

# Kissinger Back

## --Reports to President Today

N.Y. Times Service

Washington

Presidential adviser Henry Kissinger returned here late last night from his Vietnam peace talks in Paris and said he would report to President Nixon today.

Asked by reporters at Andrews Air Base to comment on his earlier prophecy that "peace is at hand," Kissinger replied, "Well, that's a great phrase."

He said he could not comment to reporters on the progress of the peace talks until he had talked with President Nixon. He said he hoped to meet with reporters in two or three days.

Kissinger had issued a brief departure statement before leaving Paris. He 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."

### DETAILS

The technical experts staying on in Paris — 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.

Authoritative sources said there has 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 — remains unsettled. All efforts to bridge the disagreement with ambiguous language have reportedly failed.

On the central issue of the war, the negotiations thus were deadlocked. The agreement between Kissinger and Tho to maintain their com-

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munications and the possibility of further meetings indicated that the talks have not broken down. But they have not made any progress on any but peripheral issues either.

Kissinger, or his deputy, General Alexander M. Haig Jr., is expected to go next to Saigon for more meetings with President Nguyen Van Thieu.

The conviction was growing among those who have watched negotiations closely that the only chance Washington has of getting Thieu to approve an agreement acceptable to Hanoi and the U.S. will come if Mr. Nixon decides to sign on a fixed date, regardless of Saigon.

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

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 Eco-

nomie aid. Presumably, it would permit repatriation of all American prisoners held by the Communists and require withdrawal of remaining U.S. troops.

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

Afterward, it was understood, 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 Kissinger would report to President Nixon today.

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

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

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

In 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 Thieu's complaint are that the council would give the Viet Cong and the Saigon government equal administrative status.