

Kissinger Scolds Envoy to

By Seymour M. Hersh
New York Times

Washington

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger rebuked David H. Popper, the U.S. ambassador to Chile, after Popper had discussed torture and other human rights issues during a meeting on military aid with Chilean officials, administration sources said yesterday.

Kissinger's action has provoked a bitter dispute among officials in the Bureau of Inter-American Affairs at the State Department, some of whom say his rebuke was a demonstration of the administration's unwillingness to press fully the human rights issue with the junta now ruling Chile.

Sources close to Kissinger said, however, that the secretary's complaint was based only on his objection to Popper's efforts to link "unrelated issues" such as human rights and military aid in high-level diplomatic talks.

In recounting the incident, the sources said Kissinger reacted angrily after having learned from a State Department cablegram that Popper had initiated a discussion of human rights during a meeting on military aid in Santiago last July 22 with Oscar Bonilla, the Chilean minister of defense. Also present at the meeting was Secretary of the Army Howard H. Callaway, then visiting Chile.

"Tell Popper to cut out the political science lectures," the sources said Kissinger scrawled over the cable, a step that led to a formally drafted State Department letter of complaint to Popper, a career diplomat.

The ambassador and others in the U.S. mission in Santiago were "amazed" and angered by the Kissinger rebuke, the sources said, as were some officials in the Bureau of Inter-American Affairs.

Kissinger could not be reached to discuss the issue but high-level State Department officials subsequently confirmed the gist of his written comment to the ambassador. The officials, who were familiar with Kissinger's involvement, explained that the secretary only was complaining about Popper's

attempt to link proposals for additional military aid to Chile to the human rights issue.

"It was more a question of how ambassadors are to behave," another official said. "We can't have an ambassador going into a meeting with the defense minister for one issue and discussing something else."

The official sources said Kissinger had privately urged Popper on at least three occasions in the last year to raise the human rights issue with the appropriate officials in the Chilean government.

Other administration

sources, however, characterized the State Department's explanation as misleading.

"That's the name of the game," one administration official said. "You tell these guys that if they want something—like more arms, they've got to behave."

"It's not only perfectly appropriate to raise the issue during meetings about other matters," the official added, "but the legislation requires that you must keep the human rights issue right up in the junta's face, particularly when you're talking about aid matters."

The official was referring

to amendments in the 1973 foreign aid bill that called on the Nixon administration to request that the Chilean government "protect the human rights of all individuals." The amendment also linked the granting of aid money to Chilean guarantees of safe conduct for refugees and the humane treatment of political prisoners.

The military junta that overthrew President Salvador Allende in a bloody coup last year has been criticized as making systematic use of torture and imprisonment. In a report made public earlier this month, Amnesty International, a private agency, charged that torture of

Chile

6000 to 10,000 political prisoners was continuing.

In recent weeks, the junta — responding to worldwide pressure — has announced that it is willing to free most of its political prisoners if the Soviet Union and Cuba do the same. No such releases have taken place.

Canadian Visit

Vancouver

Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka of Japan said yesterday his Canadian visit has helped link the two countries.

Associated Press