

Ford and Kissinger Give Assurances to Moynihan

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 28—The White House and the State Department today publicly reassured Daniel Patrick Moynihan, the United States representative at the United Nations, of their support and approval.

"Pat is supported by the President, the Secretary of State and the top officials of the State Department," the White House spokesman, Ron Nessen, said.

Secretary of State Henry A.

Kissinger acknowledged that there were criticisms of, Mr. Moynihan in the department, but he dismissed them as no more than bureaucratic "backbiting."

The latest uproar in Mr. Moynihan's often controversial career in public office was set off yesterday when The New York Times published a Moynihan cablegram addressed to the Secretary of State and all American embassies.

In it Mr. Moynihan argued that his get-tough tactics—approved by the President and Mr. Kissinger—were succeeding in breaking up the anti-American voting bloc in the United Nations, "but we do fear that there necessarily remains in the department a large fac-

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ADMINISTRATION BACKS MOYNIHAN

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tion which has an interest in our performance being judged to have failed." He said that this faction was "blabbing" to the press.

The New York Times obtained the Moynihan message from a State Department official who clearly indicated his support for Mr. Moynihan and said that officials in the department were constantly trying to

protect "their clients—the Africans, or the Europeans, or the countries of whatever bureau they are in."

The reaction from Mr. Kissinger and his department today ran counter to repeated private statements made in the past to numerous reporters by senior officials in the State Department. They have often said over the last year that Mr. Moynihan's outspoken style—what they have frequently characterized as demagoguery and a campaign for personal power—are seriously damaging United States interest in the United Nations.

For example, one senior State Department official told several reporters that the United Na-

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tions resolution condemning Zionism as a form of racism would have been defeated if Mr. Moynihan had not "needlessly antagonized" most Africans.

Many of these officials have said in private conversations that they cannot criticize Mr. Moynihan publicly for several reasons—among them that he is carrying out agreed Administration policy and has strong support at the White House, among conservatives and, according to several public opinion polls, among the voters generally.

A senior department official said two weeks ago: "When Pat threatened to resign two months ago, and when Ford and Kissin-

ger publicly pleaded with him not to, we were locked in."

There are also officials who have said that Mr. Moynihan's style has been useful on particular occasions and that his critics are mostly those State Department officials who dislike any ambassador who makes waves and gets publicity.

In responding to questions today, Mr. Nessen refused to endorse the suggestion that the Moynihan message was a complaint of nonsupport. There were six sentences in Mr. Moynihan's message that specifically referred to opposition to him within the State Department.

Mr. Moynihan's office issued a statement by him today not-

ing that the State Department had forwarded his message to American embassies after "one minor modification." In his statement, he also expressed his displeasure at The New York Times for having published part of his message dealing with the private remarks of an African diplomat at the United Nations.

Mr. Moynihan had asked an editor of The Times to delete this portion of the cablegram; he declined to do so.

African Denies Statement

Today the African diplomat referred to, Abdulrahim Farah of Somalia, denied Mr. Moynihan's version of the conversations about the Administration policy of cutting back on aid

to nations that vote against United States positions in the United Nations. Mr. Moynihan said that Mr. Farah had said the policy was proving successful. Mr. Farah, the highest-ranking African on the Secretariat staff, said today that it was "inconceivable" that he said this.

A State Department spokesman said today: "It is a contemptible act to leak classified documents. Newspapers must ask themselves what their responsibility is when they consider publication of such documents."

Mr. Nessen said that "the President completely approves of and supports the way Ambassador Moynihan is conduct-

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ing his office at the United Nations. The President told him personally and directly when they met yesterday he's doing a fine job at the United Nations."

'I Support Moynihan'

Mr. Kissinger told reporters today: "I support Moynihan. In the formulation of policy, different points of view inevitably are expressed. There is backbiting in every bureaucracy."

"I think that this is only such a huge issue because it is impossible apparently to keep any cable secret anymore," he added.

Mr. Moynihan's message was classified "limited official use"—the lowest of all security

classifications. It was, therefore, given the widest possible circulation in the Government.

A member of Mr. Moynihan's staff said: "I knew when he did that — put on that classification and asked that it be sent to all missions — that that would happen," meaning it would be leaked.