

Secret Trips of Dr. Kissinger

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It was no secret that Henry A. Kissinger was in Paris and Brussels during the first week of August 1969.

He reported to French officials on President Nixon's just-completed trip around the world, discussed the civil war in Biafra and then briefing NATO officials in the Belgian capital, according to press accounts of the time.

The President's national security adviser also met with Henry Cabot Lodge, then the chief American delegate to the Paris conference on the Vietnam war.

"But sources in the delegation warned against interpreting the visit as heralding some new initiative in the deadlocked negotiations," read a story in *The New York Times*.

The warnings were heeded, and the press accorded the visit no particular significance. Meanwhile, Henry Kissinger slipped off to a secret meeting with Le Duc Tho, a member of North Vietnamese Communist Party's Politburo.

On June 24, 1971, according to a Reuter dispatch in *The Washington Post*, Kissinger had a luncheon discussion in London with British Prime Minister Edward Heath. The central purpose of his visit: talks with the secretary to the Heath Cabinet on comparative U.S. and British governmental mechanisms.

Four days later, United Press International checked Kissinger out of London and reported him to be en route to Washington on a special U.S. Air Force jet.

In between, unnoticed by the press, Kissinger dropped in on Le Duc Tho in Paris again.

There were 12 such visits, all but two of them kept from the public — six spread over 1969 and 1970, and six last year. Each time, President Nixon's closest foreign affairs consultant negotiated secretly with the North Vietnamese.

At a press conference in the East Room of the White House yesterday, Kissinger revealed scant detail of his quiet journeys.

The trips were "rather complicated and difficult," he said, but they had the advantage of permitting the United States

and North Vietnam to "leapfrog public positions."

The 1971 leapfrogging was accomplished on May 31, June 26, July 26, Aug. 16 and Sept. 13, Kissinger acknowledged.

Except on July 12, Kissinger's presence in Paris was never noted. On that day, he was thought to be on his way back from Pakistan, where he was said to have suffered briefly from an "indisposition."

A dispatch from Karachi a day earlier had suggested that Kissinger might "meet in Paris with a high-ranking North Vietnamese official . . . in an effort to explore a seven-point peace program advanced by the Vietcong."

Once he arrived in the French capital, however, press reports neglected that and focused on his dinner date with a photogenic CBS television producer, Margaret Osmer.

Kissinger's "indisposition" in Pakistan was actually a quick visit to Peking, the world learned a week later. So secret was that trip that he rode into town from the Peking airport in a limousine with one-way silk curtains—he could look out but no one could look in.

But on that trip, Kissinger said yesterday with obvious delight, "the hardest part was not to get into Peking unobserved, the hardest part was to get to see the North Vietnamese unobserved, since a few hundred of you (reporters) were chasing me around Paris rather intensely."

That was mysterious enough, but how did Kissinger smuggle himself into Paris all the other times?

"We generally flew to American military bases . . ."

In Britain? West Germany? . . . and then transferred once or twice until we wound

up, through the cooperation of President Pompidou, at some little-used airfields near Paris."

That description raised any number of possibilities: A former U.S. Air Force base in Evreux, 45 miles northwest of Paris, now used by the French air force? Or another French air base at Villacoublay, six miles southwest of the capital, near the spot where the late President Charles de Gaulle was once almost assassinated?

Or perhaps one of four tiny landing strips within 15 miles of Paris: Toussus-le-Noble, St. Cyr and Buc, all to the southwest, and Beynes, to the east.

"We generally stayed in the

outskirts with the people we used as contacts," Kissinger explained.

Describing contacts at the United Nations between Kissinger and French Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann, they said "France could always be counted on to facilitate the search for peace."

The speculation stopped with Kissinger. "I don't want to go into all the details," he said, "because we may want to do it again."



U.S. Affirms Support for Jarring Bid

United Press Intern

The United States affirmed its support for Ambassador Jarring's effort to bring an agreement between the Arab nations.

The U.S. stated during the meeting between Jarring and William

"We have to help him to do what he can. For example, we can help him to do what he can."

"We generally flew to American military bases . . ."