

## Foreign Policy: Still the 'Imperial Presidency'

To the Editor:

The constitutional theory and political practices of the imperial Presidency have been discredited among most Americans but not, so it appears, in the White House. In the Angolan affair, President Ford and Secretary



Kissinger have once again tried to commit this country to a crucial foreign policy by furtive means that by-pass political and constitutional processes for gaining the informed consent of Congress and the people.

The lesson for Congress ought to be clear: So long as Mr. Kissinger is Secretary, he will seek to regain the prerogatives of the imperial Presidency; and the only recourse Congress has, therefore, is to impose rigid limits on his authority.

This is doubtless not the best way for a major power to conduct foreign affairs. But Mr. Kissinger's record, and now, it would seem, Mr. Ford's, show that they will use discretionary power to impose on the United States policies to which neither the Congress nor the vast body of Americans would

consent if they were adequately informed and consulted.

It is therefore the duty of Congress to see that so far as possible the executive branch has no discretionary power to abuse, however awkward this may make the conduct of foreign affairs. If and when a chief executive demonstrates that he and his principal aides are worthy of trust, the Congress can properly relax some of its controls

—but not before. ROBERT A. DAHL

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