

PRESIDENT HALTS ALL BOMBING,  
MINING AND SHELLING OF NORTH;  
POINTS TO 'PROGRESS' IN TALKS

NYTimes JAN 16 1973  
PARIS SESSION DUE

Ziegler Says Kissinger  
Will Return There  
in 'Near Future'

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Special to The New York Times

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla., Jan. 15 —President Nixon, citing "progress" made in the cease-fire negotiations in Paris, suspended bombing, mining, shelling and all other offensive action throughout North Vietnam today.

Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, announced the suspension this

*Transcript of Ziegler news conference is on Page 12.*

morning after several hours of consultations between the President and his chief negotiator, Henry A. Kissinger.

This was the first time that a spokesman for Mr. Nixon has said publicly that progress had been made in the latest round of Paris negotiations. But, while acknowledging reports in a number of world capitals that an agreement had been reached between the United States and North Vietnam, Mr. Ziegler said he could not confirm the existence of an agreement for a cease-fire.

**Agreement Cited**

"We have made it very clear we have a mutual agreement with the North Vietnamese that we will in no way discuss the substance of the negotiations in Paris" as long as they are under way, Mr. Ziegler said.

He said Mr. Kissinger would return to Paris in the "relatively near future" as the negotiations proceed. Mr. Kissinger flew from Paris Saturday after six days of talks and conferred with President Nixon in three meetings Sunday. On Sunday night, Mr. Nixon sent Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., who has been one of the chief participants in the negotiations, to Saigon to "consult" with President Nguyen Van Thieu about what Mr. Kissinger and Le Duc Tho had done in Paris.

Today, in announcing the halt

of offensive action, Mr. Ziegler said, "Because of the progress made in the negotiations between Dr. Kissinger and special adviser Le Duc Tho, President Nixon has directed that the bombing, shelling and any further mining of North Vietnam be suspended. This order went into effect at 10 A.M. today, Jan. 15, Washington time."

**'All Offensive Action'**

"The directive which I have referred to by the President applied to action north of the 17th Parallel, the entire area of North Vietnam," Mr. Ziegler said. This includes "all offensive action" in North Vietnam, he added later, but reconnaissance action continues.

The order, Mr. Ziegler said, does not apply to military activity in South Vietnam and other countries.

Thus Mr. Nixon restricted American military activity against North Vietnamese forces to its lowest level since last spring before American offensive action in North Vietnam began on a regular basis.

President Lyndon B. Johnson, before he left office in 1969, had suspended bombing in all of North Vietnam. This policy continued generally under President Nixon, except for some

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raids said to have been unauthorized and some "protective reaction" strikes — in response to enemy threats or attacks — until last spring, when attacks were resumed on a regular basis.

In his television address May 8, the President said that he was stepping up the war in the North in response to military aggression by the enemy in South Vietnam and announced the mining of most North Vietnamese harbors and bombing of military targets.

Since then, bombing above the 20th Parallel has been suspended from time to time as negotiations proceeded, but air raids and other military strikes in North Vietnam below the 20th Parallel continued.

Mr. Ziegler was asked whether the North Vietnamese in return for the cessation of the bombing and mining had agreed to suspend military action in South Vietnam, especially in view of the fact that North Vietnamese aggression in the South was the reason Mr. Nixon gave in May for stepping up the bombing.

Today's action, he replied, was "unilateral," but he added: "The North Vietnamese knew and were aware that once progress in the negotiations was being made, that the United States would be prepared to take unilateral steps, make a unilateral gesture such as we have announced today in relation to the entire situation."

**Mines Not Deactivated**

He said the suspension of military activity did not extend to deactivation of mines laid in Haiphong and other harbors.

"The mines that are there will remain in place," he said. "The mines that are in place is a subject of negotiations and is being dealt with in the negotiations." Mr. Ziegler pointed out that the negotiations on technical matters continued in Paris today.

The President planned to spend "another day or two" at his waterfront home in Key Biscayne working on his inaugural and State of the Union addresses. But Mr. Kissinger returned to Wash-

ington tonight after several conferences with the President. The order to suspend military action in North Vietnam was sent to military leaders last night, Mr. Ziegler said, "following a complete assessment of the negotiations, by the President," and his discussions that he had and has been having with Dr. Kissinger.

After the announcement of Mr. Nixon's military policy on May 3, talks between Mr. Kissinger and Le Duc Tho began on July 13. On Oct. 25 the White House ordered a temporary suspension of all bombing north of the 20th Parallel and on Oct. 26 Mr. Kissinger said in Washington that "peace is at hand."

But on Dec. 18, after the Administration accused North Vietnam of having failed to bargain in good faith, the bombing above the 20th Parallel was resumed, including extensive attacks on targets in Hanoi and Haiphong. The bombing above the 20th Parallel was suspended on Dec. 30, when it was announced that talks would resume. But bombing below the 20th Parallel continued until today.

MAY 8 ?