

CEASE-FIRE TALKS RESUME IN PARIS

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Technical Experts Meet for Four Hours and Schedule Another Session Today

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PARIS, Jan. 2—Technical experts from the United States and North Vietnam resumed their discussions on a cease-fire today with a four-hour session and agreed to meet again tomorrow.

William H. Sullivan, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia, and Nguyen Co Thach, Deputy Foreign Minister of North Vietnam, met in a villa in suburban Choisy-le-Roi in what were regarded as preliminary negotiations to the main talks scheduled to begin next Monday. Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's adviser on national security, will meet then with Le Duc Tho, the principal North Vietnamese negotiator.

Schumann Cites French Role

Neither side would comment on the progress made today, but the French Foreign Minister, Maurice Schumann, who has been in contact with both sides, emphasized that, as of the start of the new round, they "have not drawn closer together."

Mr. Schumann said in a radio interview before the start of today's session that France had played "an essential role" in getting the United States and North Vietnam talking again.

President Pompidou, during a New Year's reception for newsmen, revealed that he had had an exchange of letters with Mr. Nixon "in addition to the usual contact with both sides." He did not reveal what he had told Mr.

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Nixon but presumably he urged negotiation. He told his guests that he had thought a few weeks ago that an agreement would be reached but that "there was no American will to negotiate at any price and North Vietnam, a country hardened by this long war, did not lean toward concessions."

The President remarked that he did not think the intensified American bombings had aroused "much gratitude" among the North Vietnamese or moved them to make concessions.

Today's meeting of experts, in a house near the compound

of the regular North Vietnamese delegation to the peace talks, was the first since Dec. 23, when a similar meeting got no further than a North Vietnamese protest against the bombing of the Hanoi and Hai-phong areas.

A main object of the talks on this level has been to reach agreement on enforcement of a cease-fire. The length of today's session indicated that the two delegations, of about five men each, had gone into some detail.

The North Vietnamese delegation was the host today. Tomorrow, the United States will receive the North Vietnamese in a house overlooking the golf course of Saint-Nom-la-Bretèche, also in the suburbs.

On Thursday, the Vietcong and the South Vietnamese delegations are expected to join the two others in a full formal session of the peace talks. However, the Communist side has not yet answered an allied proposal for such a meeting.

Pompidou Criticizes Bombing

The French comments from the sidelines did not create an atmosphere of great optimism about the talks. Mr. Pompidou, speaking to an assemblage of diplomats at the Elysée Palace at a later gathering in the long round of holiday receptions, said: "I want to believe with all my strength that our hopes will not be disappointed a second time."

But Mr. Schumann, when

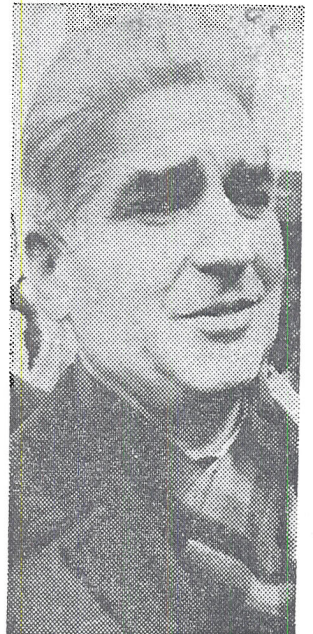


Associated Press

Nguyen Co Thach, Deputy Foreign Minister of North Vietnam, in his car at Choisey-lé-Roi.

asked by a radio interviewer how the future of the talks looked, answered: "I must say very clearly that at the moment when the negotiations resume, the points of view concerning substance have not drawn closer together." He added that he would continue to be discreet in case France might be able to help later in reaching an agreement.

Tran Van Do, a special envoy of President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam, is expected in Paris shortly. Mr. Do, a former Foreign Minister, is one of two envoys sent by Mr. Thieu to explain Saigon's position in various parts of the world. It was recalled here that Mr. Do had a secret meeting in Paris in December, 1971, with Xuan Thuy, the chief North Vietnamese delegate here, but Mr. Thuy continued afterward to be as hostile as ever to the Thieu regime.



United Press International

William H. Sullivan, an Assistant Secretary of State, arriving for talks on Vietnam yesterday.