

# Military Accord Reached

By Kingsbury Smith  
European Director and Chief  
Foreign Writer,  
The Hearst Newspapers

PARIS — The United States and North Vietnam have reached virtual agreement on the military principles of a Vietnam cease-fire.

This was learned exclusively today as Henry Kissinger prepared to fly back to Washington tonight to report to President Nixon.

The new pact embodies nearly all the principal terms of the agreement Kissinger negotiated with Le Duc Tho last October.

Substantial progress was reported to have been made on military matters pertaining to the implementation of a cease-fire, with North Vietnam making some concessions on the size and mobility of the proposed International Commission of Control and Supervision.

However, the political aspects of a peace settlement still remain unsolved and this could endanger the conclusion of an agreement unless some compromise is reached.

The American and North Vietnamese negotiators have been concentrating on the problems concerning implementation of a cease-fire.

Because of the difficult and delicate nature of the unresolved political issues, they were put on the back burner pending the efforts to solve the cease-fire problems.

Some of the latter, such as the future status of the Demilitarized Zone, involve po-

—Turn to Page 4, Col. 4

litical considerations. If an understanding can be reached, a cease-fire will apply to the DMZ, the political aspects of that issue may disappear.

## Basic Issue

One of the fundamental political issues that still remains to be settled concerns the authority and operational levels of the proposed Council of National Reconciliation and Concord which is supposed to promote the implementation of the peace agreement and organize new elections.

The South Vietnamese delegation to the Paris peace talks has served notice that the Saigon government will not join with the Viet Cong in organizing new elections in the south as long as 300,000 North Vietnamese troops remain in South Vietnam.

An indication of the intensity of the negotiations was the fact that today's meeting between Henry Kissinger and Le Duc Tho, and their advisers, started at 9:30 a.m., the earliest they have commenced any of their sessions. Yesterday's meeting, which lasted just over six hours, was one of the longest they have ever held.

## Atmosphere

The icy atmosphere which prevailed at the beginning of the resumed talks this week also has disappeared. The negotiators appear more relaxed, with both Kissinger and Le Duc Tho smiling for photographers and newsmen as they enter and leave the meetings. However, they do so separately and are still avoiding any show of cordiality together, such as the smiles and handshakes that marked the November and December negotiating rounds.

It is still considered doubtful that an agreement can be finalized before President Nixon's second term inauguration next Saturday. There is even talk of the possible necessity of another round of negotiations after a recess to give both Washington and Hanoi an opportunity to study the results of this round.

If it should be decided to have a recess, there might be an announcement next week of an interim agreement on the terms of a

cease-fire, or at least a report of progress.

South Vietnamese sources in Paris confirmed reports that Hanoi has made some concessions on the proposed International Control Commission. The North Vietnamese have now indicated a willingness to have the commission composed of between 2000 and 3000 observers, with their own transportation and some, though not complete, freedom of movement.

## Control Commission

At almost the very end of the December talks, when a deadlock had already been reached on other issues, Le Duc Tho demanded that there should be no more than 250 observers, nearly half of whom would be restricted to their headquarters, and with no freedom of movement for any of them.

He insisted that the observer force should have no transportation or communications of its own, and should move only with escorts from the side that was being investigated for reported violations of the cease-fire agreement. In other words, Hanoi wanted the International Control Commission to be virtually ineffectual.

On the resumption of the talks this week, Kissinger made it clear that the United States would not accept a cease-fire agreement that did not provide for some reasonably effective international supervision. The American government had wanted at least 5000 foreign observers. It now looks as though there may be a compromise on about 2500.