

# Kissinger Assures India That C.I.A. Won't Interfere

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NEW DELHI, Oct. 30 — Secretary of State Kissinger bluntly assured India today that the Central Intelligence Agency would not interfere in the political situation here.

Mr. Kissinger, ending a three-day visit to New Delhi, said at a news conference: "I reject the implication that the United States is engaged on a systematic basis in undermining any government, and, particularly, constitutional governments. Exactly the opposite is true."

In making the comments before departing for Bangladesh, Mr. Kissinger sought to ease the persistent and expressed fears of Indian politicians, including Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, that the C.I.A. was bent on subverting India. American officials here have termed the fears obsessive and Mr. Kissinger was questioned several times about the agency as well as United States involvement in the coup.

A year later, American newspapers reported that the director of the intelligence agency, William E. Colby, had told Congress that the Nixon Administration had authorized more than \$8-million for covert activities by the agency in Chile between 1970 and 1973 in an effort to prevent the election of Salvador Allende Gossens as President after he was elected anyway, to make it impossible for him to govern.

Dr. Allende died in the 1973 coupe.

Asked by several Communist newsmen about United States involvement in the coups in Chile, and last summer in Cyprus, Mr. Kissinger replied: "The United States did not foment the overthrow of a constitutional government in Chile. That has been made sufficiently plain by the President. Secondly, the United States had nothing whatever to do with the coup in Cyprus. This is simply repeating totally unfounded propaganda.

"Thirdly, the United States is not engaged, directly or indirectly in any attempt to influence the domestic situation in India."

Mr. Kissinger added: "It has not authorized such a program, it is not engaged in such a program and it has repeatedly pointed out that if any of its officials should ever be caught in unauthorized action, we would take strong measures."

'New Page' Turned

Mr. Kissinger's visit to India has been widely applauded by Indian and American officials. The Secretary relaxed and seemingly cheerful at a crowded government auditorium, said that "a new page" had been turned in Indian-American relations.

"In terms of the purpose that we set ourselves, which was to establish a basis for a new and mature relationship, I consider the trip completely successful," Mr. Kissinger said.

He flew from here to Dacca, Bangladesh, on a trip that will also take him to Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Europe and the Middle East.

Mr. Kissinger's visit, at the behest of the Indian Government and his first time here in three years, was largely designed to lift relations between India and the United States. Resentments linger here over Washington's support for Pakistan before and during the 1971 war that resulted in the creation of Bangladesh.

Also, many Indians view the \$10-billion in United States economic assistance to India in the nineteen-sixties as a symbol of dependence and a source of American political leverage here.

## Americans See Hostility

Americans often contend that the Indian Government has been hostile to the United States in recent years and has spent too much time lecturing and criticizing successive United States Administrations while ignoring repressive tactics of the Soviet Union, such as crackdowns on dissidents.

Moreover, Indian comments that the United States seeks to exploit India's poverty politically and economically have soured the relationship and annoyed Americans.

Mr. Kissinger said today, while discussing food aid to India, "I think one of the aspects of the relationship that is developing now between India and the United States is that we can talk to each other free of complexes.

"One of the complexes that has affected our relationship in the past has been who was asking whom for what. And secondly, whether the United States was doing anybody a

favor by extending aid.

"Let me say first of all that when the United States undertakes a certain measure, with respect to India or any other country, it does so in its own interest as well as the interest of the other country."

## Decision on Food Awaited

Mr. Kissinger said that a "final judgment" on food aid for India would be made when he returned to Washington next month. Current estimates are that India will receive about 500,000 tons of food at preferential prices within the next few months. Indian sources said that by next summer the total of new American food aid might reach one million tons.

On other issues, Mr. Kissinger, who spoke with newsmen more than 30 minutes, conceded that there was "an absence of identity of views" on the establishment of a United States naval base on the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia, about 1,000 miles south of India.

He declined to discuss the possibility of lifting or relaxing the United States embargo on the supply of weapons to Pakistan.

"I do not think it is appropriate for me to make statements that affect other countries on the subcontinent while I'm in New Delhi," Mr. Kissinger said.