

Kissinger Pledges Hill Role

Foreign Policy 'Partnership' Is Outlined

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SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., Aug. 23 — Secretary of State-designate Henry A. Kissinger said today that President Nixon and he intend to create "a new and full partnership with the Congress" in the conduct of foreign policy.

Kissinger flourished olive branches to Congress, the public and the State Department in his first press conference since President Nixon nominated him Wednesday to replace William P. Rogers as Secretary of State.

Seizing an initiative for national reconciliation, Kissinger said, "Now that the Vietnamese war is behind us," the "major source of division in the country about foreign policy" is gone. Now is the time, he said, to establish "a new consensus" on America's role in the world. If this can be accomplished, said Kissinger, "I believe that the effect of Watergate on the conduct of foreign policy can be minimized."

Addressing himself particularly to Congress, where the Senate must confirm or reject his nomination as secretary, Kissinger said, "the intention of the President, and my intention is to establish a new and full partnership with the Congress in developing policies which are in the national interest . . ."

This approach would represent a marked departure from the angry tone that President Nixon has taken in recent weeks toward an increasingly rebellious Congress that has overridden his culminating strategy for the Indochina war, and that has been moving to curb his war powers and to place a tighter rein on his presidential authority in the wake of the Watergate scandals.

Just Monday the President, still bristling over the congress-

sionally imposed halt in American bombing support for Cambodia, assailed what he called "many—in the House and Senate" who he said want the United States to "cop out" on "our present responsibilities in the world."

Kissinger told newsmen that he spoke with the President just before meeting with them on the lawn of the presidential compound here today. He said President Nixon "asked me to say that executive privilege will not be invoked" by Kissinger, except on limited grounds in the new and unusual dual function that Kissinger would have as Secretary of State and as the continuing presidential adviser on national security affairs.

It is the President's intention, said Kissinger, "to increase the information available to Congress," not to decrease it.

Executive privilege is the most divisive issue between the Congress and the President in the Watergate investigation, centering on the President's refusal to release tape recordings of conversations with his advisers.

Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield (Mont.) and other members of Congress immediately raised questions about the executive privilege problem involving Kissinger when President Nixon announced that Kissinger will be both Secretary of State and a presidential adviser.

Kissinger said today that he spoke by telephone yesterday with all members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, of which Mansfield is a

See KISSINGER, A6, Col. 1

KISSINGER, From A1

member, and with key members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, about his approach to the intended double post.

The purpose of combining the two positions, Kissinger said today, "as the President pointed out yesterday," is "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."

Kissinger said the powerful National Security Council staff, which he directs, will continue to operate on an "interdepartmental" basis, but with "a greater exchange between the State Department and the National Security Council staff and personnel."

In appearances before congressional committees, said Kissinger, he would speak on all matters on which "secretaries of State have traditionally testified."

"In addition," said Kissinger, "I would feel it appro-

priate to testify about those interdepartmental matters with respect to which I spoke informally previously to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee," in private meetings at the home of Chairman J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.) or later in informal meetings at the Capitol.

"I would not be able," Kissinger said, "to testify about personal conversations between the President and myself, or about direct advice I gave to the President, but I could not testify with respect to this in any event, and no Cabinet member is ever asked to testify with respect to conversations he has had with the President."

Kissinger said "the practical consequences," therefore, "will be that more information will be available to the congressional committees than before."

The often-discussed and postponed new trip by Kissinger to Peking, he told reporters, is still planned, but "the date now has to be subject to Senate confirmation" and "we expect to set a date soon after my confirmation has been achieved."

Earlier this summer, the prospect of gaining China's support on a peace settlement for Cambodia, with perhaps a meeting in Peking between Kissinger and deposed Cambo-

dian Prince Norodom Sihanouk, was high on Kissinger's Peking agenda. Sihanouk, however, said Kissinger earlier spurned overtures to meet with him and that now it was "too late."

More recently the timing of a Kissinger visit to Peking appears to have been delayed by internal preoccupations of China's leaders.

Kissinger was cautious to not slam doors today on a meeting with Sihanouk as head of the Cambodian insurgent government in exile. Kissinger replied rather mildly to Sihanouk's charge in Peking early this week that President Nixon lied when he said Sihanouk acquiesced in the secret American B-52 bombing of Cambodia, from March, 1969, to April, 1970.

Sihanouk "has a rather difficult position right now," said Kissinger, for "the people that are now supporting him inside Cambodia" include men "he had sentenced to death for treason a few years previously, and therefore we have to understand the delicacy of his position."

Kissinger said he is certain the Senate will want to explore further the B-52 bombing dispute. But with the congressional decision to cut off all bombing in Cambodia on Aug. 15, Kissinger said, negotiations on ending the war there

now depend primarily on the Cambodians and are not tied "inevitably to my trip to Peking..."

In his public appearance today with the mantle of Secretary of State poised over his shoulders, Kissinger was beaming, relaxed and proud.

He said the President "has done me a great honor to nominate me for a position that was held by such great Americans as Secretary Stimson, George Marshall, Dean Acheson, John Foster Dulles," all of whom believed "that the foreign policy of the United States is not a partisan matter..."

Kissinger, who is German-born and of Jewish heritage, faced an inevitable question: "How do you plan to put to rest the apprehensions that have been expressed by some Arab leaders about your family heritage and how that might affect our policy in the Middle East?"

He replied, "There is no other country in the world in which a man of my back-

ground 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." Kissinger said, "I will conduct the foreign policy of the United States regardless of religious and national heritage."

Toward future colleagues in the State Department, who look on his nomination with a mixture of apprehension or hopes that it may mark the end of a period of subordinated humiliation, Kissinger accentuated hope.

He told the newsmen, "You wouldn't believe me if I said anything else" than "that there is an institutional problem when there is a strong White House operation" and what he called, with unaccustomed charity, "a strong Secretary of State, which is one reason why we have combined these operations."

Kissinger said Secretary Rogers operated "with enormous dignity, grace, wisdom, and above all, humanity" to minimize "difficulties which are inherent" in such a combination.

Now, said Kissinger, the circumstances that required, "to considerable extent, secret diplomacy" for the breakthrough in relations with China and other innovations, are changed. A new situation, he said, "requires that there will be a greater institutionalization of foreign policy than has been the case up to now. One of the challenges in going to the State Department will be the ability now to work with the great professionals

in the Foreign Service who will be here after this administration has left..."

Kissinger noted that "about 70 per cent of my staff has been composed of Foreign

Service officers" and "now that the entire Foreign Service can be brought more closely into the operation, we should get even more momentum behind our foreign

policy."

He said he will maintain an office in the White House "on interdepartmental matters and on being available to the President."