

Peace Plays Weighed by Kissinger

By Jack Anderson

President Nixon's foreign policy strategist, Henry Kissinger, believes the U.S. may still gain an acceptable peace settlement in Vietnam by playing China and Russia against each other.

As Kissinger has outlined his strategy to the President, the two Communist titans are struggling for dominance in Southeast Asia. The Kremlin is almost neurotic in its suspicion that China is trying to cook up an anti-Soviet deal with the U.S. Specifically, the Kremlin fears the U.S. might arrange a Vietnam settlement through Peking that would reduce Soviet influence in Indochina.

The Soviets might be willing, Kissinger therefore believes, to take the lead in arranging peace. Rather than run the risk of being left out of the settlement, Russia, as co-chairman of the 1954 Geneva conference on Indochina, could use the still existing machinery to tackle the Vietnam problem.

The Red Chinese, for their part, have made no move to reassure the Soviets about the new Chinese-American relationship. There is evidence, indeed, that the Chinese began playing diplomatic ping pong with the U.S. partly to flout Moscow.

The Chinese, however, appear to be equally apprehensive that the U.S. might work through Moscow to settle the

Vietnam war to the disadvantage of China.

Kissinger would like to make the most of this Communist rivalry in negotiating a Vietnam peace.

Anti-Subway Plot

A plot to block the construction of new rail systems to relieve the traffic in our congested, car-clogged cities has been uncovered inside the Transportation Department.

The opposition to rail transit has been instigated by the powerful highway lobby, which represents the gasoline and cement tycoons. Although subways and commuter trains provide a fast, fairly pollution-free means of moving people, the highway lobby wants the government instead to build more freeways.

One man who always jumps when the highway lobby honks is Federal Highway Administrator Francis Turner. He seems eager to entangle America in freeways and to pave over anything that gets in the way.

Not long ago, he hitched a ride home from Atlanta with Transportation Secretary John Volpe in the Secretary's sleek Coast Guard jet. Turner took advantage of the confined quarters to fill Volpe's ear with arguments against subways.

When they landed in Washington, Turner thought he had Volpe's approval to draft a formal policy statement ending new subway starts. As

Turner understood it, all he needed was the routine acquiescence of Urban Mass Transportation czar C. C. Villarreal.

Turner promptly drafted a memo which Villarreal was supposed to sign, agreeing to "discourage construction of entirely new rail-transit systems in cities that presently do not have any existing or under construction."

There were four more pages, intended for Villarreal's approval but Volpe's signature, lambasting subways and lauding highways. As a final touch, Turner dashed off another personal memo to Volpe reminding him of the Atlanta trip and explaining that the anti-subway statement was "in line with our conversation."

Villarreal, however, didn't treat Turner's draft as routine. He sent it back with a sharp note saying Turner's views were inconsistent with his own.

Turner acknowledged that we had gotten hold of one of his internal documents. "I have numerous staff people working on drafts. The one you have bears my name, and I have to take the responsibility for it. But it's not a final draft and the new one is substantially revised."

He still hasn't given up. "We're trying," Turner told us, "to iron out the points that Villarreal objected to." There was, he said, "no fiction between us."

Footnote: A "highway ac-

tion coalition" is now being quietly formed by conservationists and others to fight the paving over of America. Charter members include Environmental Action, Friends of the Earth, the Sierra Club.

College of Ecology

Last May, we announced the establishment of a College of Ecology Kirkland Hall on Maryland's Eastern Shore "America the beautiful," we wrote, "sadly is becoming America the blighted."

We decided to join the crusade for an environmental cleanup by founding a college that not only would offer the finest possible instruction but would become a research center in this important field.

We have made gratifying progress. Excellent ecology courses will be ready when the college opens later this month. The Governors' Conference and League of Cities have agreed to work with us in presenting ecology workshops. We also plan to bring the polluters and conservationists together to seek practical solutions to our pollution problems.

On Sept. 18, two former presidential candidates, Sen. Barry Goldwater, (R-Ariz.) and Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.) will co-host a fundraising gala on the campus near Easton, Md. As the main event, the late President John F. Kennedy's White House limousine will be auctioned.

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