

Kissinger Warns Soviets To Stay Out of Portugal

Washington

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger explicitly cautioned the Soviet Union yesterday against "outside interference" in Portugal and pledged U.S. support "to help a democratic Portugal."

Kissinger's statements came on the heels of an upsurge of anti-Communist activity in Portugal

that has thrown the powerful Communist minority on the defensive. Until now, the Ford administration has been criticized for inadequate public support of Portugal's non-Communist majority in the struggle for control of that nation.

In the intensive negotiations

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now under way for a new Israeli-Egyptian disengagement accord, Kissinger said Congress will be asked to vote on any administration decision to use American technicians to monitor an agreement in the Sinai desert. This is a key, unresolved issue, in an intended pact agreement on a further Israeli military pullback.

U.S. policy toward Portugal and the Middle East highlighted a speech and press conference by Kissinger in Birmingham, Ala. Kissinger addressed the Southern Commodity Producers Conference there in the latest of his sorties out of Washington to rally support for administration foreign policy.

In his remarks on Portugal, Kissinger said current American emphasis is on "any future action that might be contemplated," and added that: "The situation is reaching a point when temptations for outside intervention seem to be arising."

In Portugal, Kissinger said, in his luncheon address, "the Soviet Union should not assume that it has the option, either directly or indirectly, to influence events contrary to the right of the Portuguese people to determine their own future."

Portugal is close to civil war, Kissinger put it thus: "The attempt by an anti-democratic and doctrinaire minority to thwart a desire for democratic rule "is meeting inevitable and growing popular resistance."

"The Portuguese people," Kissinger said, "should know that we and all the democratic peoples of the West are deeply concerned about their future and stand ready to help a democratic Portugal."

Administration officials, prior to Kissinger's remarks, indicated no acute concern that the Soviet Union would be bold enough, or venturesome enough, to intervene physically to aid the Communist forces in Portugal.

Kissinger's intent, they said, was to issue an added warning against any possible Soviet move, direct or indirect, and to demonstrate U.S. support for the anti-Communist majority.

As Kissinger spoke in Alabama, his principal deputies in the State Department were with Israeli officials attempting to hurry to completion elements of an accord to justify a new round of Middle East shuttle diplomacy by Kissinger next week.

"What is being discussed between Israel and Egypt at this moment," Kissinger said, "is not a final peace settlement but an interim step which . . . if it is achieved, would mark considerable progress on the road to peace, perhaps the biggest single one that has yet been taken."

The use of American technicians to operate electronically early-warning posts in a second-stage military disengagement in the Sinai has been under active consideration for weeks.

This would represent a new level of direct American involvement in the enforcement of any Arab-Israeli cease-fire accord.

Kissinger's comments showed increasing administration recognition that this can be a very sensitive issue by a Congress basically critical of any new American involvement abroad in the wake of U.S. Indochina experiences.

Kissinger said it is still uncertain whether there will be such an American contingent. If a "concrete proposition" develops, he said, it would involve "very small numbers" of "civilians, unarmed volunteers, at the request of both parties (Israel and Egypt) to perform very limited technical functions."

If the Ford administration decides to proceed with this concept, Kissinger said, it will seek "congressional endorsement," and not merely "consultations." Kissinger said "WE would ask the Congress to vote before we would proceed."

Asked what will happen to the proposal if Congress vetoes it, Kissinger replied, "On the basis of the consultations we have had we don't expect that." *Washington Post*