

JAN 5 1973

JAN 5 1973

Nixon Confers With Advisers On Viet Talks

By Carroll Kilpatrick
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Nixon held a full-scale conference with his top advisers on Vietnam yesterday as he prepared final instructions for Henry A. Kissinger's meeting in Paris Monday with North Vietnamese negotiator Le Duc Tho.

The President is to meet today with congressional leaders of both parties for a discussion of domestic economic policies, and Vietnam also may be discussed.

The meetings with leaders of both parties are the first Mr. Nixon has held in several months, and are believed in part to be designed to blunt criticism of his Vietnam policies and of his refusal to consult Congress.

The President met for an hour and a half with Secretary of State William P. Rogers, Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird, Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and national security affairs adviser Kissinger.

The White House declined to give any report on the meeting except to say that it dealt with Indochina and the negotiations to be resumed in Paris Monday.

In addition to the breakfast meeting today for bipartisan leaders, Mr. Nixon will give a

reception for all new members of the House and Senate this afternoon.

But a meeting today at which Kissinger was scheduled to brief freshmen Republican members of Congress was postponed to Jan. 13 because of "schedule conflicts," Republican sources said.

The White House would not say whether Kissinger might be in Washington for the Jan. 13 meeting.

The President also has scheduled individual conferences with five foreign leaders who are here to attend memorial services today for former President Harry S. Truman. They are President Zalman Shazar of Israel, Prime Minister Kim Chong-Pil of South Korea, Prime Minister John M. Lynch of Ireland, Philippine Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo and Yen Chia-kan, vice president of the Republic of China.

After the meeting on Vietnam yesterday, the President conferred with Elliott L. Richardson, Secretary of Defense-designate, and with Kissinger on "plans for the second term," White House deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren announced. There was no explanation of why Richardson did not attend the meeting on Vietnam.

In an Oval Office ceremony, the President bestowed the

Defense Distinguished Service Medal on Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., 48, who has been deputy national security adviser since 1969. Later, Haig was sworn in as vice chief of staff of the Army.

The President described Haig who has played a major role in Vietnam negotiations and has made nine visits to Vietnam as a presidential emissary, as a "superb military commander" and "a statesman and diplomat."

Meanwhile, the exodus of high officials from the administration continued.

The White House confirmed reports that the President had accepted "with very great regret" the resignation of Gerard C. Smith as director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. He was chief negotiator of the strategic arms limitation agreements with the Soviet Union.

Smith, after meeting with the President, announced that he would practice law here and help to establish a tri-lateral commission on Japanese-American-Western European relations.

The White House announced that Secor D. Browne will resign soon as chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board.

The President announced that James C. Fletcher will continue as chairman of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and that George M. Low will continue as deputy administrator.

In addition, the President confirmed reports that he will nominate William W. Erwin to be assistant secretary of agriculture for rural development, Clayton Yeutter to be assistant secretary for marketing and consumer services, and John A. Knebel to be general counsel.