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Nixon and Kissinger Meet, But Are Silent on a Truce

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15— Henry A. Kissinger met with President Nixon today for the fourth time in two days and conferred individually with other high Administration officials on the outlook for a negotiated settlement of the Vietnam war.

The White House, however, continued to withhold information and comment about the round of negotiations just concluded between Mr. Kissinger and Le Duc Tho in Paris.

This situation might change in coming days if Mr. Kissinger, the President's adviser on national security, meets with the press, a possibility held open today by Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary. But Mr. Ziegler would not set a firm date for such a meeting.

Le Duc Tho, the North

Vietnamese negotiator, left Paris for Hanoi to report on his talks with Mr. Kissinger.

Mr. Ziegler's regular news conference this morning was again well attended by newsmen hoping that Mr. Kissinger would be produced. But the press secretary limited his remarks to announcing that Mr. Kissinger had met with Mr. Nixon three times yesterday—in the morning, afternoon, and evening—and again this morning.

Mr. Ziegler also said that Secretary of State William P. Rogers had been briefed by Mr. Kissinger yesterday. Mr. Kissinger met with Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird this morning, and conferred later with Vice President Spiro T.

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Agnew, Richard Helms, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The White House has never before disclosed this kind of schedule for Mr. Kissinger, but Mr. Ziegler said it was normal procedure after a round of talks in Paris.

The White House by its silence did nothing to counter the growing impression in Washington that the latest talks had reached an impasse over the presence of North Vietnamese troops in South Vietnam.

It is widely assumed here that Mr. Nixon must decide whether to continue pressing the demand of President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam for the withdrawal of these troops, or to pressure Mr. Thieu to join in an accord based on the original nine-point agreement made public on Oct. 26.

Mr. Ziegler, in answer to questions, said Mr. Nixon had no plans at this time to speak to the nation about Vietnam before Christmas. He gave the same "no plan" answer to questions about a possible trip to Saigon by Mr. Kissinger or his deputy, Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr.

Tho Leaves for Hanoi

By FLORA LEWIS

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, Dec. 15—Le Duc Tho flew to Moscow today on his

way home to Hanoi to report on his 15 negotiating sessions with Henry A. Kissinger.

Somberly dressed as usual in a dark Mao-style suit, Mr. Tho was smiling and relaxed. He wished reporters a merry Christmas, which they took as a sign that he would not return to Paris before the holidays.

"I am always optimistic," he said cheerfully in answer to a question about the chance of peace by Christmas. The National Liberation Front's delegate, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, had gone to the airport to see Mr. Tho off, and she did not take the comment so brightly.

When she was asked if she shared Mr. Tho's optimism, Mrs. Binh replied: "I asked Mr. Le Duc Tho about the meaning of his statement. He is optimistic about the future of our country and the outcome of our struggle."

'Optimism' Explained

Later, the North Vietnamese spokesman issued a formal statement on the use of the word "optimism." He said:

"This term applies to the struggle of the North Vietnamese people against American aggression, for the independence and the freedom of Vietnam. Mr. Le Duc Tho clearly said that he was making no comment on the private talks with Mr. Kissinger."

Mr. Tho had said that he had agreed with Mr. Kissinger that neither would say anything about the talks and that they would stay in contact by exchanging messages.

The Soviet and Chinese am-

bassadors were among the officials who went to the airport to say good-by. They stayed at opposite ends of the V.I.P. lounge.

Mr. Tho left on the regularly scheduled Aeroflot flight, which took off half an hour late.

'Technical Session' Held

In the afternoon, American and North Vietnamese experts met for the first of what is expected to be a series of "technical sessions."

The meeting was in the French Communist party's villa at Gif-Sur-Yvette, which Mr. Kissinger and Mr. Tho used for their talks on alternate days. Although there is no agreement on some of the central issues they sought to negotiate, and therefore no date fixed for a cease-fire, an eventual accord will need to contain many details on how it is to be implemented.

Under the draft agreement drawn up in October, details were to be worked out after the cease-fire took effect. Now that no deadline exists for ending the war, the experts have the time to go into the secondary questions beforehand.