

# KISSINGER'S AIDE SENT TO INDOCHINA TO BRIEF LEADERS

Haig, in Visit to 4 Nations,  
Will Discuss the Impasse  
at Paris Peace Talks

DEC 18 1972  
WILL RETURN THURSDAY

Reportedly Will Tell Allies  
U.S. Won't Sign Pact Giving  
Disguised Victory to Foe

NYTimes

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 — The White House announced today that Henry A. Kissinger's deputy, Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., was flying to Southeast Asia to brief the leaders of South Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand on the current impasse at the Paris negotiations.

Gerald C. Warren, the deputy White House press secretary, said that General Haig's mission would be "a follow up" to Mr. Kissinger's news conference yesterday in which he



The New York Times  
Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr.

announced that the peace talks with North Vietnam in Paris had so far failed to achieve what President Nixon regarded as "a just and fair agreement."

General Haig's trip will last only a few days, the White House said. He is due to arrive in Saigon tomorrow and to return to Washington on Thursday.

## Purpose of Trip Described

A White House official said that the purpose of General Haig's trip would be to convey to the Asian leaders the determination of Mr. Nixon not to sign an agreement that would lead—in Mr. Kissinger's words—to a "disguised form of victory" for North Vietnam.

General Haig will presumably inform the leaders of the irritation of the White House with Hanoi's negotiating tactics at the just-concluded round of talks in Paris.

Mr. Kissinger, speaking for Mr. Nixon, told newsmen that Hanoi was largely to blame for the failure to achieve an accord. He said that North Vietnam had reneged on previous agreements and had continually raised new and sometimes frivolous de-

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mands, frustrating the effort to achieve a settlement.

Mr. Kissinger's interpretation of events differed from that offered by Hanoi and by some other Administration officials. They have ascribed the impasse to Mr. Nixon's decision to meet, at least part way, objections to the accord raised by President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam.

Mr. Kissinger, President Nixon's adviser for national security, made it clear that the United States had asked Hanoi, when the talks resumed on Nov. 20, to accept in the agreement language, "however vague, however indirect," that would recognize the existence of the two Vietnams. He said that Hanoi, had agreed to this but that on Dec. 4 it reneged, for reasons that were unclear.

It is understood from other sources that Hanoi had first accepted and then had rejected a provision in the accord allowing for the demilitarized zone to be maintained between North Vietnam and South Vietnam. This, in effect, would have acknowledged that there were two separate Vietnams and would have permitted Saigon to maintain that North Vietnamese troops in South Vietnam had no legal right to be there.

## Haig Returned Dec. 9

Mr. Kissinger said that the American side was so confident that Hanoi would eventually accept that provision and drop its Dec. 4 objection, that General Haig returned to Washington from Paris on Dec. 9 to be ready to take the completed accord to Saigon for Mr. Thieu's approval.

But in subsequent days, Mr. Kissinger said, Hanoi not only refused to budge on the sover-

eignty question, but also raised other matters, in such a way that Mr. Nixon decided to end the round of talks. Among the specific problems unsolved, Mr. Kissinger said, were the rules for the international supervisory commission that would check on the cease-fire.

He said that Hanoi was insisting on limiting the force to as few as 250 men and sharply restricting its movements. Earlier, Hanoi was said to have agreed to a 5,000-man force.

Mr. Kissinger, however, also made it clear that while Mr. Nixon was backing Mr. Thieu on the sovereignty question, he refused to support the Saigon demand that all North Vietnamese troops be withdrawn from the South. Mr. Kissinger said that the United States stood by its willingness to have a cease-fire in place, allowing the North Vietnamese—estimated by the United States at 145,000—to remain. But the projected accord does provide for a thinning of these forces and prohibits any new troops from being sent to South Vietnam.

## No Saigon Veto

South Vietnam will not have a veto over what Mr. Nixon regards as a "right" agreement, Mr. Kissinger said. Presumably, General Haig will make that clear when he meets with President Thieu in Saigon.

The Paris talks are continuing at a technical level while Mr. Kissinger and Le Duc Tho, the chief negotiator, have gone back to their respective capitals. Mr. Kissinger said yesterday that he did not know when he would resume his talks with Mr. Tho, but he left the impression that it would not be soon.

"I expect that we will meet again, but we have to meet in an atmosphere that is worthy of the seriousness of the endeavor," Mr. Kissinger said.

General Haig is being accompanied to Southeast Asia by Laurin B. Askew, head of the State Department's Vietnam working group; John D. Negroponte, the chief Vietnam specialist on Mr. Kissinger's staff; John A. Bushnell, another member of Mr. Kissinger's staff; Lieut. Col. Fredric Brown, military assistant to General Haig; and Maj. George Joulwan, General Haig's personal aide.