

PS

FILE	SUBJ.
DATE	SUB-CAT.

10/72

EXPRESS NEWS

OCT. 24, 1972

PAGE 1

EHT
10/24/72

KISSINGER, THIEU FAIL TO MAKE BREAKTHROUGH TOWARD PEACE

Saigon, Oct. 24 (CNA-UPI): Presidential Adviser Henry Kissinger and President Nguyen Van Thieu "made progress" toward peace during five days of talks, a U.S. Embassy spokesman said Monday, but apparently failed to make a breakthrough toward peace in Vietnam.

"I'm not going to say anything," Kissinger told newsmen at Saigon's Tan Son Nhut Airport at the end of more than 15 hours of discussion with Thieu. President Nixon's special envoy boarded the blue and white Air Force 707 jet and departed for Washington at 3:15 p.m. (0715 GMT).

The embassy statement released a short time later said "We have made progress. Talks will continue between us and the government of Vietnam. It is not in the interests of the negotiations to be more specific at this time."

Vietnamese sources said Kissinger and Thieu had agreed "in principle" to an Indochina ceasefire but details were not known.

No Ceasefire Before No. 7

ENT
10/24/72
The newspaper Tin Song (live news), partially financed by Hoang Duc Nha, Thieu's nephew and personal secretary who was present at all of the talks with Kissinger, reported "there cannot be a ceasefire before the U.S. election (Nov. 7)."

"People who have been meeting with President Thieu predicted that a ceasefire will take place at the latest in March 1973," the newspaper report said. "Common feeling among observers in Saigon was that the meetings (between Thieu and Kissinger) took place with heated debate in the face of a solid stand by the Republic of Vietnam."

Thieu steadfastly has opposed any ceasefire plan which would allow North Vietnamese troops to remain in South Vietnam.

During the past few days--in between meetings with Kissinger--Thieu conferred with the National Security Council, military leaders and province, village and hamlet chiefs.

Military sources said Thieu ordered them to "keep all land" in the hands of the government and "not let the North Vietnamese expand--whenever possible eliminate them."

The President also ordered the red and gold National Flag to be painted on all homes in South Vietnam to prove they are government-controlled in case of a ceasefire, the sources said.

Any Indochina ceasefire is expected to include Laos and Cambodia, used by the North Vietnamese to channel supplies to its army fighting in South Vietnam.

Both Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma of Laos and Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn, chairman of Thailand's ruling National Executive Council, said during the weekend that a settlement of the war in the near future is possible.

(Cont'd on next page)

KISSINGER: (Cont'd from the previous page)

The two leaders met separately last week in Vientiane and Bangkok with William Sullivan, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asia affairs. Sullivan also participated in some of the talks between Kissinger and Thieu.

Sources said the fact that Thieu even discussed a coalition with Kissinger could be considered as progress in the negotiations. Thieu has not agreed on discussions with the Communists about a coalition, however.

Anything that includes three parts with (the Communists) receiving an equal share will be rejected by the Republic of Vietnam, Tin Song reported.

There have been reports that Kissinger and Thieu discussed alternatives to the three-part coalition that would give the present Saigon government unquestioned control of some type of "committee" that also would include Communist representation.

Thieu has contended that a three-part coalition--including Communists, rightists and neutralists--eventually would mean Communist dominance of South Vietnam.

Instead of the coalition, Thieu has offered to step down after a ceasefire is called and hold national elections one month later. But the Communists rejected that proposal because they said it would leave Thieu's government in control of the nation.

For the third consecutive day, the walls of buildings throughout Saigon were plastered with ever more government posters denouncing a coalition. For several days Saigon radio and television have broadcast speeches made earlier by Thieu opposing a coalition with the Communists.

Also involved in any Indochina peace settlement is the American pledge to lift the five-month blockage of North Vietnam's seven major ports and end the bombing of the North in exchange for all U.S. prisoners of war.