

Kissinger's Pledge To Allies in Asia

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Secretary of State Henry Kissinger pledged last night that despite recent setbacks in Indochina, the United States "will not turn away from Asia" and will continue to oppose efforts by any state to impose its will by force on the Asian continent.

In a major policy speech on Asia before the Japan Society, Kissinger sought particularly to allay Japanese concern about the American policy in the post-Vietnam era.

He said "we will permit no question to arise about the firmness of our treaty commitments" to Japan and other Asian allies. Specifically, he said the United States was "resolved to maintain the peace and security of the Korean peninsula, for this is of crucial importance to Japan and to all of Asia."

Kissinger seemed, however, to chide South Korea and the Philippines for their repressive policies.

"There is no question that popular will and social justice are, in the last analysis, the essential underpinning of resistance to subversion and external challenge," Kissinger said.

But he asserted that whatever the domestic policies of an ally, "our support and assistance will be available where it has been promised."

Much of the speech to the Japan Society, a nonprofit organization formed to increase understanding between the United States and Japan, was devoted to relations between the two countries.

Kissinger went out of his way to assuage Japanese irritation at what has been regarded in Tokyo as a failure

by the United States to consult adequately on key issues, particularly in 1971 when the American diplomatic moves toward Peking, and the sudden economic controls, were taken secretly.

He said that the two countries could not expect to pursue identical policies, but there should be "compatible approaches."

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