

# KISSINGER LEAVES FOR U.S. AS ROUND OF TALKS CLOSES

—DEC 14 1972

Discussions in Paris Fail to  
Solve Issue of Political  
Control of Vietnam

AIDES ARE STAYING ON

President Will Confer With  
Chief Negotiator Today  
on Apparent Impasse

NYTimes

By FLORA LEWIS

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, Dec. 13—Henry A. Kissinger flew home tonight, ending an arduous round of Vietnam cease-fire talks without having solved the central problem—political control of South Vietnam.

In a brief departure statement before leaving by special plane at 9 P.M., Mr. Kissinger said: "I am returning to Washington and will exchange messages with special adviser Le Duc Tho as to whether a further meeting is necessary."

"In the meantime, Ambassador Sullivan and two members of my staff are staying here and will be meeting under the direction of Ambassador Porter with experts of the other side."

#### Thanks to France

Mr. Kissinger thanked the French Government for "the privileges and cooperation they have extended to me."

The technical experts staying on—including William H. Sullivan, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian Affairs, and William J. Porter, the American representative at the formal Vietnam peace conference here—will continue bargaining sessions over details of a draft cease-fire text and related protocols about such things as an international control commission for Vietnam.

[In Washington, the White House said President Nixon would see Mr. Kissinger "first thing" Thursday morning. Officials foresaw critical decisions facing the President in view of the apparent impasse. Page 14.]

In Paris, authoritative sources said there had been some

progress on details, clarifying language and assuring a simultaneous cease-fire in Laos, though not in Cambodia. But the central issue — political power in South Vietnam — remained unsettled. All efforts to bridge the disagreement with ambiguous language have reportedly failed.

#### Saigon Visit Planned

On the central issue of the war, the negotiations thus were deadlocked. The agreement between Mr. Kissinger and Mr. Tho to maintain their communications and the possibility of further meetings indicated that the talks had not broken down. But they had not made progress on any but peripheral issues either.

Last October, in a phrase that most of the world took literally, Mr. Kissinger said that "peace is at hand" and that an agreement could be completed in one more negotiating round lasting "not more than three or four days." That round began on Nov. 20 and continued, except for a nine-

Continued on Page 14, Column 5

Continued From Page 1, Col. 1

day recess, until this afternoon.

Mr. Kissinger, or his deputy, Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., was expected to go next to Saigon for another round of meetings with President Thieu.

Mr. Thieu continues to insist that his Government is the "sole legitimate" representative of all of South Vietnam. He has been pressing for recognition of South Vietnam's "sovereignty and independence" in any cease-fire agreement, the central point on which negotiations were finally stalled.

Further, Mr. Thieu opposes inclusion of a third segment of uncommitted delegates on a National Council of Reconciliation and Concord with equal standing alongside Vietcong and Saigon delegates, as provided in the draft cease-fire agreement drawn up by Mr. Kissinger and Mr. Tho in October. Mr. Thieu is believed to fear that the non-Communist, non-Saigon segment might be won over by the Vietcong and give that side dominance.

The end of full-scale secret talks in Paris, for the time being at least, returned the problem of decision to the White House and to Saigon.

#### Longest Session of Series

Mr. Kissinger and Mr. Tho and their aides spent six hours negotiating today, the 15th and longest session in the current series of secret talks that began on Nov. 20.

Afterward, it was under-

stood, Mr. Kissinger briefed South Vietnam's delegate to the formal peace talks here, Pham Dang Lam, as he has done after each day's meeting. The White House said Mr. Kis-

singer would report to President Nixon tomorrow.

The Kissinger departure, originally scheduled for early afternoon, was repeatedly delayed. It was reported reliably, however, that the added negotiation effort brought no closer the agreement needed to end the war.

Authoritative sources said that Mr. Kissinger had decided there was no point in taking up the cease-fire proposal that President Nguyen Thieu announced in Saigon yesterday, which the South Vietnamese are to put formally before the regular four-sided Vietnam conference here tomorrow.

#### Hanoi Opposes Plan

The American negotiator was reported to feel that it would only use up more weeks of futile talking, since the essence of Mr. Thieu's plan has been rejected repeatedly by Hanoi.

Mr. Kissinger was also reported to consider unreasonable Mr. Thieu's view that a three-segment National Council of Reconciliation sought by Hanoi would be a coalition government in disguise.

In Mr. Kissinger's view, it was reported, the council could not act as a government because all its decisions must have unanimous consent and its role does not go beyond supervision of elections.

South Vietnamese sources have contended, however, that the real grounds for Mr. Thieu's complaint are that the council would give the Vietcong and the Saigon Government equal administrative status.

The conviction was growing among those who have watched negotiations closely that the only chance Washington has of getting Mr. Thieu to approve an agreement acceptable to Hanoi will come if President

Nixon decides to sign on a fixed date, regardless of Saigon.

A separate agreement signed by Washington and Hanoi, without Saigon, would take the United States out of the war and end its military support for South Vietnam. It could also preclude further American economic aid. Presumably, it would permit repatriation of all American prisoners held by the Communists and require withdrawal of remaining United States troops.

#### Thieu Bid Reported Rejected

By SYLVAN FOX

Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Dec. 13—A well-informed source said today that he had been told by President Nguyen Van Thieu that a plan that would

have opened the way for Saigon's endorsement of a peace accord had been rejected at the secret talks in Paris.

