

Nixon Sends Haig to See

By Carroll Kilpatrick
Washington Post Staff Writer

KEY BISCAIYNE, Fla., Jan. 14 — President Nixon conferred at length today with his two chief advisers on Vietnam and then sent Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr. to Saigon to report to President Nguyen Van Thieu on the latest Paris peace negotiations.

National security adviser Henry A. Kissinger, who arrived here at 12:45 a.m. after a flight from Paris, remained with the President to continue his report on the more than 35 hours he spent last week with North Vietnamese Politburo member Le Duc Tho.

The President and Kissinger will remain here Monday, White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler announced. He said he did not know when Mr. Nixon would return to Washington and he threw no light on Kissinger's future plans.

Haig, formerly deputy national security adviser and now vice chief of staff of the Army, flew here with Kissinger, who stopped in Washington Saturday night to take Haig aboard.

They reached the President's home at 1:18 a.m. and conferred with him for an hour and 12 minutes. They were up early today for a four-hour conference that began shortly after 10 a.m.

Tonight, after Haig departed for Saigon, the President and Kissinger met again.

In Paris, the Vietcong delegation, following a meeting with Le Duc Tho, said of the Tho-Kissinger negotiations: "These meetings produced progress," thus using the same words that the North Vietnamese used Saturday to describe the talks.

While the atmospherics suggested considerable optimism, the Florida White House was making no claims that a ceasefire is near or that the long negotiations looking toward a Vietnam settlement may have produced a breakthrough.

But in mid-morning the three officials interrupted their conference to pose for photographers, and newsmen covering the President were allowed on to the lawn of the President's home to witness the picture-taking. But nothing Kissinger and the President said could be heard by the newsmen, who were kept some 30 or 40 feet away.

It is almost certain that pic-

tures would not have been permitted unless the President wanted to give the impression of progress in the negotiations in Paris.

After the three men returned to the living room to continue their meeting, Ziegler announced that Haig would fly to South Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand, to report on the negotiations.

The earliest Haig could report to the President on his

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meeting with Thieu presumably would be Tuesday morning. Haig could hardly get back to the United States before Thursday or Friday.

It is assumed that Thieu is ready well informed on last week's negotiations. American ambassador Ellsworth Bunker Acheson conferred with Thieu Saturday.

If Haig should win Thieu's approval of any preliminary agreement that may have been reached in Paris, Mr. Nixon then might be in a position to break his long silence and make some report to the American people, or at least send Kissinger back to Paris for further negotiations.

Observers are convinced that the President wants to make some progress statement before his inaugural Saturday.

But there is no information here on these questions, and Ziegler would not say how long Haig might be away.

Haig will go to Saigon "for the purpose of discussing the current status of the negotiations with President Thieu," Ziegler said. "On the trip he will also hold discussions with other Southeast Asian leaders."

Asked if he could announce any travel plans for Kissinger, Ziegler said, "No, I do not

have any travel plans for Dr. Kissinger, beyond what I have said, and that is that he will be here with the President tomorrow. I am not certain at this time when the President will be returning to Washington."

Asked if Haig is carrying a proposed peace agreement

with him to Saigon, Ziegler repeated his earlier remark that the purpose of the trip is for "consultations and discussions with President Thieu."

When asked if Haig was carrying a letter from the President to Thieu, Ziegler said he had nothing more to say on Haig's trip.

U.S. Command Reports New Bombing Mistake

From News Dispatches

SAIGON, Jan. 14—The U.S. command Sunday reported that one Vietnamese civilian had been killed and 12 wounded in the second mistaken American bombing in the Danang area in a week.

In the latest bombing error, a Navy A-6 dropped a bomb on a populated region near Danang. Last Monday, five U.S. fighter-bombers dropped more than 30 bombs on a section of the huge allied air base at Danang, wounding 10 Americans and one Vietnamese.

The U.S. command said the latest bombing mistake was being investigated.

The command also reported that a B-52 had been damaged on a raid over North Vietnam's panhandle, but landed

safely at Danang. It issued a delayed report that a Navy F-4 shot down a Mig-17 above the 20th parallel Friday when the North Vietnamese jet threatened 7th Fleet ships in the Gulf of Tonkin.

The U.S. command also reported more heavy raids along a 200-mile supply corridor stretching from 30 miles below the 20th parallel southward across the Demilitarized Zone into Quangtri Province.

The strikes were particularly intensive about 15 miles south of the DMZ, where South Vietnamese troops killed 43 Communists in heavy fighting. The command said 18 flights of the B-52s flew round-the-clock strikes in support of the government forces.

Thieu