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**KISSINGER AND THO  
CONFERR A 3D DAY;  
NO PROGRESS SEEN**

**Both Sides Said to Cling to  
Opposing Positions on the  
Partition of Vietnam**

By FLORA LEWIS

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, Jan. 10 — Henry A. Kissinger met for four hours with Le Duc Tho today on a Vietnam cease-fire, and technical experts working on secondary issues held an all-day session.

Mr. Kissinger and Mr. Tho scheduled another session for tomorrow.

Several developments suggested an absence of progress in the talks so far.

Soviet sources here said that Hanoi had not changed and would not change its main position, which rejects any formula that would give legal recognition to the partition of Vietnam.

The Russians continue to display eagerness to see a settlement of the war. Their Ambassador in Paris, Pyotr A. Abrasimov, now in Moscow preparing for a visit of President Pompidou to Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader, played an important role in helping to renew negotiations.

**Pessimism Is Voiced**

Nonetheless, Soviet sources here were pessimistic about the likelihood of agreement in the current round.

Although the United States has proposed some new wording for an agreement in the three days of resumed negotiations, it has also reportedly held to its stand on the central question of the partition of Vietnam, which is at the core of the dispute.

This question has been expressed in several ways during the talks on modification of the October draft agreement between Mr. Kissinger, President

Nixon's national security adviser and Mr. Tho, a member of Hanoi's Politburo.

At one point, it focused on the right of North Vietnamese troops to be in South Vietnam. At another, the focus was on whether South Vietnam was to be recognized as a sovereign and separate state.

**Division a Major Issue**

Now, informed sources say, the talks have reverted to an earlier argument about the definition of the line dividing north and south—whether it is a real border or, as provided in the 1954 Geneva agreements, only a "provisional military demarcation line" open to political penetration.

These are not really different questions, or just problems of language. They concern the fundamental issue of the war, which is about whether there are to be two Vietnams, one

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Communist and one anti-Communist, or whether South Vietnam is to be opened to influence from the North and eventual reunification with it.

As a French official put it today, "That is what our Vietnam conference at Fontainebleau in 1946 broke down about, and that is the trouble now."

French sources said that in view of the difficulties in the Vietnam negotiations, they no longer held firm expectations of an early spring European tour by Mr. Nixon.

Reports to several European newspapers from their correspondents in the United States in the last two days have said that the planned tour was being postponed at the request of European leaders, for fear of violent anti-American demonstrations if the United States was still at war in Vietnam.

But in Paris, the official word was that Washington had indicated President Nixon would

not want to come until there was a Vietnam cease-fire.

Officially, none of the delegations to the Paris conference on Vietnam have made any comment since private talks were resumed by Mr. Kissinger and Mr. Tho Monday. Tomorrow, however, Saigon and Vietnam as well as United States and North Vietnamese delegates will meet in the 173d session of formal talks here.

The exchanges at these regular Thursday talks in the former Hotel Majestic are made public and afterward spokesmen answer questions. Although care is normally taken to avoid any specific reference to the private talks, the formal sessions have come to reflect the temper of negotiations.

Particularly, the occasion is used by each of the four delegations to reaffirm its basic policy.

**Roads Repaired, Tass Says**

MOSCOW, Jan. 10 (AP)—Roads damaged by the United States bombing last month have been repaired and Hanoi is receiving supplies on them, Tass reported today.