

Cease-fire Hope Grows;
Work on Pact Continues

Kissinger Remaining In Capital

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KEY BISCAYNE, Fla.

Jan. 16 — The White House indicated today that progress toward a cease-fire in Vietnam is continuing on schedule, but said that national security adviser Henry A. Kissinger will not return to Paris this week to initial an agreement.

Informed sources also indicated that additional announcements, including a timetable for Kissinger's next meeting in Paris, are expected this week.

There were also reports in some capitals that a de facto cease-fire would be announced this week, either in Washington or Vietnam, but that a formal agreement would not be ready for another week or two.

White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler caused a flurry of pessimistic headlines this afternoon after he announced that Kissinger will remain in Washington all week and that President Nixon will have nothing to say to Congress or the American people before his inaugural address at noon Saturday.

However, Ziegler emphasized that there have been no developments to cause a slow-down or postponement of work on a cease-fire agreement.

There has been no expectation this week among informed officials that a final agreement can be initialed before the inaugural, but they have hinted that a de facto cease-fire might be put into effect within the next few days.

The cease-fire could be put into effect in a variety of ways, either with an announcement from Hanoi, Saigon or Washington, informed sources said. Since Saigon must in the future live with any agreement reached, it was believed that President Nguyen Van Thieu might be the first to speak about it.

Reports from Saigon and

Paris indicated that although Kissinger and Le Duc Tho, the North Vietnamese negotiator, may indeed have come to an agreement on matters of broad principle, there were still technical matters—"protocols"—to be nailed down.

North Vietnamese and U.S. experts met again in Paris for 6 hours and 20 minutes today. Washington Post correspondent Jonathan Randal reported from Paris that, according to informed sources, the new accord is based largely upon the draft agreement which the North Vietnamese and Kissinger summarized last October.

The change is in the protocols, and the reason the technical meetings are drawn out is because neither side wants the spirit of the main document to be deformed or twisted in the protocols, Randal reported.

The first reports from Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., whom the President sent to Saigon to confer with Thieu, have not resulted in any change of course, informed sources said. Haig reached Saigon Monday.

See VIETNAM, A12, Col. 1

Fighting increases in South Vietnam. Page A12.

VIETNAM, From A1

Evening, Washington time, and has spent several hours with Thieu. The general immediately reported on his conversations to the President here.

Since the President on Monday ordered the halting of all offensive action against North Vietnam, newsmen have tried to determine whether Hanoi would respond in a similar way.

Ziegler would not discuss whether there was a quid pro quo required of Hanoi. Instead, he characterized the President's action as "unilateral" and said it was done on the basis of the President's conviction that "progress" had been made in the Paris negotiations.

Today when asked whether he expected the North to deescalate or show restraint in response to the President's order, Ziegler said he would have "nothing to say on that subject."

He added that the situation

with respect to the peace talks remains as it has been since Kissinger's return from Paris early Sunday.

The implication was that work by the technical experts meeting in Paris is proceeding according to plan and that Kissinger's presence there will not be required this week.

On Monday, Ziegler said that Kissinger would return to Paris "in the relatively near future," sparking expectations that he might return today or Wednesday and initial an agreement before Saturday. Ziegler repeated the phrase today but he would never define "relatively near future."

In response to questions, Ziegler refused to say that Kissinger would return to Paris for further negotiations, hinting that there may be little or nothing more for him to negotiate on by the time he does return.

Kissinger left here for Washington Monday night and conferred by telephone with the President today, Ziegler said.

He made it clear that the President will not "discuss the negotiations" in his inaugural address Saturday, but he declined to speculate on whether the President might have some Vietnam statement in the address.

"While the negotiations are in progress, we have an agreement with the other side not to discuss the details," Ziegler said repeatedly.

But details of a tentative agreement continued to emerge from Saigon and Paris.

Reports from the two cities said Kissinger and Tho had reached a compromise on the Demilitarized Zone that would allow the DMZ to remain as a temporary demarcation line.

Such a compromise would not differ greatly from the position taken by Hanoi in Oc-

tober. At that time Hanoi proposed that South Vietnam remain a separate state at least temporarily.

From the enforcement of the cease-fire to the installation of the government formed after free and democratic elections, the two present administrations in South Vietnam (the Saigon Government and the Provisional Revolutionary Government) will remain in existence with their respective domestic and external functions," the North Vietnamese said in October.

The government to follow free elections would be a South Vietnamese government. Reunification would follow eventually, but not until the South Vietnamese parties had resolved their difficulties.

It was also understood that the North Vietnamese had agreed to a larger peacekeeping force than they had hitherto envisioned. But the exact numbers may not have been agreed upon yet and were believed to be one of the main subjects of the technical talks continuing in Paris.

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Associated Press
U.S. Ambassador Bunker, left, Gen. Weyand, center, and Gen. Haig confer at Tansohut airport near Saigon.