

Kissinger and Tho in Paris Discuss Vietnam Fighting

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PARIS, Dec. 20—Secretary of State Kissinger and North Vietnam's chief negotiator, Le Duc Tho, met for four and a half hours today and exchanged complaints about the ineffective Vietnam cease-fire. They also agreed to keep in touch for possible future meetings.

It was the first time the two men had met since an urgent series of encounters last June, when they signed an agreement to bolster the January cease-fire accords.

Once again, fighting in Vietnam has been escalating and American officials have warned of a possible Communist offensive early next year.

Neither side gave any details of today's meeting. American officials who had said no progress was expected indicated that none had been made.

Kissinger Leaves for Geneva

Mr. Kissinger left later in the day for Geneva, saying, "I now leave for the Geneva Middle East peace conference with hope and dedication."

It was a typically crowded day for Mr. Kissinger, who has been touring Europe and the Middle East for the last 11 days.

He breakfasted with the French Finance Minister, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, who has recently come under fire from orthodox Gaullists for his policy on international monetary reform.

They charge him with abandoning de Gaulle's fiat that gold must be the basis of the world's monetary system.

Then Mr. Kissinger met for two and a half hours with Mr. Tho in the morning and two hours in the afternoon. At one point, the negotiators sent away all aides except their interpreters and talked alone for half an hour.

They met in the conference center in the former Hotel Majestic on the Avenue Kleber, where the former and essentially futile Vietnam negotiations were held regularly each week for most of five years. Until today, Mr. Kissinger and Mr. Tho had met secretly in private houses for their part in the intermittent bargaining.

Between sessions on Vietnam Mr. Kissinger spent an hour and a quarter with President Pompidou. French sources said that they discussed the Middle East and United States Common Market relations. The sources characterized the talk as unusually long and interesting, but disclosed no substance.

The main business of the Kissinger-Tho talks was an exchange of charges about the failure to put the cease-fire agreement into effect.

The only parts of the January accords to be carried out involved the withdrawal of American troops, the return of American prisoners, some exchange of prisoners among Vietnamese and the establishment of machinery, which does not work, to police the cease-fire.

There has been no progress at all on the political settlement to be worked out by the South Vietnamese and the Vietcong's Provisional Revolutionary Government. Hanoi blames the United States for this. But American sources said that Mr. Kissinger took the position that the United States had withdrawn politically as well as militarily from Vietnam and was not "into that mess" between Saigon and the Vietcong.

South Vietnamese sources say they have repeatedly made efforts to have secret or private meetings with the Provisional Revolutionary Government, in addition to their sterile weekly talks at La Celle-Saint-Cloud, near Paris, but have always been refused.

The United States has broken off economic talks for post-war aid to North Vietnam because it says Hanoi has violated the agreement to stop supporting the war in Cambodia.

The American Ambassador in Saigon, Graham A. Martin, flew to Paris especially to join Mr. Kissinger in the talks with the North Vietnamese.

Mr. Tho said that he would stay in Paris another two or three days, American sources said, but no further meeting between him and Mr. Kissinger has been planned as of now.