Under the plan, according to the South Vietnamese source, the United States, North Vietnam, South Vietnam and the Communist Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam all would have signed a cease-fire agreement as "the four warring parties."

Mr. Thieu's intention in advancing this proposal presumably was to eliminate from a cease-fire agreement any reference to the Provisional Revolutionary Government as an acknowledged legally constituted government in South Vietnam.

#### Key Issue Unresolved

While it was reported from Paris that the negotiators had failed to resolve one major issue—Mr. Thieu's demand that a cease-fire agreement specify that Saigon has sole sovereign control over all the territory it

held before the war, the comments attributed to Mr. Thieu appeared to reflect another facet of that same demand.

According to the Saigon source, Mr. Thieu told a group of Government officials and legislators last night that he had been informed his proposal to identify the signatories to a cease-fire agreement only as "warring parties" had been rejected in Paris. Other officials known to have attended the two-and-a-half-hour meeting in the Presidential Palace declined to comment on it, asserting that the session was intended to be secret.

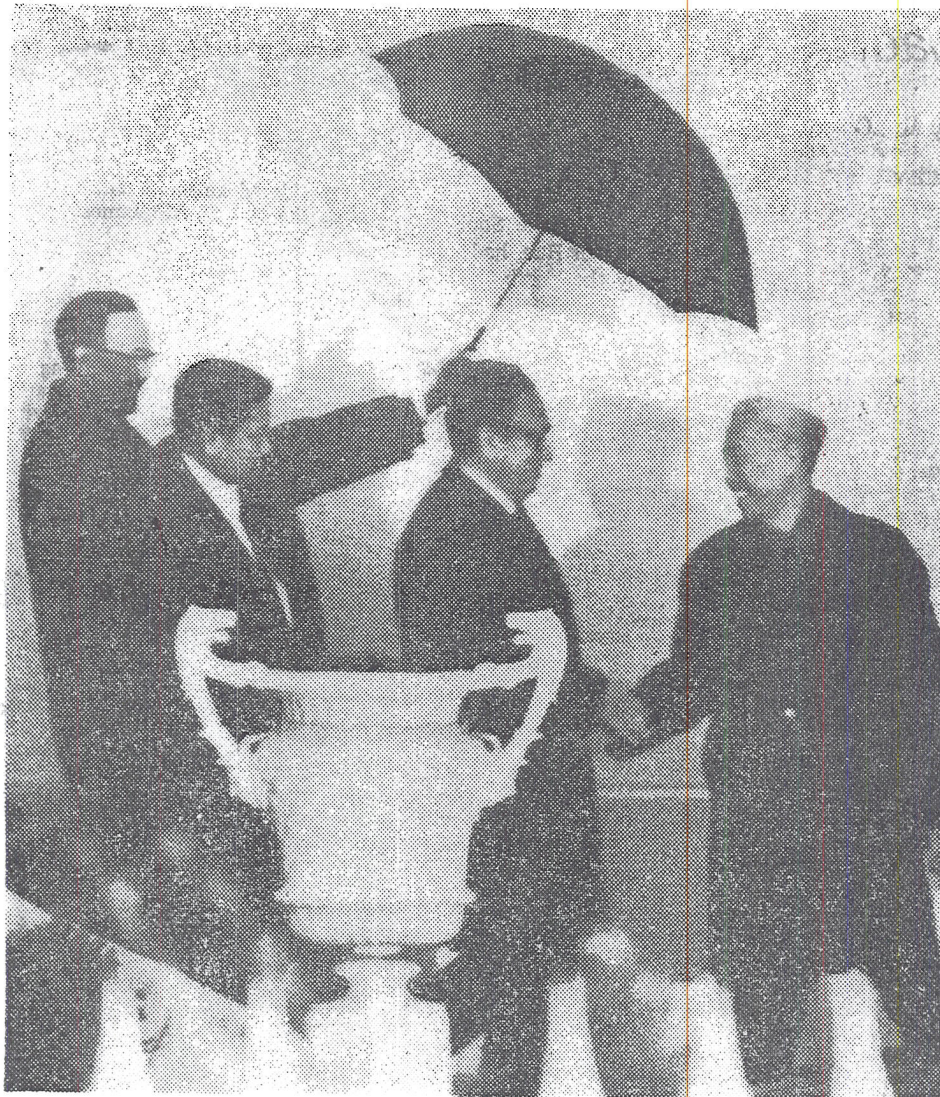
The President called the meeting, according to the source, to inform the officials and legislators "more thoroughly than I could this morning" about the course of the cease-fire talks.

Yesterday morning, Mr. Thieu delivered a speech before the National Assembly in which he proposed a truce to begin before Christmas and to continue at least until Jan. 1. During this period, he said, there would be prisoner exchanges between North Vietnam and South Vietnam and discussions of military and political problems by the Saigon Government, the National Liberation Front and the North Vietnamese.

That proposal was roundly denounced by both the Liberation Front and North Vietnam.

In a broadcast tonight, the Hanoi radio said the speech "contained nothing new" and added: "Thieu has closed his eyes to the reality that there now exists in South Vietnam two armies, two governments and three political forces and at the prodding of his U.S. masters, Thieu has shamelessly bad-mouthed the National Liberation Front and the Provisional Revolutionary Government."





Associated Press

**Le Duc Tho of North Vietnam saying good-bye to Henry A. Kissinger, Presidential adviser, after their meeting yesterday in Paris. At far left is Nguyen Phuong, a North Vietnamese delegate. Mr. Kissinger then left for U.S. to report on talks.**