

## Haig Flying Back to Brief Nixon

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PARIS, Dec. 9 — Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., the number-two man on the American team conducting secret negotiations with the North Vietnamese, left here by air tonight to report to President Nixon in Washington.

Henry A. Kissinger, Haig's superior, will remain in Paris and meet again Monday with Hanoi's Le Duc Tho, it was announced. Kissinger and Tho met for three and a half hours today.

The announcement of Haig's mission and the Monday meeting was greeted with cautious optimism and hopefully interpreted as an indication that a final cease-fire agreement has been all but worked out.

Fortifying this relative optimism was the announcement that technical experts from both delegations will meet Sunday. In the past, such meetings have been devoted to a word-by-word comparison of Vietnamese and English texts of the draft agreement, which is believed to number at least 40 pages.

The one-day suspension to allow Gen. Haig to consult the President was announced this evening following a secret session between Kissinger, Tho and their advisers at a villa belonging to the French Communist Party in Suburban Gif-sur-Yvette.

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Although both delegations maintained their strict news blackout, indirect reports from American and North Vietnamese sources even earlier had said the negotiators were advancing painfully slow toward their goal in a businesslike atmosphere.

Some observers warned that even if the present round of talks is completed early next week, Kissinger, Haig or perhaps both may have to fly to Saigon to convince South Vietnamese President Thieu to accept the agreement.

A final round of secret talks with the North Vietnamese following such a mission to Saigon was not being ruled out.

Meanwhile, French Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann, a perennial optimist, said at midday that he found that "the general tone of the French press was too pessimistic" about the secret talks. He was speaking after conferring with President Georges Pompidou at the Elysee Palace. Kissinger conferred with Schumann Thursday and with Pompidou Friday.

Despite these hopeful indications after some 24 hours of negotiations since the secret talks resumed Monday, Paris was also abuzz with rumors of continuing stumbling blocks.

Unconfirmed reports suggested that the negotiations were running into trouble on firming up participation of the four nations suggested for the international cease-fire supervisory commission.

Indonesia, the target of increasingly virulent criticism from the Vietcong and North

Vietnamese, was said to have all but ruled itself out.

Poland and Hungary, according to the rumors, were willing to serve only if the United States agreed to foot the bill for their contingents.

And Canada, the fourth nation proposed for the commission, has made it clear that its willingness to participate is tied to a series of conditions. They are designed to avoid the pitfalls which have emasculated the International Control Commission set up in 1954 at the end of the French Indochina War. Canada, India and Poland are its members.

Mitchell Sharp, the Canadian external affairs secretary, was in Paris, but there was no confirmation of suggestions that he was seeing Kissinger or Tho to nail down the commission's role.

However, Sharp is said to have told U.S. Secretary of State William P. Rogers during the recently concluded NATO ministerial meeting in Brussels that problems still existed on this score.

More generally, both the United States and North Vietnam appeared to be under pressure from their respective South Vietnamese allies: President Thieu and the Vietcong.

Observers noted a certain parallelism between the announcement of increased Soviet military and economic aid to Hanoi and the stepup of U.S. arms deliveries to South Vietnam in the past six weeks.

Taken at their most optimistic, both these moves seemed designed to buoy confidence in client states to allow them to face the prospect of a cease-fire.