

KISSINGER IN PARIS; CEREMONIAL SITE CHOSEN FOR TALKS

JAN 23 1973

Use of Conference Center
Indicates Both Sides View
Truce Round as Vital

NYTimes

By FLORA LEWIS

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, Jan. 22 — Henry A. Kissinger arrive here tonight, and it was announced that his talks tomorrow with Le Duc Tho of North Vietnam would be moved to the ceremonial setting of the International Conference Center.

Hanoi and Washington announced jointly last week that this next round of negotiations would complete a cease-fire agreement for Vietnam. Today there was still no official word on how long that task would take, but the choice of location — after months of meetings in secluded private quarters — suggested that the two sides considered tomorrow's session important.

The conference center is the old Hotel Majestic, on the Avenue Kleber, site of the formal four-sided Paris peace conference for over four years.

Kissinger Visits Lam

At the airport Kissinger said nothing more than "I am glad to be here." He went directly to the residence of the South Vietnamese Foreign Minister, Tran Van Lam, though it was nearly midnight and he had left Washington early in the morning.

That was apparently a protocol gesture, since Mr. Lam, as Foreign Minister, would be a signer of the agreement. Mr. Kissinger, as negotiator, is ex-

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pected only to initial it in anticipation of final approval by chiefs of Government before the signing ceremony, which might also be expected to take place at the Majestic.

Mr. Kissinger and Mr. Tho last met on Jan. 13, at the conclusion of their most intensive week of secret bargaining, when the broad outlines of an agreement were said to have been established.

Another Technical Session

Since Jan. 13, specialists on both sides have been working in long daily sessions to resolve procedural and technical points. They met again today at the American-owned suburban villa in St. Nom-la-Bretèche, where the group has gathered on alternate days.

The South Vietnamese Foreign Minister, Tran Van Lam, reached Paris this morning, the first time he has come here during the talks. He said that he was here for "our direct collaboration in order to bring the negotiations to an end," but it was not expected that the would be admitted to the private sessions until agreement was complete.

Since 1968, the United States and North Vietnam have been holding occasional secret talks, and since October, 1972, an intensive series of talks excluding Saigon and the Vietcong.

Mr. Lam is expected to sign for his Government, however, when the other foreign ministers gather here for the formal ceremony.

Mrs. Binh Arrives

Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, Foreign Minister of the Vietcong's Provisional Revolutionary Government, is expected to sign for her side. She reached Paris last night, after a month's absence spent partly at a secret meeting in Vietnam.

Today, she conferred at length with the North Vietnamese negotiators. Both Saigon and Vietcong representatives here have been given daily briefings by their allies, the United States and North Vietnam, since the negotiations resumed in November. Hopes for an earlier cease-fire founded in October.

Other South Vietnamese, representing exile factions of what has come to be called the "third force," have been almost totally excluded from the negotiations.

Press Meetings Called

In the last few days, Paris representatives of some of the groups have called press conferences to advance their views and to remind the public that there are large segments of the

South Vietnamese population who support neither President Nguyen Van Thieu nor the Communists.

The October cease-fire draft provided a role for the "third force," but that role seems to have shrunk to virtually nothing. Although the groups involved are aware that fragmentation adds to their impotence, the groups here have been unable to coalesce.

The prospects, therefore, are that they will have little to say in the crucial period just after a cease-fire when Saigon and the Vietcong jockey for political position.

P.O.W. Report Indicated

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22— Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird appeared to hint today that there might be an announcement on release of American war prisoners at the Paris talks Wednesday or Thursday.

Following a Pentagon ceremony naming "Arnold Corridor" at the Pentagon in honor of the late Air Force chief, Gen. Henry H. (Hap) Arnold, Mr. Laird was questioned by a handful of reporters about arrangements to cover the release of American prisoners of war.

"We've told you everything we can tell you until after Wednesday," Mr. Laird replied.

Aides later pointed out that Mr. Laird, especially in talking with reporters, tended not to drop unintended hints, and that this might well be regarded at an intended hint.

But one aide noted that Mr. Laird would probably be leaving office Thursday after the expected Senate confirmation of Elliot L. Richardson, as Secretary of Defense and conceivably was only telling reporters that an announcement on the release of the prisoners would not come until after his departure.



Associated Press

Henry A. Kissinger boarding plane at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., for flight to Paris.