

KISSINGER PLANS MORE OPEN POLICY IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Promises Congress, State Department and Private Citizens Bigger Voice

MEETS WITH NEWSMEN

Several Senators Indicate Nominee Will Face Tough Questioning at Hearings

By JOHN HERBERS

Special to The New York Times

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., Aug. 23—Henry A. Kissinger, newly nominated to be Secretary of State, pledged today to carry out a more open foreign policy in which Congress, the State Department and private citizens would have a stronger voice.

"We must create a new consensus," he said at a news conference on the lawn of the Western White House one day after President Nixon announced

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that he would become Secretary while remaining chief White House adviser on national security.

The dual role, Mr. Kissinger said, will not be used to limit his testimony before Congress. On the contrary, he said, he will not use the doctrine of executive privilege to withhold information except where it pertains to conversations with the President and he will "expect to testify about all matters that Secretaries of State have traditionally testified."

In Washington, meanwhile, several senators suggested that Mr. Kissinger would face tougher questioning, in the hearings on his nomination, than initially indicated yesterday. [Details on Page 11.]

Mr. Kissinger, appearing relaxed and confident at an informal gathering with reporters, said he would use his new position to bring the initiatives that the Administration had

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Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State-designate, talking to reporters at the Western White House yesterday. Presidential assistant, Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., is at right. Associated Press

Kissinger Pledges a More Open Policy

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undertaken in the last four years into the permanent State Department bureaucracy. He said that he would work through Congress for a non-partisan policy now that the United States was out of the Vietnam war.

"In the first term of the President," Mr. Kissinger said in an opening statement, "many important and some revolutionary changes were made. These required, to considerable extent, secret diplomacy and they were conducted on a rather restricted basis.

"But now we are in a different phase. The foundations that have been laid must now lead to the building of a more permanent structure. What has been started is still very tender."

"What we are going to try to do," he said, "is to solidify what has been started, to put more emphasis on our relationship with Europe and Japan, and to conclude during the term of the President the building of a structure that we can pass on to succeeding administrations so that the world will be a safer place when they take over."

Broad Consensus Sought

Mr. Kissinger made it clear that what he would seek to end, the divisions caused by the Vietnam war, repair the damage inflicted to the Administration by the Watergate scandals in the past and create a broad consensus for the policy initiatives now under way.

There was no hint of dramatic new initiatives.

As to Watergate and the Vietnam war, he said, "There is no question if the divisions in a country grow too deep and, then the conduct of foreign policy will be affected, and then people will have to decide whether the issues on which they are being divided are worth it."

He said that the changes in the world and the Administration's stress on the need for adequate defense budgets on the one hand and its negotiating for limitation of arms on the other required "a complexity of thought and a sophistication on the part of the American public that was not called for in the nineteen hundred forties and nineteen hundred fifties."

Support Is Sought

"We have the legacy of a war that bitterly divided Americans and that has to be healed," he said. "Therefore, one of the prime objectives of the Administration will have to be to create a consensus in which the American people and the American Congress can understand and will support the necessity of carrying on adequate defense programs and disarmament negotiations."

"We have to create a new consensus which can give a new impetus and a new excitement to our foreign policy for the next decade or two," he said.

On the purpose of his dual role as both Secretary and White House assistant, Mr. Kis-

singer said: "The purpose of combining the two positions is, as the President pointed out yesterday, an attempt to move policy-making from the White House into the department, and therefore, to make it more accessible to Congressional and public scrutiny."

More Testimony Likely

He said Mr. Nixon with whom he conferred this morning, asked him to say that executive privilege against testifying would be used only with respect to conversations with the President.

"In addition," he said, "I would feel it appropriate to testify about those interdepartmental matters with respect to which I spoke informally previously to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The practical consequences of it will be that more information will be available to the Congressional committees than before."

Asked how his being a Jew might affect American policy in the Middle East, Mr. Kissinger said:

"I am asked to conduct the foreign policy of the United States, and I will conduct the foreign policy of the United States regardless of religion and national heritage. There is no other country in the world in which a man of my background could be considered for an office such as the one for which I have been nominated, and that imposes on me a very grave responsibility which I will pursue in the national interest."