

Paris Talks Center On Nature of DMZ

U.S. Trades Snub for Snub

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PARIS, Jan. 9—U.S. negotiator Henry A. Kissinger and Hanoi's Le Duc Tho conferred for nearly six hours today in the second session of their resumed search for a Vietnam cease-fire. They scheduled a third session for Wednesday.

Despite a wan Kissinger smile and waves from Le Duc Tho as they left the negotiating site separately, informed sources reported that the atmosphere of the day's discussions was as icy as yesterday.

The Americans, who were snubbed yesterday when they arrived at the talks site chosen by Hanoi replied in kind today when the talks were held on U.S. turf.

No American official greeted the North Vietnamese negotiators when they arrived this morning at a villa overlooking the luxurious golf course of Saint-Nom-labreche west of Paris. Nor did the Americans escort the North Vietnamese officials to their cars after the meeting.

Sources close to the Communist delegations reported that yesterday's session was all but given over to a long condemnation by Tho of the U.S. bombing campaign

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above the 20th parallel which ended Dec. 30.

[In Hanoi, the official newspaper Nhan Dan said there are no signs of the Paris talks leading to peace and that the American continue to issue "bad signs." North Vietnamese sources have reportedly said that in the previous round of talks, Kissinger had almost daily threatened the resumption of bombing north of the 20th parallel.]

Despite the official news blackout in Paris, however, observers stressed that the business was understandable since any other behavior would be interpreted as knuckling under to the American bombing. Moreover, they doubted whether Kissinger and Tho could afford to provide photographers with the spectacle of smiles, laughter and handshakes marking the November-December discussions. Those talks nonetheless ended in breakdown Dec. 13 and led to the increased U.S. bombing.

Perhaps the most optimistic—if indirect—indication that the negotiators may be about to begin serious discussions was that the Wednesday meeting was scheduled for the afternoon.

Throughout the November-December sessions, almost without exception, serious negotiating took place in the afternoon. Because of the time differences, this allowed both delegations to cable their capitals and to receive fresh instructions more efficiently than morning sessions.

Indeed, the only known morning meetings were either "air-cleaning" sessions at the very beginning of the various negotiating rounds or crisis sessions before formal suspension of the talks.

Meanwhile, addressing a semi-annual news conference at the Elysee Palace, French President Georges Pompidou renewed his recent condemnation of the American bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong.

He balanced his remarks by mentioning "the four states of Indochina," a

French diplomatic code phrase implying the continued existence of a separate South Vietnam. The phrase is not new for Pompidou. But North Vietnamese sources were scarcely pleased at its mention just when Hanoi is insisting that there is only one Vietnam—not two.

Expressing "deep disappointment and sorrow" at the failure last month to sign a cease-fire, Pompidou said, "I would like to hope—and really with all my heart—that this time they succeed and that we will not have an eternal alternation between discussions in Paris and bombings."

He conceded that the "situation is difficult," that problems are "real," but issued what appeared to be a warning against the official American thesis that only North Vietnamese intransigence blocked an agreement.

"I would especially not want the American government to adopt as its own the expression of (19th Century French writer) Benjamin Constant: 'The proof that they want war is that they defend themselves.'"

Literary purists noted that the exact quotation is "He's a mean dog, and the proof is that when you attack him he defends himself."

Meanwhile, American and North Vietnamese technical experts continued their discussions on details which must be part of any cease-fire accord, although they

In Paris itself, delegations from 57 leftist organizations, are not considered the main obstacles in the Kissinger-Tho talks.

Including the French Communist Party, presented petitions to the U.S. embassy expressing solidarity with Hanoi and the Vietcong and demanding immediate American signature of the October draft cease-fire accord.