

White House Stand On Soviet Tenders Off Cuba Clarified

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 5—The White House emphasized today that President Nixon would consider it a violation of an understanding with the Soviet Union if her nuclear submarines were serviced "anywhere at sea" by submarine tenders operating from Cuba.

An aide to Henry A. Kissinger, assistant to the President for national security affairs, clarified the White House attitude after Ronald L. Ziegler, the President's press secretary, told reporters the understanding ruled out servicing of submarines "in the immediate area of the Caribbean."

The aide said that Mr. Ziegler had realized his remark was too limited geographically and had telephoned from the plane as the President flew to San Clemente, Calif., to ask that the matter be clarified.

The issue arose Mr. Ziegler was asked what the President had meant when he told four network television commentators in their interview last night that it would be a violation to service a submarine "either in Cuba or from Cuba."

Mr. Ziegler said the President was not specifying any geographic limit, but, urged to identify a boundary outside a Cuban harbor, he said that Soviet submarines "with offensive capabilities" should not be serviced "in the immediate area of the Caribbean."

The aide said later that Mr. Ziegler had drawn "a tighter line than we would have liked."

Mr. Ziegler cleared up some confusion as to the date the Soviet Union pledged not to install a military or naval base in Cuba. The President said last night that the pledge was made on Oct. 11, but Mr. Ziegler said he had meant to say Oct. 13, the date that the Soviet Union issued a public statement on Cuba.