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Dr. Kissinger's Sinai Peace Plan

In private, candid talks with congressional leaders, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is revealing his inner plan to guarantee a Mideast settlement: a joint U.S.-Soviet military force, with other nations sharing, under the symbolic flag of the U.N. Security Council.

Kissinger, bucking somewhat diminished headwinds from the potent pro-Israeli bloc on Capitol Hill, carefully notes that for the first time in history the Soviet Union has agreed to a "peacekeeping" force in which they themselves may serve.

The Soviet presence in Sinai in an unbacked peacekeeping force would infuriate pro-Israeli hardliners already fearful about growing Soviet power in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Arab Middle East.

But Kissinger argues with cold logic that this growth of Soviet power is far more predictable, in an escalating spiral, as long as the Arab-Israeli dispute continues. Soviet influence there, in short, was made possible in the first place by the Arab-Israeli 23-year war in which Moscow was invited in as the Arab champion to offset American aid to Israel.

But Arab identification with the U.S. and the West, particularly strong in

Egypt and Saudi Arabia, should reassert itself after the Arab-Israeli struggle is brought under control—a condition that, ironically, Soviet presence in a peacekeeping force will hasten.

Thus, Kissinger tells congressional leaders that the Sinai peninsula must be restored to Egyptian sovereignty and a "powerful" U.N. force placed in the largely demilitarized Sinai to prevent military attack by either side against the other. So far, his confidential talks with congressional leaders have produced a surprising amount of agreement.

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A classic demonstration of President Nixon's counterattack style came during an "Operation Candor" conversation with Republican congressmen when, in a defense of his own integrity, he charged that both Charles C. (Bebe) Rebozo, his best friend, and the Howard Hughes organization, a longtime Nixon campaign contributor, have had close ties to prominent Democrats.

The President contended that his best pal, Rebozo, was once a friend of John F. Kennedy. He equated Democratic leader Lawrence F. O'Brien's business relationship with the Hughes organization to the surreptitious \$100-

000 Hughes payment to Rebozo.

Those comments came in reply to a general question from Rep. Chalmers Wylie of Ohio, who commented that a constituent in Columbus, an ophthalmologist, feared the President was using his office for personal gain and asked Mr. Nixon's response.

That set off a discursive 14-minute answer which dwelled at length on Rebozo and the \$100,000 in cash he received from Hughes, supposedly as a political contribution to Mr. Nixon.

Rebozo, said the President, has been chummy with many Democrats—a particularly good friend of Sen. Russell Long of Louisiana, he said, and a "moderate" friend of JFK.

After discussing his own finances, Mr. Nixon returned to the Hughes contribution. After all, he said, Hughes had given \$250,000 to O'Brien. Some in his audience got the impression the President was implying that O'Brien had received the funds during his first tenure as Democratic national chairman in 1968.

The comparisons seem wholly superfluous, calculated to muddy the waters. Mr. Kennedy's closest aides say they cannot remember Rebozo as any kind of real "friend" of the former

President. The \$250,000 to O'Brien was compensation for legitimate, contracted public relations work unconnected with politics, beginning in 1969, and, as such, wholly irrelevant to the secret \$100,000 payment to Rebozo.

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Although John B. Connally secretly visited Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski's office recently, he did not see Jaworski and left after interrogation by federal prosecutors about the milk lobby.

Connally was spotted on the elevator getting off on the floor where Jaworski has his office. That aroused suspicion that the two Houston corporation lawyers—Jaworski the investigator and Connally the investigated—were getting their heads together despite mutual claims that they had not seen each other in years.

In truth, Connally still has not seen Jaworski as Special Prosecutor. Mutual friends in Texas speculate that Connally might have recommended Jaworski to Mr. Nixon as a Special Prosecutor who would not prove too zealous. True or not, Jaworski so far has displayed more zeal even than the deposed Archibald Cox.