

Kissinger Assured Of Security Post

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger won reassurance from President Ford on Tuesday that he will continue as Ford's national security adviser despite a reported recommendation to Ford that he be replaced in that post.

Reliable sources reported that Ford's transition team had recommended he reorganize the National Security Council and strip Kissinger of his dual role as both secretary of State and presidential assistant.

A White House spokesman quoted Ford as saying the transition team was told specifically not to consider recommendations in the foreign policy-national security area.

At the State Department, a spokesman said Kissinger discussed the subject with Ford on Tuesday. The spokesman, Robert Anderson, denied Kissinger would give up his assignment as a Ford assistant.

The aim of the reported recommendation was to make the NSC a broad-based presidential advisory body. Before Anderson spoke, available State Department sources indicated they were neither surprised nor disturbed by the proposal. Some expressed the opinion that the NSC had been "going downhill" since former President Richard M. Nixon named Kissinger to the State Department last year,

taking many top NSC people with him.

For more than five years, Kissinger has dominated the council as its operating head in his role as presidential assistant. Ford is chairman of the top-level panel.

When Kissinger became secretary of state, Nixon kept him as chief of the NSC staff. In fact, the secretary of state has retained a spacious White House office which he uses often.

Within government, some believe the NSC under Kissinger domination has become, in effect, an arm of the State Department. Those who criticize the present set up express fears that it may deprive the President of advice from other quarters.

One source said the proposed reorganization would provide Ford with "a richer, more flexible and wider range of advice."

While not predicting Ford's reaction to the plan, he said the encouragement of advice from more diverse quarters "is more his style of operation."

One informant contended, "I don't think the reorganization has to be accomplished at the expense of the secretary of state."

Initial State Department reaction suggested Kissinger might agree.