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**Nixon Says
He Directed
Wiretapping**

By Marilyn Berger

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President Nixon has told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and others involved in the wiretapping of national security aides and newsmen "were operating under my specific authority and were carrying out my express orders."

The President's remarks were in a letter dated July 12 that went to Committee Chairman J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.) who released the text yesterday.

The letter, written in response to a request from Fulbright, also affirmed that Kissinger's testimony before the committee on the wiretapping issue "is entirely correct." Remarks from various members yesterday indicated that the committee's hearings are likely to result in the new vote of confidence that Kissinger was seeking when he requested the inquiry.

"The President's letter is just as positive as it can be," said Sen. John J. Sparkman (D-Ala.).

Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.) said: "It is very clear to me that Dr. Kissinger did what he did under instructions. It was very clear it was not Dr. Kissinger's idea."

Sen. Clifford Case (R-N.J.) said the new evidence did nothing to change his earlier assessment. "It has always been clear to me that there was a general consensus among the President, Hoover and Kissinger on how to proceed."

Asked whether he had heard anything that would make him reconsider the decision to confirm Kissinger, Sen. George Aiken (R-Vt.) said, "Hell, no."

Fulbright took the position that it is premature to make a decision on whether to give Kissinger a clean bill of health, but the trend was clear. Any discrepancies that might exist between Kissinger's testimony before the committee and FBI data, Fulbright said, are "not of any great substance." Even given the accuracy of the allegations of discrepancies, Fulbright said, "they are not of overwhelming significance."

Kissinger requested the re-
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KISSINGER, From A1

view following reports that FBI documents named him as the initiator of the wiretaps on 13 officials and four newsmen. This contradicted his testimony that he had not initiated the taps but had supplied names of persons with access to classified materials. At a press conference in Salzburg, Austria on June 11, Kissinger said it was not possible to conduct the foreign policy of the United States when "the character and credibility of the Secretary of State is at issue." If the matter were not cleared up, he said, "I will resign."

The Nixon letter was released following the second in the series of hearings the committee is holding at Kissinger's request. Yesterday, FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley and two other FBI officials, Thomas J. Smith, an inspector in the intelligence division, and James B. Adams, deputy associate director, went over details of the wiretapping operation with committee members.

Kissinger himself is scheduled to testify on July 23 and Alexander M. Haig, Mr. Nixon's chief of staff and former deputy to Kissinger, is to appear on July 30. Today Bernard Wells, who was an aide

to William Sullivan, the No. 3 man in the FBI, is to testify. Sullivan, who recently had a heart attack, has agreed to respond to questions in writing.

In his letter to Fulbright, Mr. Nixon reaffirmed his statement of May 22, 1973, in which he said he had authorized the wiretap program. In addition, the President outlined what he called the national security problems involved.

"You appreciate, I am sure," he wrote, "the crucial importance of secrecy in negotiations with foreign countries. Without secret negotiations and essential confidentiality, the United States could not have secured a cease-fire in South Vietnam, opened relations with the People's Republic of China, or realized progress in our relations on the SALT negotiations with the Soviet Union."

Mr. Nixon said he had already explained, in his May 22 speech, circumstances that led to his decision to investigate leaks of sensitive information. He added in his letter: "I ordered the use of the most effective investigative procedures possible, including wiretaps; to deal with certain critically important national security problems. Where supporting evidence was available, I personally directed the sur-

veillance, including wiretapping, of specific individuals."

The president gave full backing to Kissinger's testimony "to the effect that he performed the function, at my request, of furnishing information about individuals within investigative categories that I established so that an appropriate and effective investigation could be conducted in each case."

Fulbright suggested that the entire issue about Kissinger's role in the wiretapping was "a tempest in a teapot," calling the issue one of "relative insignificance."

The press, he said, was standing around like people at the guilloitne, waiting for a head to roll. "I wonder," Fulbright ventured, "if people are getting at the policy of detente (between the Soviet Union and the United States) by getting at Dr. Kissinger." Fulbright said: "There is a great deal of criticism of Kissinger and the policy of detente . . . You wonder if it isn't part of the effort to discredit detente . . . If it is not a drive to unseat Kissinger by some important people" in the Senate and the Pentagon.

Asked whether he meant Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger, Fulbright responded: "Yes, and others . . ."