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Kissinger: He Creates Policies and Headlines

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 22—Privately Henry A. Kissinger often belittled the State Department. To him it was "the bureaucracy."

Since he began serving President Nixon as his adviser on National Security in 1969, Mr. Kissinger has operated with the firm conviction that foreign policy in the nuclear age must be centralized in the Oval Office of the President. This he toiled with a small staff in the West Wing of the White House, orchestrating Richard Nixon's foreign policy.

But Henry Alfred Kissinger is by no means one of the faceless advisers the Nixon Administration has been noted for. He is one of the most sought after men in Washington, by ambassadors, by newsmen, by Congressmen, by many powerful men who want a direct channel to the President's ear—and especially by women.

A Cover-Story Subject

The 50-year-old bachelor with the German accent—he was born in Fürth on May 27, 1923—has been on cover after cover of magazines.

Whether in Washington, Paris, Peking, Moscow or Hollywood, he made the headlines—sometimes with news of Vietnam peace negotiations, sometimes with rumors of a new romance.

Now he is the President's choice to command the 12,000 people in the Department of State.

Mr. Kissinger, who will coordinate all foreign policy for the President, brings to his new role a brilliant record in foreign affairs.

The former Harvard professor, whose reputation as a theoretician of diplomacy was

little known outside the academic forum before he became a Presidential adviser, was the chief architect of the Vietnam peace agreement. Employing his industry, courtliness, wit, cunning and even conceit, he negotiated the opening of a new corridor with China and the rapprochement with the Soviet Union, including the crucial nuclear-arms agreement.

Consequently, he has become the most influential of the President's advisers, the most acrobatic of emissaries, the most polished and persuasive of his public spokesmen and a man only slightly tarnished by the Watergate scandal. In the Administration's hunt for national security leaks, Mr. Kissinger reportedly approved wiretaps on some of the members of his staff.

Mr. Kissinger, the son of middle-class Jewish parents, grew up in Germany while Nazism was on the rise. But he denies that his childhood might be a "key to anything — the political persecutions in my childhood are not what control my life."

Happy Years at Harvard

If he gives credit to what he is and where he is to anyone or anything, it is the happy years at Harvard, to the men who influenced him, to the philosophers he studied and to the 19-century balance-of-power diplomats, principally Castlereagh, Metternich and Bismarck, about whom he wrote.

Whatever the mold, the wholly unprepossessing Mr. Kissinger became a perfectionist, and an accomplished diplomat.

On one occasion a hard-working junior officer submitted for inspection a chapter he had written for one of the President's annual State of the World messages.