

Lengthy Paris Talks Raise Peace Hopes

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PARIS, Jan. 12—Presidential advisor Henry A. Kissinger and Hanoi's Le Duc Tho conferred secretly for just over six hours again today in the fifth day of their renewed quest of a Vietnam cease-fire.

With more than 27 hours of discussions to their credit since Monday, a sixth session was scheduled for Saturday morning.

Neither side departed from the rigidly enforced news blackout shrouding both the Kissinger-Tho meetings and the parallel technical discussions which have been averaging eight hours a day since Jan. 2.

The very length of the discussions was beginning to prime hopes that both sides were making progress on details or an agreement.

But even if the present discussions were able to settle still outstanding major obstacles, initialling—much less signature—of a cease-fire lay beyond President Nixon's Jan. 20

inauguration, observers suggested.

With last month's massive bombing north of the 20th parallel still rankling the North Vietnamese, observers doubted that Hanoi could afford to announce any final agreement without facing charges of buckling under American pressure.

Moreover, the United States also is believed resigned to an additional delay in order to inform the South Vietnamese government and Canada, which has refused to send troops for the international cease-fire supervisory commission before studying the agreement.

Another round of Kissinger—Tho talks could well be required to nail down final details before initialling and signature.

Despite the length of the major and technical secret discussions, there was no indication of what, if any, compromises either side had made on

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the outstanding substantive issues.

The day's meeting at the Communist villa in suburban Gif-sur-Yvette got under way 15 minutes late because of snow and fog in and around the French capital. Kissinger and his team were greeted by a North Vietnamese protocol officer at the door, of the villa which the late cubist painter Fernand Leger bequeathed to the French Communist Party.

Both Kissinger and Tho smiled for photographers and newsmen, but were careful to do so separately. This has become the unwritten rule in the current round of talks, presumably because of Hanoi's touchiness over the December bombing north of the 20th parallel.