

Schlesinger Denies a Split Over Arms Talks

Washington

Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger said yesterday "there is no problem" with the U.S. military impeding progress toward further U.S.-Soviet agreement to limit nuclear weapons.

"I think we have firm civilian control," Schlesinger said at a Pentagon news conference. "There is no problem with regard to our military personnel."

Schlesinger made the comment when asked about a remark by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in Moscow suggesting that both the United States and Russia must "convince their military establishment of the need

for restraint" on growth of missiles and nuclear weaponry.

Meeting newsmen side by side with Director Fred C. Ikle of the U.S. Disarmament Agency, Schlesinger attempted to dispel reports of a split within the administration on the U.S. approach on the strategic arms limitation talks in Moscow.

"There was an understanding across this administration of a general approach" that President Nixon and Kissinger would take, Schlesinger said.

But this left open the idea that the Pentagon, as has been reported, did not know what specific options the

President would exercise in his face-to-face meeting with Communist party chairman Leonid Brezhnev.

"I fully endorse what has taken place in Moscow," Schlesinger said, and he labeled as "significant" the agreements on limiting underground nuclear test explosions and a further cut-back in anti-missile defenses.

"Anything that can sustain this dialogue is a desirable development," Schlesinger said.

Ikle said that arms control developments move slowly. "They grow slowly, a bit like trees.

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