

Kissinger

Flying to See Nixon

KEY BISCAYNE (Fla.) — (UPI) — Henry Kissinger is returning from Paris today to consult with President Nixon following his 23rd round of peace talks with the North Vietnamese. The White House characterized the latest negotiations as "serious."

Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler awakened reporters here to say that Kissinger would fly directly from Paris to Homestead Air Force Base near here tonight* and proceed to conferences with Nixon today and Sunday.

Kissinger was meeting with Hanoi's chief negotiator, Le Duc Tho, for the sixth day of talks that resumed after the U.S. halted bombing of North Vietnam. Nixon ordered renewed bombing in mid-December after the 22nd round of negotiations between Kissinger

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* MIDNIGHT

and Tho were snagged.

When Kissinger returned from that round, he told reporters that the Communists were raising "frivolous" issues, and White House officials said Hanoi had "welshed" on the agreement.

But Ziegler said today that Kissinger would meet Nixon when the talks recessed in Paris "for consultations following six days of serious talks with the North Vietnamese."

Administration officials said the 22nd round had deadlocked over vague definitions for demarcation between the Vietnams.

Madame Nguyen Thi Binh, Hanoi's foreign minister, said then that United States and North Vietnam disagreed over "re-establishing of the Demilitarized Zone."

Thieu Stand

President Nguyen Van Thieu said South Vietnam would not sign any ceasefire documents unless they stated in unequivocal terms that Saigon had sovereignty over all the Vietnam territory it held before the war began.

Ziegler awakened reporters today to tell them of Kissinger's scheduled return even though the talks were still in progress. He suggested that reporters note that the talks had been lengthy.

He declined to say wheth-

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er Kissinger or any other presidential envoy would be going to Saigon. Kissinger indicated earlier that another visit to the South Vietnamese capital would be needed to explain details of any cease-fire agreement that had been reached.

Optimism

Officials, however, had earlier expressed optimism that the current round of talks which began Jan. 8 would finally produce the cease-fire agreement that has eluded the negotiators so far.

Nixon had escaped Washington's subfreezing temperatures for a weekend at his Florida resort villa. He brought along his chief speechwriter, Ray Price, to help polish his Inaugural Address, to be delivered next Saturday.

The President hoped for a breakthrough in the peace talks before he is sworn in for a second term, to fulfill his four year promise to end the war.