

SF Examiner
JUN 23 1974
Jackson

says Russ given deal on missiles

By Thomas B. Ross
Chicago Sun-Times

WASHINGTON — Sen. Henry M. Jackson charged that the Nixon administration has entered a secret agreement giving the Soviet Union a "rather startling" new advantage in missiles.

Jackson, D-Wash., said yesterday that changes were made in the 1972 Strategic Arms Limitation accord — reportedly allowing the Russians an extra 124-missile lead — without notification to Congress.

Secretary of State Kissinger promptly responded: "Such views must be based on some misapprehension of the negotiations." Spokesman Robert Anderson yesterday declared the reports to be "totally without merit or any foundation whatsoever."

"There are no secret agreements of any kind," he said, adding that "it is regrettable that this office sus-

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A secret deal with Russians?

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picion has been raised just before the President's trip to Moscow."

But Jackson insisted his statement was based on "reliable and creditable information." The Chicago Sun-Times learned that Paul H. Nitze, who resigned last week as chief Pentagon representative on the arms negotiating team, testified about the private agreement Friday.

Nitze reportedly told Jackson's arms control subcommittee that he found out there was a secret agreement, not from Kissinger, but from Russian weapons negotiators in Geneva.

Jackson said he was unable to get any information about the changed levels from Nitze or other high-ranking witnesses because they did not know. He did not disclose the source of his figures but said he hoped to shed some light on the situation tomorrow.

Subcommittee sources said the secret agreement allowed the Russians 1,020 sea-based missiles as opposed to 656 for the United States. The formal accord made public during President Nixon's last summit meeting in Moscow in 1972. At that time the agreement authorized 950 missiles for

the Russians and 710 for the United States.

The agreement reportedly also involved an increase in the number of offensive missile silos permitted the Soviets.

Though the additional silos were intended to house command posts, some American experts fear they could be used to install additional offensive missiles since there is no way to verify what is in the silos.

Reliable sources reported that Kissinger made no mention of the issue in his testimony last week to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Friends of Kissinger reportedly appealed to Jackson last week to call off his hearings.

Jackson, a critic of the administration's policy toward the Soviet Union, went ahead anyway and heard from Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.