

New Attempt to Save Viet Truce

U.S.-Hanoi Talks Set In Paris

Associated Press

Washington

The United States and North Vietnam have agreed to hold new direct negotiations in Paris beginning tomorrow on the faltering Vietnam cease-fire agreement.

Initial sessions will be held between William H. Sullivan, a deputy Assistant Secretary of State, and Nguyen Co Thach, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Hanoi government.

Barring unforeseen developments, they will be followed in mid-May by talks between Henry A. Kissinger, the national security adviser to President Nixon, and North Vietnamese Politburo member Le Duc Tho.

ANNOUNCE

The Sullivan-Thach meetings were announced simultaneously yesterday at the White House and the North Vietnamese Embassy in Paris.

Later, Charles W. Bray, a State Department spokesman, said the diplomatic move was initiated by the U.S. "as part of an effort to bring the agreement as a whole back into an effective force."

In a formal note two weeks ago, North Vietnam accused the U.S. and South Vietnam of "grave violations" of the January 27 agreement, including military thrusts at areas in the South under Viet Cong control.

RESPONSE

The U.S. responded last weekend with a note charging Hanoi and "its agents" with several serious breaches, including a clandestine build-

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up of 30,000 troops and supplies in South Vietnam.

The U.S. has also accused Hanoi of illegally supporting insurgents against the governments of Cambodia and Laos, while North Vietnam has criticized U.S. bombing operations in the two countries.

White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said the purpose of the Sullivan-Thach talks is "to prepare a review of the implementations of the Paris agreement and of appropriate measures to bring about the strict implementation of the agreement."

At the State Department, Bray said the negotiations between Sullivan and Thach are expected to take "days" rather than "weeks."

MINES

U.S. officials said, meanwhile, that if Hanoi shows that it intends to observe all provisions of the agreement, the Navy will resume mine-sweeping operations in North Vietnamese waters and delegate Maurice Williams will be sent back to Paris to continue discussions with North Vietnam on the economic reconstruction of the country. Both mine-

sweeping and reconstruction aid are terms of the agreement.

In addition to discussing violations of the cease fire in South Vietnam, Kissinger and Tho are expected to discuss ways to end the fighting in Cambodia, where American B-52 bombers are continuing to attack Communist positions.

The B-52s and tactical fighter-bombers dropped almost 40,000 tons of bombs on Cambodia last month, a level which military officials said probably represents the heaviest bombardment of that country in the long history of the war in Southeast Asia.

Pentagon sources said the air raids are continuing at about the same level thus far this month.

In the two months immediately after the Vietnam cease-fire agreement was signed in Paris, U.S. planes unloaded 110,000 tons of bombs on both Laos and Cambodia, according to Pentagon statistics.

The tonnage is believed to be even higher than that dropped in May and June, 1970, when U.S. troops crossed into that country to attack Communist supply areas.