

# Hopes Mount As Kissinger Delays Return

By Jonathan C. Randal  
Washington Post Foreign Service

PARIS, Dec. 12—Signs that the search for a revised Vietnam cease-fire agreement has entered its climactic stage accumulated here today but there was still no official confirmation from the United States and North Vietnam.

Henry A. Kissinger's personal plane arrived at Orly

Airport this evening and only shortly before 9 p.m. was the decision taken to postpone his departure to Washington from tonight to early Wednesday afternoon.

Responsible for the postponement was the apparently last-minute decision to schedule for Wednesday morning yet another of the accelerated rounds of experts' talks followed by a formal session between presidential adviser Kissinger and Hanoi's negotiator, Le Duc Tho.

Separate experts committees conferred at opposite ends of Paris this morning for four hours, then joined Kissinger and Tho for a four-and-a-half hour session at suburban Gif-sur-Yvette, 15 miles south of the capital.

The fact that the two Wednesday morning sessions were scheduled to take place within 90 minutes of each other apparently pointed to a rapid conclusion of the secret negotiations. They were resumed here Dec. 4 after a nine-day suspension.

While the U.S. delegation has been pushing for a rapid windup of the negotiations, a high North Vietnamese source warned tonight against excessive optimism about completing the remaining work on Wednesday.

"I doubt very strongly that everything will be settled that quickly," the source said. Somewhat ambiguously he added, "We have to wait until the end of the Wednesday meetings to see if indeed it will be the last one."

Even if, as is generally expected, Kissinger does fly to Washington after Wednesday's meetings, observers have been led to believe that neither

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delegation will trumpet the apparently successful conclusion of their efforts.

Instead Kissinger or some other high-ranking American official is expected to fly to Saigon to obtain South Vietnam's approval of the cease-fire agreement which, once extracted, would lead to its final signature.

Nonetheless, the basic optimism surrounding the negotiations was buoyed by reports that Kissinger and Tho on Monday had worked out the remaining details of a key compromise involving the most important stumbling block—withdrawal of North Vietnamese troops from the South.

In a dispatch from Saigon quoting American and South Vietnamese sources, the French news service Agence France-Presse said that the negotiators here had agreed not to mention the word "withdrawal" which is anathema to Hanoi.

Instead, both sides were said to have agreed to demobilize designated military units in South Vietnam's four military regions and send individual soldiers "back where they came from."

This euphemism would get round Hanoi's persistent refusal to admit the presence of North Vietnamese troops in South Vietnam.

The dispatch specifically mentioned demobilization of 70,000 men by both armies in Military Region 1, principally in Quangtri Province which borders on North Vietnam and is still partially held by Hanoi troops.

Similar schemes were said to have been worked out for the rest of the country. The whole demobilization process might take as long as six months to complete after the cease-fire.

Observers noted that the compromise would go a long way towards meeting Saigon's demand for total North Vietnamese withdrawal, which the United States had dropped from successive peace plans as long ago as 1970.

Yet, North Vietnam would maintain enough military strength in South Vietnam to insure that Saigon releases political prisoners and also keeps some control of the political developments during the transitional period after the cease-fire.

Despite the official news blackout, observers, perhaps optimistically, assumed that the reported breakthrough on the North Vietnamese troop withdrawal problem may have paved the way for settlement today of other major outstanding stumbling blocks.

They included the makeup and mission of the National Council of Reconciliation and Concord which the Hanoi-released draft accord said on Oct. 26 would include equal numbers of Vietcong, Saigon and neutralist appointees to organize elections during the transition period.

South Vietnam has vetoed the presence of the neutralists on the grounds that such an organization was just a disguise for the coalition government that Saigon has always rejected.

More for the record than anything else, both the Vietcong and North Vietnamese delegations denounced Saigon Presi-

dent Thieu's speech in which he rejected these and other key points of the draft cease-fire accord of last October.

But, since South Vietnam is known not to be totally disappointed with the revised draft accord that Kissinger and Tho have elaborated since resuming negotiations here Nov. 20, President Thieu's speech was not taken too seriously here.

## Hanoi Accepts Canada In Supervisory Role

By Claude Lemelin  
Special to The Washington Post

OTTAWA, Dec. 12—North Vietnam favors Canada's participation in the international commission to supervise an eventual cease-fire in Vietnam.

The foreign ministry here was informed of Hanoi's position by David Jackson, the Canadian commissioner on the Internal Control Commission (ICC) in Vietnam, after he went to Hanoi last week.

He gave the North Vietnamese authorities a statement from Foreign Secretary Mitchell Sharp listing the five conditions under which Canada would accept commission membership.

The Canadian government, said Sharp, "would wish to have assurances that the commission will be effective; that all four parties concerned will be bound by the agreement; that all four will invite Canada to participate; that there will be a continuing political authority to receive reports from the commission members; that the commission will have the necessary freedom of movement; and that there will be arrangement for a member's withdrawal from the commission."

The condition about all parties being bound by the agreement means that Canada will not serve on the commission unless both the Thieu government and the Vietcong accept the agreement being negotiated in Paris.

The Vietnamese Communists have publicly accused Indonesia, another of the proposed cease-fire supervisory powers, for being too close to the United States. The other two countries in the projected four-power commission would be Hungary and Poland.

Recent statements by Saigon and the Vietcong have confirmed Ottawa's fears that the two rival governments in South Vietnam are not satisfied with the terms of the tentative agreement. As a result, Canada is afraid that the truce may be inoperative or else of short duration, so that Canadian officers would soon find themselves caught in the crossfire of renewed fighting.

The U.S. government has pressed actively for Canadian participation since the end of October. Secretary of State William P. Rogers said in Brussels on Friday that Ottawa's conditions were reasonable and that Washington would try to meet them as much as possible.

So far, Ottawa has not heard from Saigon government or the Vietcong.

The Canadians are also somewhat concerned by the scope and cost of the supervisory role outlined by U.S. officials. It would involve more than 4,000 men at an annual cost of as much as \$100 million.