

Lisbon Envoys, Kissinger Disagree

By Jack Anderson
and Les Whitten

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger reportedly has made up his mind that Portugal is turning Communist, but he can't seem to keep an ambassador there who will agree with him.

Last November, he summarily fired Ambassador Stuart Nash Scott, who disagreed that a Communist takeover of Portugal was inevitable. Scott was replaced by Ambassador Frank Carlucci, whose cables from Lisbon also dispute the Kissinger view.

Sources close to Kissinger say he is extremely sensitive about Communist encroachment in the Mediterranean area. When Portugal took Communists into the government, he feared this might stimulate similar developments in Spain and Italy.

He couldn't be shaken from the conviction, according to our sources, that Portugal's new military leaders were crypto-Communists. He concluded direly, therefore, that Portugal had begun the long slide into Communism.

But from Lisbon, Ambassador Scott warned this idea could become "the greatest self-fulfilling prophecy in history," diplomatic sources say. His cables to the State Department urged Kissinger to extend economic

assistance to the new Portuguese government and, thereby, to bolster the moderates who want to keep Portugal in the Atlantic Alliance.

Kissinger dispatched a special team to Portugal to make an independent assessment. They returned with a report that essentially backed up Scott.

A congressional study mission, headed by Rep. Charles Wilson (D-Tex.), has also supported the ambassador. "Scott responded to the governmental changes," declared the study, "... with a calm display of good judgment. He was the first ambassador to visit the head of the new government and to offer the good wishes of the United States."

But Kissinger preferred to believe a few prominent, retired Americans who lived in Portugal part-time. They had been pampered by the deposed dictatorship, which kept prices down, provided cheap labor, and policed the streets. For wealthy foreigners, Portugal offered gracious living during the firm, 50-year regime of dictators Salazar and Caetano.

Some of these retired Americans called the State Department to warn darkly that Lisbon was listing far to the left. One who had Kissinger's ear was retired Navy Adm. George W. Anderson Jr., a former chief of na-

val operations, former ambassador to Portugal and present chairman of the President's Intelligence Advisory Board.

Anderson maintains a fashionable home in the gentle, southern province of Algarve. He helped to convince Kissinger, according to our sources, that Portugal was slipping into Communist clutches.

Another retired American with direct access to Kissinger was George Woods, former head of the World Bank, who has a house near Lisbon. He was somewhat less dogmatic, however, than was Anderson.

Because of Kissinger's "allergy to Communist problems around the Mediterranean," say our sources, he was "predisposed" to believe the reports from the American colony in Portugal.

He reacted, first, by firing Ambassador Scott. One source described the handling of the distinguished, 68-year-old ambassador as "brutal."

Then Kissinger adopted a wait-and-see policy toward the new Portuguese government. This weakened the moderates, such as President Francisco da Costa Gomes and Foreign Minister Mario Soares.

It took pressure from Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), after a stopover in Portugal, to get Kissinger grudgingly to release \$25 million in credits and grants

to the new government. But his basic attitude, according to our sources, remains unchanged.

Meanwhile, 44-year-old Frank Carlucci, a former trouble-shooter for President Nixon, has taken over as the new American ambassador. He hadn't been in Lisbon long before he began echoing Scott's views.

Carlucci has argued that the United States must take a "constructive view" toward Lisbon's leftist leaders and work with them. "Henry," said one source, "is rather unhappy."

For the record, the State Department had no comment on the dismissal of Ambassador Scott. A spokesman said, however, that "the secretary has full and complete confidence in Ambassador Carlucci."

Footnote: Scott literally got off on the wrong foot with Kissinger. Called to the State Department by former Secretary of State William Rogers to be the legal adviser, Scott didn't arrive until Kissinger had assumed control. The new secretary took one look at the white-haired Scott who was then walking with the aid of a cane because of a bad hip. Kissinger shipped him off to Portugal, which was then considered a safe, noncontroversial post. Scott had been in the country only three months when the dictatorship fell in a bloodless coup one year ago.