

# Kissinger Said to Feel He

By Robert C. Toth  
Los Angeles Times

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger is understood to believe the fourth White House "plumbers" operation was aimed in part at him, and that John D. Ehrlichman and H. R. (Bob) Haldeman were out to get him then as well as at other times.

The fourth, and last known, plumbers operation in the White House was an inquiry into leaks of highly secret information from Kissinger's National Security Council to columnist Jack Anderson in December, 1971.

Kissinger's prior work for New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller made him suspect by former domestic affairs adviser Ehrlichman and former chief of staff Haldeman from the first. It became a particular concern when Kissinger's prestige began to rival Mr. Nixon's for his foreign policy accomplishments, and because of his independence and frequent contacts with the press.

Supporting Kissinger's belief, it also has been learned the White House plumbers attempted to investigate the staff of the National Security Council in early 1972 but gave up when Alexander M. Haig Jr., then Kissinger's deputy, immediately threatened to resign.

Kissinger, traveling at the time, fully backed Haig, and the matter was never raised again by David R. Young Jr., co-director of the plumbers, or his boss, Ehrlichman.

Reports of the fourth plumbers operation came in the wake of disclosures that unauthorized information from the NSC had been passed to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The report that Kissinger believes Ehrlichman and Haldeman were trying to discredit him is the first indication of a continuous internal power struggle between the two top aides of the President and Kissinger until Ehrlichman and Haldeman resigned over the Watergate affair.

At the time of the fourth plumbers operation Kissinger was told directly by Ehrlichman to stay out of internal security investigations which came under Ehrlichman's direction as top presidential aide through whom the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported.

Kissinger knew Ehrlichman was conducting the inquiry into the leaks on the Indo-Pakistani war to columnist Anderson but the first knowledge Kissinger had of it was when he listened to the tape of the interrogation of Adm. Robert

O. Welander, the Joint Chiefs of Staff liaison on his staff.

Welander went to Haig and volunteered that he believed his yeoman, Charles S. Radford, was the source of the news leaks. (Radford has denied he leaked any information.) Referred to acknowledged under questioning that he and the yeoman had been doing a "thorough ferreting job," as one source said, of NSC activities for the joint chiefs, but Welander did not believe this was at all improper.

Playing the tape for Kissinger was unavoidable since Welander technically was attached to Kissinger's staff. Kissinger ended the JCS liaison office as a result.

Kissinger's name has been brought into the plumber scandal because Young, who had been his aide and who remained on his NSC payroll while working for Ehrlichman, conducted the taped interview with Welander.

At that point, in December or January, Kissinger is said to have technically known that national security matters, even though he knew nothing of the plumbers group, by that or any other name, according to three sources with intimate knowledge of the situation.

However, when asked about Young during his Senate confirmation hearings last September, Kissinger said twice that he did not know Young was "concerned with internal security matters."

The question put to him was whether he had any idea Young was engaged in "illegal activities" associated with the plumbers—such as their role in the break-in of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office in September, 1971—and Kissinger denied knowledge of "any such activities" by Young.

But he added, in the same context, that he did not know Young was concerned with internal security matters. He did not tell the senators that he knew Young interrogated Welander.

Friends explain his disclaimers as "overkill on Henry's part," and contend it was a minor lapse by a very busy man. Kissinger has now offered to appear before two Senate committees if they have questions on the matter.

Ehrlichman, under indictment and awaiting trial for his alleged part in the Ellsberg burglary, is understood to believe that Kissinger knew six months before he heard the tape of the admiral being interrogated that Young was involved in internal security matters.

Kissinger has flatly denied

this, claiming he only knew that Young went to work for Ehrlichman on a documents declassification study.

The chronology of events that transpired, learned from several persons directly involved, came against the background of personal animosities, suspicions and loyalties, as well as extremely secret negotiations with China and the Soviet Union and a South Asia crisis which was viewed as a potential big-power confrontation.

Young, then 32, joined Kissinger as appointments secretary in January, 1970. Young did not do well as appointments secretary by all accounts and a year later he was assigned to work in the files. In June, 1971, while Kissinger was in China on the first secret trip, Young transferred to Ehrlichman's staff (but remained on the NSC payroll, which was bigger than Ehrlichman's Domestic Council payroll) to work on declassification procedures.

