

# Technical Aides at Paris Talks Hold Briefest Session

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PARIS, Jan. 19 — United States and North Vietnamese experts working on details of the proposed agreement for a Vietnam cease-fire met today for four and a half hours, in one of the shortest of their series of almost daily meetings since the beginning of the month.

The two delegations, headed by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State William H. Sullivan and Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach, maintained complete secrecy on their discussions.

American sources said that the experts would meet again tomorrow and also on Monday. Henry A. Kissinger and Le Duc Tho are scheduled to meet again on Tuesday.

## Problems of Wording

South Vietnamese sources said that there were several important problems of wording still to be settled, though they indicated, as did Government officials in Saigon, that South Vietnam had agreed to accept the cease-fire accord.

The South Vietnamese Ambassador, Pham Dang Lam, told a French source:

"There is no new agreement. It is the agreement of last October which has remained valid. It is the edifice constructed by the two architects, Kissinger and Le Duc Tho, and it's just a matter of furnishing it with a few modifications."

Among points remaining

open, a South Vietnamese source said, was the definition of the "National Council of Reconciliation and Concord" which supposedly will help maintain the agreement and arrange and supervise elections.

However, the source said that a way had been found around the dilemma of the Vietcong's demand for equal status with Saigon and Saigon's refusal to accept the Vietcong's title of "Provisional Revolutionary Government."

Details of the formula were not available, but the sources said that it was based on the "Kleber principle." After seven months of haggling at the opening of the formal Vietnam peace talks on Avenue Kléber here in 1969, the four participants compromised this fundamental issue of recognition with a formula of "our side/the other side"—Saigon could consider Hanoi and the Vietcong's National Liberation Front as a single Communist delegation while the Communists could consider the Vietcong as being on an equal footing with Saigon, Hanoi and the United States.

The words "Provisional Revolutionary Government" do not appear in the text of the agreement, the sources said, but the document will nonetheless be signed by the four foreign ministers in Paris. However, the South Vietnamese source said that the problem of naming the National Liberation Front in a way acceptable to both sides had not been settled as far as

the mixed military commissions were concerned.

The accord provides for three sets of organizations to police the cease-fire. One is an international commission, and the second a four-way military commission made up of the United States, North Vietnam, Saigon and the Vietcong. There, the "Kleber principle" could be applied. But the third is a two-sided commission made up of Saigon and the Vietcong, in which the equivocal formula would not logically apply.

Another question left open is the site of the international conference to be held 30 days after the signing of a cease-fire. It would provide a frame of reference for the control commission and work out international guarantees for the settlement.

## "Concessions" Are Questioned

The South Vietnamese say that Hanoi has made no real concessions.

"You know the Northerners and their way of negotiating," the South Vietnamese source said. "They start by putting up demands—I won't call them unreasonable, because they've used that word too much—but inadmissible, concerning the 17th Parallel demarcation line, Laos and Cambodia."

"Then they move back from it, to show their goodwill. But really, these points were all settled in the 1954 and 1962 Geneva accords. So there weren't actually any Hanoi

concessions, properly speaking."

American sources said, however, that the tactic of extravagant demands on issues that both sides actually considered settled and did not seriously expect to be reopened had also been used by the United States as a negotiating device. The purpose was to "show good will" and to appear to be granting important concessions without actually giving anything away.

The South Vietnamese source said that "half a dozen" protocols would be attached to the agreement, dealing with specific details of the cease-fire and putting it into effect, and the composition and function of the international control commission.

There are also "understandings," the source said, presumably obliging North Vietnam and the United States to impose a cease-fire in Laos and Cambodia by withdrawing their support of local warring factions.

The draft cease-fire agreement of October implied a pledge by North Vietnam to withdraw from Laos and Cambodia forces that it has never admitted maintaining there. It was not known whether the "understandings" spelled out that pledge more clearly.

The source said that the experts were expected to finish the subsidiary documents Monday. These would then require approval by Mr. Kissinger and Mr. Tho on Tuesday.