than five hours yesterday in private talks with the North Vietnamese delegation headed by Le Duc Tho.

The two sides will meet again this morning with an expectation that they will be able to conclude their work on a draft agreement by Thursday or Friday. The agreement will then be referred to Washington, Saigon and Hanoi for signature around December 15.

Yesterday morning, Kissinger drove out to the North Vietnamese headquarters at Choisy le Roi, accompanied only by his top assistant, General Alexander Haig Jr., and an interpreter, for a meeting with Tho which lasted two and a half hours. Presumably Kissinger outlined his new instructions after his week in Washington, and indicated to Tho how the United States would like to move ahead.

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Kissinger returned to Paris for lunch at the American embassy residence, and meanwhile the North Vietnamese arranged for the use of a new "secret meeting place" due west of Paris, beyond Versailles, for an afternoon session between the full delegations which began at 4 o'clock and continued to 7:30.

There were about ten officials on each side at the second session, indicating that the talk stage has now given way to drafting and detailed negotiation over language.

The meeting place is a luxurious country estate in a park of some 100 acres surrounded

country
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improvement on
rather tatty little coun-
y place at Gif-Sur-Yvette
where they had been meet-
ing.

As usual, complete security surrounded the meetings and complete silence on the substance of the talks was being observed by both the American and North Vietnamese delegations. However, American sources said that nothing happened yesterday to change the basic optimism that this is the home-stretch and there will be an agreement soon.

The main substantive discussion of the issues still to be resolved in the negotiation came up yesterday at a press luncheon given for the chief South Vietnam peace negotiator in Paris, Ambassador Pham Dang Lam.

He reiterated that the two major problems for Saigon were a specific commitment by Hanoi on withdrawal from the southern cation of the "Council of Liaison"