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Fulbright-Kissinger Relations

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 5—Senator J. W. Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Henry Kissinger, the President's national security adviser, have taken a first step, over drinks at the Senator's home, toward restoring diplomatic relations between them.

With White House endorsement, Mr. Kissinger met informally with 10 members of the Senate committee Monday evening to review the Administration's initiative toward normal relations with Communist China.

In the view of Republican members who arranged the unannounced meeting, apparently at White House instigation, the content of the hour-and-a-half discussion was not as important as the fact that the two sides were talking again.

For months, Senator Fulbright, in speeches, testimony and private comments, had been complaining that Mr. Kissinger's refusal to come before Congressional committees on

the ground that he was a personal adviser to the President was undermining the advisory role of the Senate in foreign policy.

After the meeting Senator Fulbright still expressed dissatisfaction over the format of informal get-togethers with the Presidential adviser. The discussion, he told a reporter, was "pleasant but too brief, about half as long as it should have been."

Furthermore, the Senator said he had "grave reservations about the precedent" of informal meetings. "A better procedure in terms of restoring the proper relationships" between the Senate and the Executive branch, he said, would be for Mr. Kissinger to appear before the committee in executive session.

Mr. Kissinger was not available to give his reaction to the meeting.

The White House staff, which openly regards the Foreign Relations Committee as one of its principal adversaries on Capitol Hill, had blocked earlier efforts to get Mr. Kissinger and the committee together for private policy discussions.

In testimony two weeks ago before a Senate Judiciary subcommittee considering legislation sponsored by Mr. Fulbright to force executive officials to appear before Congressional committees, the Senator had complained that Mr. Kissinger's failure to consult with the Foreign Relations Committee either before or after his recent trip to China was "a striking example of the way in which the new foreign-policy apparatus in the White House circumvents the Congress."

The Fulbright testimony apparently led to the meeting, for subsequently Senator Jacob K. Javits of New York, a Republican member of the committee, urged Senator Fulbright to invite Mr. Kissinger to meet with the committee at the Fulbright home. The invitation was reluctantly extended by the Senator and promptly accepted by Mr. Kissinger.

According to Republican participants, Senator Fulbright opened the meeting by saying: "Henry, we are delighted to have you at home, but we would like to have you someday in executive session before the committee." Mr. Kissinger reportedly replied that he ap-

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preciated the committee's desire but that as the President's personal adviser he felt he should not appear before a Congressional committee.

With the lines thus drawn, the two sides engaged in what Senators Javits and Hugh Scott, the Senate Republican leader, described as a "forthcoming" and "candid" discussion of China policy.

Mr. Kissinger reviewed his discussions with Chinese Premier Chou En-lai during which he arranged President Nixon's planned visit to China. He also outlined the objectives of the President's trip to Peking and

discussed the Administration's position on the seating of Communist China in the United Nations.

The committee members, in turn, were said to have offered views on what the Administration should do regarding China policy.

Senator Javits described the discussion as "one of the most forthcoming and one of the most interesting meetings I have ever attended." He suggested that such an informal meeting represented a way "to re-establish communications without laying down a challenge to the White House."