

Setback for Kissinger in Paris Talks

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PARIS — Henry Kissinger suffered a setback in his new round of talks with the North Vietnamese today when he failed to get an agreement to hasten peace negotiations in Cambodia and curb the cease-fire violations in South Vietnam.

Kissinger hoped to reach an understanding with Le Duc Tho, Hanoi's chief negotiator, at yesterday's meeting and return to Washington today.

Yesterday's meeting was understood to have been marked by the "old scenario" of Le Duc Tho acting tough, demanding that American bombing in Cambodia be stopped and pressure brought on Saigon to cease violating the peace agreement, especially in respect to the political clauses that call for cooperation with the Communist National Liberation Front.

The most crucial issue in the new Kissinger-Tho talks is the situation in Cambodia.

President Nixon has been advised by both the American military and diplomatic representatives in Phnom Penh that if American aerial support of the anti-Communist forces is withdrawn under the prevailing military conditions, the Khmer Communists, who are said to be supported by North Vietnamese troops will quickly conquer the country.

Communist control of

Cambodia would enable the North Vietnamese army to outflank South Vietnam militarily and greatly weaken its ability to resist an all-out attack by Hanoi's forces at some future time.

If the North Vietnamese troops in Cambodia, which are used chiefly to man artillery in support of the insurgents, were withdrawn it is believed the government forces could hold out.

Kissinger therefore is willing to promise Tho that the American bombing will be stopped if the North Vietnamese troops are withdrawn.

If the Communist forces eased their military pressure on the Cambodian government, American bombing would be curtailed or suspended even if North Vietnamese troops were not withdrawn. That may prove to be the effect of any agreement Kissinger reaches with Le Duc Tho on Cambodia.

Kissinger is also striving to persuade Hanoi to pressure Prince Norodom Sihanouk the former Cambodian chief of state now in exile in Peking and the Khmer Communists with whom he is now aligned, to start peace negotiations with the Cambodian government, which is still headed by the partially paralyzed fanatically anti-Communist President Lon Nol.



HENRY KISSINGER GREETES LE DUC THO
Nixon aide and North Viet negotiator near Paris
—AP Photo