

KISSINGER BACKED ON WIRETAP ISSUE

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Haig, Former Deputy, Tells Senate Panel He Supports Account by Secretary

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 30—
Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr.,
the White House chief of staff,
told the Senate Foreign Rela-
tions Committee today that he
supported Secretary of State
Kissinger's account of the wire-
tapping of 17 officials and
newsmen from 1969 to 1971.

The committee, before which
General Haig testified for three
hours in closed sessions, con-
cluded its hearings into
whether Mr. Kissinger had mis-
led the panel last September on
the extent of his participation
in the wiretapping.

Senator J. W. Fulbright,
Democrat of Arkansas, who is
the committee chairman, told
newsmen that the panel would
issue a report in about 10 days.
The report is expected, from
the comments of committee
members, to clear Mr. Kissin-
ger of any allegations that he
lied to the panel at his con-
firmation hearings in Septem-
ber.

On June 11, at an emotional
news conference in Salzburg,
Austria, Mr. Kissinger, angered
by press reports based on Fed-
eral Bureau of Investigation
documents, threatened to quit
unless his reputation was
cleared by the Foreign Rela-
tions Committee.

President Cited

The main point of contention
arose from Mr. Kissinger's in-
sistence to the committee last
fall and in numerous news con-
ferences that the wiretap pro-
gram was ordered by President
Nixon in 1969 to stop leaks of
national security information to
the press.

The Secretary has said that
he only supplied names of those
with access to leaked data,
whose security files contained
damaging information, or whose
names arose in the course of an
investigation of others.

In memos written by the late
J. Edgar Hoover, who was di-
rector of the F.B.I. at the time
of the taps, Mr. Kissinger was
described as having "initiated"

some the surveillance. This
seemed to contradict Mr. Kis-
singer's statement that he had
never "initiated" taps.

Mr. Fulbright said this after-
noon that this "semantic" dif-
ference may never be fully re-
solved. He said that Mr.
Kissinger had meant that he
did not "initiate" the wiretap
program but that by supplying
names of those in certain cate-
gories to the F.B.I., he may, in
individual cases, have in effect
"initiated" some taps.

Symington Comment

Senator Stuart Symington,
Democrat of Missouri, told
newsmen that General Haig
had supported Mr. Kissinger's
account of the events. At the
time of the taps, General Haig
was Mr. Kissinger's deputy on
the National Security Council
staff and handled details of the
taps in liaison with the F.B.I.

"In this mess, Kissinger and
Haig come out very well," Mr.
Symington said, "in the sense
that any taps were not origi-
nated by them but at a higher
authority."

Mr. Nixon has submitted a
letter to the committee stating
that he had full responsibility
for the taps and that Mr. Kis-
singer's previous testimony to
the committee was "entirely
correct."

Mr. Kissinger testified in
close session before the Senate
Appropriations Committee this
morning on the State Depart-
ment budget and gave members
a general review of the inter-
national situation.

Afterward, he was asked
whether the impeachment proc-
eedings against Mr. Nixon were
damaging American foreign
policy activity. He answered
that they were not, but then
added that "when the central
authority of a great power is
questioned, it must affect for-
eign policy in some manner,
and it must be our concern
to conduct foreign policy to
the extent possible on a bi-
partisan basis."