

Smiling Kissinger In Hanoi

Vientiane, Laos

U.S. presidential adviser Henry A. Kissinger arrived in Hanoi shortly before noon today on his peacekeeping mission.

Before leaving here he declared his journey was one of "good will and conciliation."

Kissinger, who negotiated the Vietnam peace agreement with North Vietnam, is the first ranking U.S. official to set foot in Hanoi in more than a decade.

He will spend four days in Hanoi and will be there Monday when North Vietnam will release about 115 American prisoners of war, the first group to be repatriated under the agreement.

VISIT

"The President hopes that this visit can inaugurate an entirely new relationship between the United States and North Vietnam," he told newsmen before boarding his plane in Vientiane for Hanoi.

Smiling broadly, the presidential adviser said he hoped his visit would "usher in an era of peace for all the people of Indochina."

"I go there with confidence and good will and in a new spirit of conciliation," he said. "We are prepared to start a new understanding with North Vietnam and we hope that all the people of Indochina will devote their energy to constructive and peaceful pursuits."

Kissinger arrived in Vientiane last evening, dined with Premier Souvanna Phouma and discussed the current Laos peace negotiations and military conflict.

HANOI

Kissinger promised he would discuss a Laos peace settlement while in Hanoi. He said the Vietnam peace agreement requires that peace also be brought to Laos.

"It has always been the assumption of the U.S. government that a cease-fire in Vietnam would be rapidly followed by a cease-fire in Laos," he said.

"I shall discuss this and other matters on my visit to Hanoi," he said.

Kissinger was accompanied by William Sullivan, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state, and other aides.

He flew to Hanoi aboard a blue and white Boeing 707 with "United States of America" emblazoned on the fuselage.

Associated Press