

NYTimes DEC 20 1972

# Haig Visits Thieu and Lon Nol On Mission to Explain Impasse

Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Dec. 19—Henry A. Kissinger's deputy, Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., conferred with the leaders of South Vietnam and Cambodia today, with the announced purpose of explaining the state of the peace talks.

He arrived in Saigon this morning, conferred for nearly three hours with President Nguyen Van Thieu and then flew to Phnom Penh to see President Lon Nol.

General Haig returned to Saigon in the evening, and it was expected that he would leave for Thailand and Laos tomorrow after another brief session with President Thieu.

There was no outward sign of South Vietnamese Government reaction to whatever message General Haig brought with him. The visit was largely overshadowed by the heavy bombing raids over much of North Vietnam that began a few hours before his arrival.

Mr. Kissinger said Saturday that if the Americans and the North Vietnamese finally came to a mutually acceptable peace settlement, Mr. Thieu would not be allowed to veto it. Mr. Kissinger also specifically rejected Mr. Thieu's objections to settlement that would not call in some fashion for the total withdrawal of all North Vietnamese troops from the South.

President Thieu has recalled a number of his ambassadors to Saigon for the meetings, although the Ambassador to Washington, Tran Kim Phuong, was not present. The only others present were the American Ambassador, Ellsworth Bunker, and Mr. Thieu's press secretary and personal assistant, Hoang Duc Nha.

## Haig Avoids Press

Special to The New York Times

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia,

Dec. 19—General Haig met with President Lon Nol today to bring him up to date on the impasse in the Vietnam negotiations and presumably to reaffirm Washington's support and encouragement for Cambodia's struggle against North Vietnamese and local insurgent troops.

Nothing specific was known of the discussion. The general's desire for total insulation from the press was fully respected. So rigid was the press blackout, in fact, that the press officer of the American Embassy, although he knew that the general was arriving some time in the afternoon, was not told by higher embassy officials that he had actually landed. He learned this in a telephone call from a reporter.

The general's visit lasted only about three hours—time enough for a meeting with the American Ambassador, Emory C. Swank, and an hour and a half with Marshal Lon Nol.

The visit came amid reliable indications that, before the breakoff in the peace talks last week, nothing was substantially changed in the small section of the proposed accord that dealt with Cambodia and Laos, nor was the United States pressing for any change.

There have been reports from Washington in recent weeks that Hanoi agreed to have a Vietnam cease-fire extend simultaneously to Cambodia and Laos, but authoritative sources here have discounted the reports. In addition, these sources confirm that the phrase "foreign troops" in the section on Laos and Cambodia has not been stiffened to "North Vietnamese and Vietcong troops" and that such a change in the accord is not expected.