

Nixon's Foreign Policy Makers

Key Biscayne

President Nixon has begun a major reassessment of the functions of all U.S. foreign policy agencies, the White House announced yesterday.

Deputy Press Secretary Gerald L. Warren told reporters that the key question is the interrelationship between the State Department, which deals with foreign policy only, and other agencies like the Treasury and Commerce departments which deal primarily with other matters but also have considerable influence over foreign policy questions.

Warren said, "It's a review of the basic organization and relations . . . it involves organization, budget, personnel — all along the line."

AIDES

Warren said Henry A. Kissinger, the President's assistant for national security affairs, had met with White House aides H. R. Haldeman and John Erlichman "into the night" Thursday on "the foreign policy structure."

No State Department representatives were present.

The foreign policy review is part of a broader reassessment of the functions of all federal agencies which Mr. Nixon has ordered to start off his second term. "The basic thing we're talking about is how to make government operate better," said Warren.

To give himself a free hand to realign functions and get rid of personnel unresponsive to his policies, the President has demanded that all persons holding direct presidential appointments to federal jobs, and all persons appointed to schedule C jobs by cabinet and agency heads, submit pro-forma resignations.

Warren emphasized again yesterday that no decisions have been made on which of the resignations would actually be accepted, or what plans for reorganization would actually be adopted.

LETTERS

Warren said letters of resignation aren't being requested of regulatory agen-

cy appointees with fixed tenures, but he believed they are being sought from "foreign service officers at home and abroad if appointed by the President," and all U.S. attorneys.

Warren said the President "will operate within the confines of existing legislation" and "intends to make use of all the machinery available to the federal government to make it more efficient."

The problem of foreign policy coordination in recent years has been a substantial one. Although the State Department traditionally is the arbiter of overseas and diplomatic policy, other agencies have enormous influence over foreign policy and the White House has increasingly taken a direct role in foreign policy through such powerful aides as Kissinger, who has been the President's chief negotiator on Vietnam affairs.

Decisions made by the Treasury department on international currency matters, by the Commerce Department on trade matters, by the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, the Agency for International Development, the Defense Department and the Export-Import Bank may have as much or more impact on the U.S. image and real positions in the world as anything the State Department does at a given time.

Warren said the President met with Haldeman yesterday morning to discuss various matters and talked on the phone with Kissinger.

He said General Alexander Haig, Kissinger's deputy who has just arrived in Saigon, is expected back in Washington "sometime this weekend."