

Talks Deadlock, Says Kissinger

By Kingsbury Smith

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PARIS—Henry Kissinger today informed French President Georges Pompidou that a virtual impasse has developed in his secret talks with the North Vietnamese negotiators over conclusion of a Vietnam peace agreement.

This week's talks on the major issues blocking conclusion of the peace agreement reached such a deadlocked stage that yesterday Kissinger told Le Duc Tho, Hanoi's chief delegate, he saw no point in going on for the present and that he intended to return to Washington today.

Tho then asked Kissinger to meet again today.

They did, for 4½ hours, and agreed to meet again tomorrow.

The arrangement for Kissinger to visit President Pompidou was made following the American negotiator's luncheon for French Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann in Paris yesterday. It would not be surprising if Kissinger urged the French president to exert his influence with the North

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Vietnamese to avoid a collapse of the peace talks.

The new deadlock has developed over Hanoi's adamant refusal to meet South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu's two major demands as the price for his adherence to the peace agreement that Kissinger negotiated with Tho in October.

Those conditions are acceptance by Hanoi of the principle of gradual withdrawal of North Vietnamese troops from South Vietnam after the cease-fire and a diminution of the powers of the Vietnamese coalition council that is supposed to promote implementation of the peace agreement and organize new elections.

Tho has refused throughout this week to make any concessions on these two conditions.

The difficulties have been compounded by Tho's insistence that the Saigon government must agree to the release of all political prisoners held in South Vietnam within 90 days after the cease-fire goes into effect. Saigon is unwilling to meet this demand because of fear the released political prisoners would rejoin the ranks of the Viet Cong.

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