

KISSINGER INSISTS THO TALKS ARE SET

Timing of Announcement Is
Undecided, He Asserts

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WASHINGTON, May 2—Henry A. Kissinger insisted today that "there is an agreement" for him to meet with Le Duc Tho, Hanoi's chief negotiator, in Paris later this month, but that the two sides had not yet agreed on when to announce it.

He made the comment at a White House news conference in answer to a question prompted by news reports from Paris in the last few days suggesting that the North Vietnamese had not yet agreed to the Kissinger-Tho meeting, originally announced last week by the White House, or that they were attaching conditions to it.

Last Wednesday, Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, said that Mr. Kissinger and Mr. Tho would meet in mid-May after preliminary talks were held "to prepare a review" of the Vietnam cease-fire agreement and ways to achieve "strict compliance" with it.

Preliminary Talks Held

Mr. Ziegler announced that William H. Sullivan, Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asia and Pacific affairs, would hold the preliminary talks with Nguyen Co Thach, the Deputy Foreign Minister of North Vietnam, in Paris. The talks were held on Friday, Sunday and Monday and ended with no formal statement of a Kissinger-Tho meeting.

The North Vietnamese, who also announced the Sullivan-Thach talks, have not confirmed a Kissinger-Tho meeting.

This afternoon, Mr. Kissinger conferred with Mr. Sullivan at the White House and officials at both the White House and the State Department continued to express the view that there was no reason to doubt that the Kissinger-Tho meeting would take place.

Backs Ziegler Stand

Mr. Kissinger, at a news conference dealing with the release tomorrow of Mr. Nixon's State of the World Message, said, "I will stand on what Ron Ziegler said to you."

"There is an agreement that there would be a meeting," Mr. Kissinger went on, "but since we have not yet agreed on the time of announcement and similar matters, I don't want to go any further than that. But what Ron Ziegler said to the press group can be supported by messages that were received."

A high official said that Hanoi had given Washington written confirmation of the time and place of the Kissinger-Tho meeting, but he added that "there is always the possibility" North Vietnam might change its mind.

He speculated that North Vietnam might have been annoyed by Mr. Ziegler's disclosure of the Kissinger-Tho meeting, in advance of a joint announcement.

Favorite View in Paris

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, May 2—The American-North Vietnamese talks that ended here Monday were successful and the way is now open for a Kissinger-Tho meeting, according to a Western source close to the talks.

The source, who declined to be identified or quoted directly, indicated that the talks here between William H. Sullivan and Nguyen Co Thach had produced a catalog of each side's views on alleged violations of the Jan. 27 cease-fire agreement.

The catalog ineffect represents an agenda for the Kissinger-Tho meeting, the source said.

As far as the American side is concerned, a meeting is still on for mid-May.

Earlier Statement Cited

However, a North Vietnamese spokesman when questioned today said he had nothing to add to his embassy's statement of April 27, which declared that White House announcement of a Kissinger-Tho meeting was "a report made unilaterally by the United States." *SOA PR*

On Monday, Mr. Thach called on the United States to resume minesweeping on North Vietnamese waters, to resume economic talks with Hanoi and to end its reconnaissance flights over North Vietnam, all of which he said were violations of the cease-fire accord.

The United States has said its moves were in retaliation for what it says are infiltrations of men and arms from the North Vietnam into South Vietnam, also in violation of the accord.

But Mr. Thach stopped short of making further talks conditional on acceptance of his three requests. He simply asked the United States for a show of "goodwill" and added that failure to do so would "bring prejudice to our efforts."