

# Kissinger, Tho Award Draws

By Murray Marder

Washington Post Staff Writer

An international political controversy appeared to be developing yesterday over the joint award of the 1973 Nobel Peace Prize to Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and North Vietnam's Le Duc Tho.

If the criticism aired yesterday should spread, it would confound the attempt by the Nobel Committee to make the shared prize an incentive for fulfilling the pledges for peace in Indochina. North Vietnam's reaction to the award, still unrevealed, is likely to be the determining factor.

The award was attacked from all directions: the prize for Tho was assailed from the political right, most vehemently in Saigon; Kissinger's selection was condemned on the political left; and other critics deplored both awards, on grounds that there is no peace in Vietnam that justifies honors.

Kissinger's former academic colleagues at Harvard were divided, unsurprisingly, in

their reaction. One said he should get "the booby prize" for Vietnam, while others said the award was fully deserved for Kissinger's global negotiations—although only the Vietnam cease-fire was specified in the award.

In Oslo, where two of the five members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee were reported in strong disagreement with the decision announced Monday, the top leadership of the ruling Labor Party formally deplored the choices. Their resolution of protest was passed unanimously after five minutes of debate.

Some controversy over Nobel peace awards is not unusual. But in the case of Kissinger and Tho, their shared award produced exceptional outbursts reflecting volatile, polarized attitudes on the continuing Vietnam war.

The South Vietnamese government, through spokesman Bui Bao Truc, said, "The act

of giving the Nobel Prize to Le Duc Tho is similar to granting the title 'chastity' to a prostitute or a pimp."

Adding denunciations as he went along, Truc said "it's like a Mafia chief being praised for his contribution to the church, like a hypocritical rapist who won a moral prize, like a prostitute being named honorary chairman of the PTA."

From the opposite flank, the left-wing Socialist Election Union in the Norwegian Storting (parliament) appealed to Le Duc Tho to refuse to share the prize with Kissinger.

This political group, with 16 of the 155 seats in the parliament, is the partner of the Norwegian Labor Party that took over the government of Norway yesterday. The Socialist group said in a statement that it was "shocked that the peace prize has been given to

Richard Nixon's henchman. This has scandalized the Nobel Peace Prize as a peace-promoting means.

"We consider the sharing of the award with Le Duc Tho as an attempt to hide the Nobel committee's kneeling before American imperialism," it said.

From Oslo, Per Egil Hegge, special correspondent of The Washington Post, reported that although votes and positions in the Nobel committee traditionally are kept secret, two of the five members reported to have been strong dissenters in the award were said to be Einar Hovdhaugen, former parliamentary representative of the Centre Party, and Helge Rognlien, former member of the government from the Liberal Party.

Kissinger is receiving congratulations from many world personalities for his prize. Philippine President Ferdi-

## International Criticism

nand Marcos, among them, cabled Kissinger yesterday that the award to him and Tho was "fitting tribute" to their efforts "to build in Asia a new era of peace."

But North Vietnam withheld official comment about its reaction. The Associated Press reported that a North Vietnamese official, who declined to be identified but who initially exclaimed "that's marvelous" when he heard the news Monday, changed direction yesterday and said, "I would be very surprised if Le Duc Tho accepts the prize."

That shift of position coincided with the publication in North Vietnam's two major official newspapers yesterday of intensified denunciations of the United States and South Vietnam. North Vietnam's press said both nations are persisting in "increasingly insolent acts" in defiance of

the cease-fire negotiated by Kissinger and Tho last January.

As a result, it is unknown if Tho will appear in Oslo on Dec. 10 with Kissinger to claim his prize.

Sharply divided views about the award were expressed yesterday by Kissinger's former academic colleagues at Harvard University, where there has been great controversy over U.S. policy in Indochina. Prof. Edwin O. Reischauer, former U.S. ambassador to Japan, said:

"I don't think anyone should be getting a Nobel Prize over Vietnam. They are still fighting. Kissinger and Le Duc Tho together—it's almost absurd."

Kissinger is deserving of praise, and an award, for his efforts in developing detente with China and the Soviet

Union, said Reischauer, for "he's worked hard."

In Vietnam, however, said Reischauer, "There really wasn't a cease-fire," and, "Le Duc Tho was negotiating winning a war."

Prof. Adam Yarmolinsky, former Harvard law professor and Defense Department official who is now at the University of Massachusetts, said of Kissinger, "What he did in Vietnam was terrible." Kissinger "may or may not be deserving of the Peace Prize for what he did with China and Russia, arranging detente," said Yarmolinsky, but, "He should certainly get the booby prize for Vietnam, and the American people should share it."

Retired Harvard Prof. George P. Kistiakowsky, science adviser to President Eisenhower, said, "I don't think it is a very good choice.

I'd rather not discuss it for publication."

Many other former colleagues, however, lauded Kissinger's selection, including Prof. John Kenneth Galbraith, often critical of Nixon administration policy. He described Kissinger as "an admirable choice" and said, "everyone at Harvard should be pleased."

Guido Goldman, lecturer in government at Harvard and a friend of Kissinger, said he believes the prize reflects world recognition of Kissinger's "extraordinary efforts" and the "global dimensions" of his endeavors.

Stephen Graubard, author of "Kissinger, Portrait of a Mind," and a close friend, said the Nobel Committee recognized "Kissinger's extraordinary tact, patience and sense in bringing about a settlement in the very difficult situation in Vietnam."