

KISSINGER'S AIDE TALKS WITH NIXON ON TRUCE PARLEY

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Haig Sees President for 75
Minutes—Talks in Paris
Resume This Afternoon

OFFICIALS STILL SILENT

Continuance of Sessions on
Technical Level Suggests
Final Negotiation Stage

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 10 — President Nixon conferred for 75 minutes today with Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., key aide to Henry A. Kissinger at the secret Paris talks with the North Vietnamese. But the White House continued to provide no information on how close the two sides had come to concluding an Indochina settlement.

In Paris, an American spokesman said that Mr. Kissinger and Le Duc Tho, the chief Hanoi negotiator, did not meet today and would not meet again until tomorrow afternoon. Technical experts from the two sides did meet today, apparently to work on the language of the expected cease-fire accord.

Dotting-the-'i' Stage

The return to Washington last night of General Haig, and the announcement that the talks were now being held at the "technical" level, seemed to suggest that the United States and North Vietnam might be in the final phase of negotiations.

Only a few officials in Washington have been fully informed about the Paris talks, and none of them would comment today. An Administration expert on Asia said, however, that while he was not briefed on the situation, the public signs led him to believe the basic problems had been resolved, and that the two sides were now in the "dotting-the-'i' stage."

The official said he thought it was quite likely that General

Haig was giving Mr. Nixon a personal assessment on the way the talks have gone, to supplement Mr. Kissinger's cabled reports.

Timing a Factor

It was not ruled out here that General Haig might leave for Saigon to seek approval of the accord by President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam, so that Saigon would sign it at the same time as Washington and Hanoi.

The White House would give no details of the general's plans, other than that he would remain in Washington tonight.

The current round of Paris talks resumed on Dec. 4, after a nine-day recess. Before the resumption, Administration officials said they were trying to get Hanoi and Saigon "in tandem" so that both would agree to the terms of the Indochina settlement about the same time.

Discussion of Language

Mr. Thieu, who objected to various provisions of the nine-point draft agreement reached by Washington and Hanoi in October, is scheduled to address his nation on Tuesday, and presumably will make his position known then.

The Paris talks have taken longer than Mr. Kissinger predicted at a news conference on Oct. 26 when he said only one more session of "three or four days" would be needed. A major reason for the delay has been Mr. Nixon's apparent desire to take the time necessary to persuade Mr. Thieu that it was in his interest not to refuse to sign the final accord.

To gain Mr. Thieu's concurrence, Mr. Kissinger in Paris

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has sought to get agreement on language that would meet Saigon's objections. In particular, Mr. Kissinger has asked Hanoi to pledge that it would reduce its troop levels in South Vietnam. This in turn has reportedly led Hanoi to seek firm commitments that political prisoners held in Saigon jails would be released.

The fact that public attention was drawn to the role of the technical experts in the talks seemed to indicate that policy differences had been largely resolved and that prime concern was now making the language of the accord as precise as possible in both English and Vietnamese.

William H. Sullivan, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian Affairs, has headed the American specialists at the talks. He has been backed up by John D. Negroponce and David A. Engel, Foreign Service officers attached to Mr. Kissinger's staff, and Winston Lord and Peter Rodman, Mr. Kissinger's personal aides.

News reports from Paris said that the technical experts had met for more than six hours today at a villa in Choisy-le-Roi, a suburb of Paris.

Mr. Nixon, who has spent most of his time in recent weeks at Camp David, the Presidential retreat in the nearby Catoctin Mountains of Maryland, drove to the White House this morning to meet with General Haig. A White House spokesman said the President would probably spend the early part of the week at the White House.

In another development, Le Thanh Nghi, a member of the Hanoi Politburo, who had signed a new military and economic air agreement with China in Peking on Nov. 26, and with the Soviet Union in Moscow yesterday, arrived in

Paris today. He will presumably consult with Mr. Tho, who also is a Politburo member. One North Vietnamese source told the Reuters news agency that Mr. Nghi had come to Paris to attend a meeting of the French Communist party.