

## Ford Lauds Kissinger In Illinois

By Edward Walsh  
Washington Post Staff Writer

CHICAGO, March 12 -- President Ford, in a final day of campaigning here before Tuesday's Illinois primary, today strongly defended Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, who increasingly is becoming a central issue in the presidential campaign.

Answering questions before 2,500 students and faculty members at Wheaton College west of here, the President said U.S. foreign policy "is moving forward constructively."

"Under these circumstances," he said, "I would not, under any circumstances, want Henry Kissinger to quit, period."

The President also told the Wheaton audience that he considers Kissinger "one of the great Secretaries of State."

Later, in a speech before the Chicago Council of Foreign Relations at the Palmer House, Mr. Ford said that Kissinger and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld—often though of as rivals within the Ford administration—are working together smoothly "carrying out a single United States policy."

Kissinger has come under  
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## Kissinger Censures Aide Over 'Leak'

3/13/76 by Murrey Marder

Washington Post Staff Writer

Assistant Secretary of State Alfred L. (Roy) Atherton Jr., has been "severely reprimanded" by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger for briefing a writer too fully on Kissinger's secret talks with Middle East leaders.

That announcement by the State Department yesterday climaxed what has become a minor cause celebre inside the U.S. diplomatic community.

Atherton, head of the Bureau of Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, is widely suspected of having been turned into a fall guy for Kissinger.

That suspicion was roundly denied yesterday by Deputy Under Secretary Lawrence S. Eagleburger, who officially conducted the inquiry into the leak of classified information to Edward R. F. Sheehan, writer of the article that appeared in the quarterly magazine, *Foreign Policy*.

The suspicion that Atherton is being used as a fall guy, Eagleburger said, "imputes . . . motives that go beyond the pale. . ."

"I would not be a party to making Roy Atherton the fall guy on anything," Eagleburger said. "He's a long-time friend. . . And the sec-

retary wouldn't be a party to it."

In addition to the official, severe reprimand for Atherton, a lesser reprimand was given to Harold H. Saunders, formerly a deputy to Atherton, and now director of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research in the State Department.

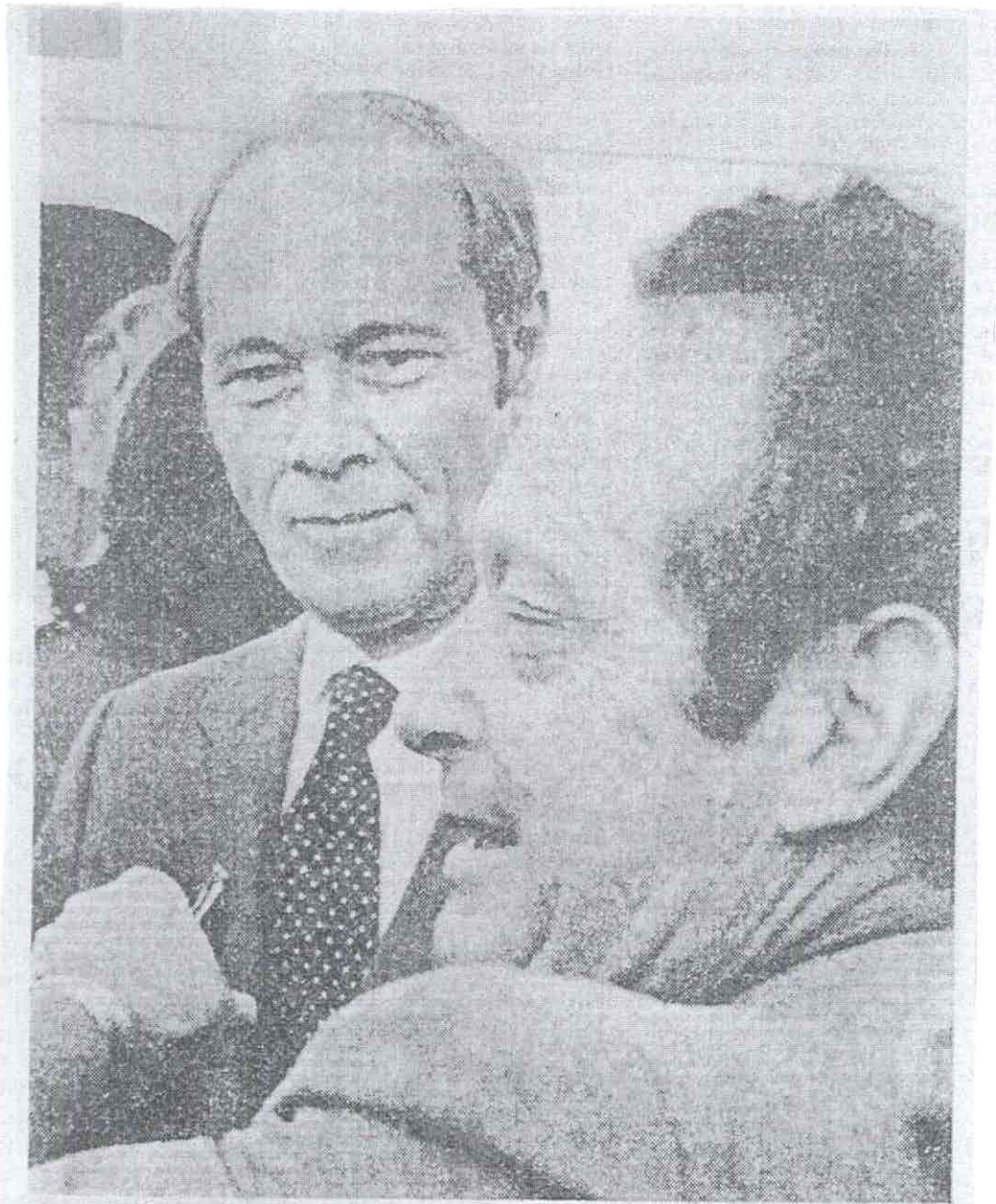
The two men were motivated by "good intentions" and "a desire to explain our Middle East policy and nothing more," Eagleburger said, but "there was clearly a substantial error in judgment" in disclosing classified information to Sheehan.

