

VIETNAM CEASE-FIRE REPORTED INITIALED ;
 KISSINGER AND LE DUC THO CONCLUDE TALK ;
 FORMAL SIGNING IS EXPECTED ON SATURDAY

NIXON SEES AIDES

**Cabinet and Members
 of Congress Briefed
 on Negotiations**

By **BERNARD GWERTZMAN**
 Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23 — Henry A. Kissinger returned to Washington tonight after reportedly initialing a cease-fire agreement with North Vietnam's chief negotiator, Le Duc Tho, in Paris this morning.

Administration officials would not provide details before President Nixon's television address to the nation at 10 P.M. but they indicated that reports from Paris about the initialing were correct.

Formal signing of the agreement, ending more than 10 years of direct American military involvement in South Vietnam, was expected to take place on Saturday in Paris at the International Conference Center, where Mr. Kissinger and Mr. Tho met today, and where the formal substantive talks began four years ago, on Jan. 25, 1969.

Secretary of State William P. Rogers was scheduled to represent the United States at the signing, and the Foreign Ministers of North Vietnam, South Vietnam, and the provisional Revolutionary Government, or Vietcong, were expected to participate in the ceremonies.

Nation's Longest War

The agreement will mark the end of the longest war ever waged by the United States, a war that never was formally declared by Washington and that often lacked widespread public support.

The debate over the war produced sharp divisions within the country and contributed to Lyndon B. Johnson's decision in 1968 not to run for office again.

Mr. Johnson died yesterday on the eve of the settlement of the war in which, at one point, more than 530,000 American military men were involved and in which nearly 46,000 Americans have died since 1961.

The negotiations to conclude the fighting were also the long-

est in history, and often seemed fruitless. But the Nixon Administration, convinced that an accord was feasible, persisted, with eventual success.

Mr. Kissinger's Air Force jet arrived at Andrews Air Force Base, in nearby Maryland, at 6:11 P.M. and he immediately boarded a helicopter for the short flight to the White House.

Reports from Paris said that Mr. Kissinger, Mr. Nixon's adviser on national security, ini-

Continued on Page 16, Column 1

Continued From Page 1, Col. 8

tialed the agreement, the first step toward carrying out the accord, in ceremonies at the International Conference Center, with Mr. Tho.

The accord had been expected for some days, ever since the last round of Kissinger-Tho talks ended with substantial progress noted by both sides.

Provisions Indicated

The agreement was said to include provisions for a cease-fire throughout Vietnam and the return of all captured American personnel. It also was said to provide machinery for cooperation between the Saigon Government and the Vietcong, but officials doubt that the rival Vietnamese factions will resolve their hostility soon.

Under the accord, the United States would pull out its remaining 23,500-man force in South Vietnam and would pledge not to undertake any military actions against North Vietnam. Such actions were suspended last week in anticipation of the agreement.

The United States has also pledged to contribute to the rehabilitation of both North Vietnam and South Vietnam. In the past Mr. Nixon has talked of \$7.5-billion in aid over the next five years.

Series of Conferences

After Mr. Kissinger's return, the President set in motion a series of early evening conferences before his televised report to the nation.

Mr. Nixon first met with his Cabinet officers to give them a report on the Vietnam situation, then conferred with the top Congressional leaders from both parties.

The White House said that Mr. Nixon had invited to that session the Senate majority leader, Mike Mansfield of Mon-

tana; the Senate Republican leader, Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania; the House Speaker, Carl Albert of Oklahoma; the House Republican leader, Gerald R. Ford of Michigan, and

the House Democratic leader, Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. of Massachusetts.

Throughout the day, despite the reports from Saigon and Paris about the initialing of the agreement, the White House refrained from any substantive comment.

Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, met briefly with newsmen at about 1 P.M., after having spent much of the morning at a meeting with Mr. Nixon and White House aides.

Mr. Ziegler limited himself to announcing that Mr. Nixon would address the nation on the "status of the Vietnam negotiations," and that he would hold meeting with the Cabinet officers and Congressional leaders tonight. In addition, Mr. Ziegler said a larger session with members of Congress would be held tomorrow morning at the White House.

The substantive talks on a Vietnam settlement began in 1969, in the former Hotel Majestic in Paris, the same place Mr. Kissinger and Mr. Tho held their session today.

Series of Meetings

The negotiations that produced the actual agreement, however, took place in villas in and around Paris between Mr. Kissinger and Mr. Tho, beginning in August, 1969.

The holiday of those negotiations remained a closely guarded secret until last Jan. 26 when Mr. Nixon disclosed them in a speech accusing Hanoi of delaying tactics.

After North Vietnam's offensive in South Vietnam last spring, the secret talks resumed.

A decisive breakthrough was achieved early in October when the United States and North Vietnam agreed to a nine-point draft agreement whose outline was made public by Hanoi on Oct. 26, and was confirmed by Mr. Kissinger that same day in his "peace is at hand" news conference.

Hanoi Set Deadline

Hanoi had originally insisted that the draft be signed by Oct. 31, but Mr. Nixon asked for further meetings to tighten the terms of the agreement and to meet some of South Vietnam's objections.

The talks resumed in Paris on Nov. 20 and recessed on Nov. 25. When they began again on Dec. 4, Hanoi objected to the proposals made by the United States in the previous round, and made counterproposals that Mr. Kis-

singer later called "frivolous." Those talks broke down on Dec. 13.

Reportedly angry over Hanoi's tactics, Mr. Nixon ordered the war's heaviest bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong — from Dec. 18 to 29. The raids, which included strikes by B-52 bombers were called off north of the 20th Parallel on Dec. 29 with the announcement by the White House that Hanoi had agreed to resume "serious" talks.

Apparent Accord on Jan. 13

The negotiations opened on Jan. 8 and concluded with an apparent agreement on Jan. 13. Two days later all bombing, mining and shelling of North Vietnam ceased, and on Jan. 18 — last Thursday — it was announced that Mr. Kissinger and Mr. Tho would meet again "for the purpose of concluding the text of an agreement."

General Alexander M. Haig Jr., who until this month was Mr. Kissinger's chief deputy, returned to Washington on Sunday after a mission to Saigon to persuade President Thieu of South Vietnam to add his agreement to the accord worked out by Hanoi and Washington.

Mr. Haig was with Mr. Nixon early this morning when first reports of the conclusion of Mr. Kissinger's Paris meeting were received here.