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Kissinger on the Shakeup

Washington

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger told a House committee yesterday that despite the loss of his White House job he remains as influential as ever as President Ford's chief foreign policy adviser.

"I have no concern whatever about my views getting to the President as often as necessary," Kissinger said. He asserted that there were no changes in his "excellent" relationships with Mr. Ford, since losing his position as national security adviser.

Kissinger's role was questioned when he testified before the House International Relations committee in defense of the administration's request for \$4.7 billion in military and economic security assistance, 70 per cent of which is earmarked for the Middle East.

Several congressmen, including Representative Dante Fascell (Dem-Fla.), asked him if he were not damaged by losing his post as national security adviser in the shakeup last weekend.

Breaking his silence on the

shifts that included the dismissal of Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger, Kissinger said, "The public very often believes that influence depends on bureaucratic arrangements, but finally, influence depends on whether the views that are being put forward best serve the country and seem most useful to the President, who has to make the final decision.

"I have no concern whatever about my views getting to the President as often as necessary," he said. "If a secretary of state cannot present views that are sufficiently convincing to the President then he has only his self to blame and not the bureaucratic arrangements."

In the hearing, which amounts to an extended question-and-answer session touching on foreign aid and other subjects, Kissinger also made these points:

- The Defense Department under Schlesinger was not left out of any important national security decision, and he has no doubt that Mr. Ford's nominee, Donald W. Rumsfeld, would have "free access" to the President given his close relationship.

- The United States and the Soviet Union remained "ideological foes and political rivals," but this did not mean that all efforts should not be made to avoid a "general war" or to provide incentives for the Soviet Union to moderate its behavior.

- Any new Middle East war would probably break out on the Syrian-Israeli front and therefore efforts will be accelerated to bring about further negotiations on that front.

- Total arms sales by the United States are now running about \$11 billion to \$12 billion yearly — a figure that was criticized by several committee members as excessive.

- No commitments were made to President Anwar Sadat to sell arms to Egypt, but the Administration is very sympathetic to Egypt's needs.

New York Times

Trip to Tunis

Paris

President Valery Giscard d'Estaing left here yesterday on a three-day visit to Tunis.

Reuters