"This is a painful process for everybody involved," said Eagleburger.

The State Department has acknowledged that Kissinger met with Sheehan at least once for about 30 minutes, and authorized senior officials "to be helpful" to Sheehan, a former U.S. information officer in the Middle East who was planning a book on Kissinger's "shuttle diplomacy." Sheehan also met with Under Secretary Joseph J. Sisco and other officials.

When the Sheehan article in the quarterly *Foreign Policy* was published last

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Associated Press

Assistant Secretary of State Alfred L. Atherton, reprimanded by Kissinger over "leaks," greets Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon, right, who arrived yesterday.

# Kissinger Reprimands Aide

## LEAK, From AI

week, it contained unusually detailed and lengthy exchanges of private conversations between Kissinger and Arab and Israeli leaders. In more "normal leaks," this information would be less prominently scattered through the writing.

Although the article was favorable to Kissinger, its publication came just after Kissinger's denunciation of the House intelligence committee headed by Rep. Otis G. Pike (D-N.Y.) for "McCarthyism" in leaks of classified documents. The ones leaked from the committee were critical of Kissinger.

Atherton and Saunders are among Kissinger's most trusted lieutenants. They are known as two of the most scrupulous officials in the department for carrying out his wishes in all matters, especially dealings with the press, on which Kissinger is very sensitive.

Nevertheless, according to authoritative sources, Kissinger later "cooled down" on what he would do about it, these sources said.

Eagleburger gave reporters the following account yesterday:

An examination of the problem began on Feb. 27.

On March 5, on Atherton's return from an overseas trip, Atherton "told the secretary that he had in fact read to Mr. Sheehan from classified memoranda of conversation.

"On March 9, Mr. Atherton voluntarily came forward with a letter to the secretary outlining his part in the matter and taking full responsibility for the decision to read to Mr. Sheehan from classified memoranda . . ."

Eagleburger emphasized that Atherton's letter "was not solicited by anyone."

Eagleburger said: "The secretary [Kissinger] was almost wholly uninvolved in this."

He said Sheehan had approached Atherton, whom he knew, outlined his book project, and on April 18, 1975, Atherton in a memo to Kissinger suggested authorizing briefings for Sheehan.

Eagleburger said Atherton, in his letter, said he received Kissinger's "general approval to give Mr. Sheehan background briefings." To "supplement factual information," Eagleburger said, Atherton briefed Sheehan "orally from (Kissinger's) memorandum of conversation, for the most part summarizing or paraphrasing selected portions . . ."

No documents were given to Sheehan, Eagleburger said, nor any versions of presidential conversations. Saunders "on one occasion read briefly" to Sheehan from a memorandum, on Atherton's authorization.

Eagleburger said, "It is clear that there was a substantial misunderstanding" between Atherton and Sheehan over use of the briefings.

In addition to the reprimands, Eagleburger said all department officials are being cautioned that they "are not authorized to read from or use classified documents" to brief unauthorized persons.

Eagleburger declined to speculate what affect the incident would have on the 49-year-old Atherton, who

holds the permanent rank of career minister.

One senior official said privately that there is widespread sympathy for Atherton in the State Department, a broad belief that he "sacrificed himself," and therefore his career should not suffer.

Part of this belief that Atherton was a fall guy is the memory of a lead dispute in 1973, over a book by John Newhouse, "Cold Dawn," which contained significant secret information on U.S.-Soviet nuclear negotiations at the time when Kissinger was presidential national security affairs adviser.

Kissinger disclaimed responsibility for that leak, but lauded the book as "outstanding."