

Tho Denies Pact On Cambodia Set

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PARIS, June 14— Le Duc Tho denied today South Vietnamese assertions that he and presidential adviser Henry A. Kissinger reached an understanding on ending hostilities in Cambodia during their secret negotiations to strengthen the Vietnam cease-fire.

Asked by newsmen about the assertion by South Vietnamese Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam, the Hanoi Politburo member insisted that he and Kissinger concluded "no tacit agreements."

He told a news conference that speculation about a secret deal on Cambodia was "not true and not in keeping with reality."

[In Washington, Kissinger sidestepped newsmen's question about a Cambodian agreement, refusing to discuss the state of negotiations dealing with that country.]

Tho reiterated the North Vietnamese position that the Cambodian people are entitled to decide their own destiny without foreign interference.

However, analysts were struck by the relatively mild way in which Tho took issue with Kissinger's assertion yesterday that nothing in the communique commits the United States to cease its controversial bombing of Cambodia.

Tho said: "We have always protested energetically against the war of aggression conducted by the United States in Cambodia with its bombing and other atrocious acts of war."

But he did not call the American bombing a violation of the January cease-fire agreement. The first agreement's language again figured in the only mention of the Cambodian problem in yesterday's communique. All parties pledged to respect Cambodia's neutrality and to withdraw foreign troops from its soil.

But Nguyen Van Hieu, minister of state of the Vietcong's Provisional Revolutionary Government, said later that Kissinger's interpretation was "much too free" and that the bombing constituted a

"flagrant violation" of the original cease-fire.

In reply to another question, Hieu suggested that the South Vietnamese Foreign Minister had floated the report of a Cambodian understanding to "create divisions between us and our Cambodian friends." He said it was "customary for the Saigon administration to spread rumors made out of whole cloth to mislead public opinion."

On domestic South Vietnamese questions, both Tho and Hieu made clear they had changed their earlier views, and now oppose rapid elections, despite their assertions that the present stand had always been their "invariable position."

Kissinger revealed yesterday that he did not back Saigon's demands for quick elections because during the negotiations leading up to the January agreement South Vietnam had opposed such action.

Kissinger said "it was impossible for us to insist now on what had been refused in December."

In a reply which suggested that "free and democratic general election" might take months, indeed years to arrange—if ever—Tho said:

"How, with the present situation in South Vietnam, when arms have not been silenced, when there are no democratic freedoms, can really democratic and free elections be held."

To talk of such elections before a cease-fire became effective and democratic freedoms were enforced, he said, would be "putting the cart before the horse."

Relaxed and smiling, Tho remained purposely vague on many questions, as he has so often in dealing with the press.

The postwar economic aid talks between the United States and North Vietnam had led, he said, to "initial results" when broken off by Washington on April 19 to protest Communist cease-fire violations.