When Kissinger returned, he was reportedly furious at Ehrlichman for hiring Young away—not that Kissinger wanted to retain him but because it seemingly was done surreptitiously.

On July 15, Mr. Nixon announced he would visit China and, greatly elated, took Ehrlichman, Kissinger and Haldeman to dinner at Perino's restaurant in Los Angeles. It was on the helicopter trip back to San Clemente afterward that Young came up in a conversation between Ehrlichman and Kissinger.

One published report, in The New York Times, claims the four men "discussed the plumbers' operation on the helicopter ... and it was agreed to reassigning Young" to aid Egil (Bud) Krogh Jr., then the director of the plumbers.

Ehrlichman, according to sources, contends that at this point Kissinger learned that Young would be involved in internal security matters but



agrees Kissinger never knew of the plumbers.

Kissinger, according to sources, maintains that no investigations even remotely associated with the plumbers was discussed at any point with him, but that the one acrimonious exchange between him and Ehrlichman on Young may have occurred during the helicopter ride. It dealt with Ehrlichman's "pirating" of Young, however, not his activities, it was said.

The plumbers then embarked on their various investigations including that of the publication of the Pentagon Papers and a leak to the press on the U.S. position in the strategic arms talks.

The plumbers also investigated a published story hinting that the United States had an informer high in the Indian government. No resolution of this is known, but it laps over into the plumbers' fourth White House operation—looking into the leaks on Indo-Pakistani discussions in the NSC

to columnist Anderson in December, 1971.

Suspicious had been aroused before then that Anderson was getting top-secret information, but this became unequivocal in December when Anderson published several verbatim accounts of meetings of NSC's Washington Special Action Group.

Among other things, Anderson quoted Kissinger as saying that the President wanted U.S. policy to "tilt" more toward Pakistan, that Kissinger was getting "hell every half hour" from Mr. Nixon for not implementing presidential wishes faster.

All this time, said one source, the United States was trying to persuade India to call a cease-fire.

All told, said one highly knowledgeable source, these leaks compromised American efforts, revealed the source of its intelligence information, and inflamed the situation which, rightly or wrongly, the

White House feared could lead to a Soviet-China War.

Kissinger and Haig reportedly knew that Ehrlichman was conducting an investigation into the leaks. They believed he was following the normal practice of having the FBI look into it with a member of his staff.

Then, Welander walked into Haig's office one day while Kissinger was traveling and said he was reasonably confident, after reviewing the leaked material, that it could only have come from his liaison office and from Yeoman Radford.

Welander also told Haig that his liaison office had been carrying National Security Council minutes back to the Pentagon. Haig sent Welander to Ehrlichman's office and the Welander-Young interview resulted.

Ehrlichman then invited Kissinger, and later Haig, to hear the taped interrogation of Welander by Young. This

There were key periods when, Kissinger is said to feel, White House press secretary Ronald Ziegler avoided public statements of support for Kissinger as if the White House was preparing to dump him.

One period was for about five weeks during the height of the Indo-Pakistan war after Anderson leaks began.

Another was a three-month period in late 1972 (after Kissinger, that October, said, "peace is at hand" in South Vietnam only to have negotiations fall apart).

Kissinger has told friends that he expected to be made the election-year scapegoat if the peace agreement had not been reached.



# Was a Target of 'Plumbers'



By Margaret Thomas—The Washington Post

**MIDEAST BRIEFING**—Secretary of State Henry Kissinger briefs ambassadors and charges of affairs of NATO alliance countries on latest Mideast trip.

was Kissinger's first knowledge, Kissinger has maintained, that Young was doing anything other than the declassification study for Ehrlichman.

Even then, Kissinger has maintained, the most he could have made of Young's involvement was that Young was Ehrlichman's staff man riding herd on the FBI investigation of the Anderson leaks.

Some weeks after Kissinger and Haig heard the Welander-Young tape, Young called Haig and said Ehrlichman and he (Young) were going to investigate the National Security Council staff.

Haig replied hotly that Young could tell Ehrlichman and the President himself, if necessary, that if such an investigation began, he would submit his resignation.

Haig then asked Young what the hell this was all about. Young replied that he was instructed not to talk to Haig about the subject.

There that particular investigation aborted.

To Kissinger, if not to others, sources said, this was another attempt to get him—the Rockefeller man, the rocketing star of the administration who was getting too much glory at Mr. Nixon's expense.