

# President Sees Kissinger On Truce Outlook Today

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 13—The White House said today that President Nixon would confer with Henry A. Kissinger "first thing tomorrow morning" to review Mr. Kissinger's just-concluded round of talks in Paris and to discuss the outlook for a negotiated settlement of the Vietnam war.

The assumption by Administration officials and newsmen here was that Mr. Nixon, who has publicly committed himself to achieving a negotiated end to the war soon, faced some critical decisions in coming days.

Although the Administration refused to comment on the negotiations held by Mr. Kissinger with Le Duc Tho, Hanoi's chief negotiator, officials would not deny published reports that Mr. Kissinger had been unable to find a solution that was acceptable to both Hanoi and Saigon.

### Key Issue Unsolved

A key issue apparently remained the demand of President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam that Hanoi agree to withdraw all its troops from South Vietnam or at least recognize Saigon's sovereignty over South Vietnam.

Officials, in discussions with newsmen, said that Mr. Nixon would probably have to decide whether to press Mr. Thieu to accept the package worked out in Paris as the best that could be reasonably negotiated, even though it did not meet Mr. Thieu's demands about troop withdrawal and

sovereignty, or to stand by Mr. Thieu and run the risk of losing the opportunity for a negotiated settlement with Hanoi.

The first word that the Kissinger-Tho discussions were over was provided by Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, at his regular briefing, which was delayed about an hour.

### Assessment Sought

Because of conflicting news accounts from Paris in the last 10 days about the course of the negotiations, newsmen were hoping for some official assessment of the talks; in particular, whether the negotiators had resolved the issues standing in the way of a settlement.

But Mr. Ziegler, clearly working under very strict instructions, refused to characterize the talks in any way.

Mr. Nixon and Mr. Kissinger apparently wanted to insure that all options were kept open in the crucial strategy sessions that will take place at the White House.

In the absence of any authoritative assessment of the negotiations, speculation ran its expected course. Officials who have tended to be optimistic about the outcome of the talks advised newsmen not to become gloomy about the prospects.

"It is absolutely inconceivable to me" said one expert on Asia, "that, having come this far, the President will allow Thieu to block an agreement over the troop issue."

Another official speculated that the talks held by Mr. Kissinger in the last week were designed to prove to Saigon it was impossible to get a negotiated solution that

would, in effect, force Hanoi to give up at the negotiating table what it had not lost on the battlefield — a presence in South Vietnam and support for the National Liberation Front as a legal body in South Vietnam.

Other officials said that the President who has supported Mr. Thieu strongly during Mr. Nixon's first term, would probably be loath to sign an agreement with Hanoi without Saigon's concurrence. But most officials seemed agreed that Mr. Thieu would, in the end, approve a package settlement if Mr. Nixon made it conditional on receiving further American aid.

The White House declined to say whether Mr. Kissinger or his deputy, Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., would be asked by Mr. Nixon to fly to Saigon again to make another effort at convincing Mr. Thieu that the projected agreement, even without the provisions sought by Mr. Thieu, would not put his Government at a disadvantage.

Before the Kissinger-Tho talk resumed in Paris on Nov. 20, Administration officials said the Saigon would be consulted again prior to any agreement.

At Mr. Kissinger's Oct. 26 press conference, he said that there had been "a great deal of discussion whether Saigon has a veto over our negotiations."