

Kissinger Asked to Clarify Stand Of U.S. on Human Rights in Chile

House Subcommittee Chairman Cites Secretary's Reported Rebuke of Envoy on Issue of Torture

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 27— Representative Donald M. Fraser, a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, today called for Secretary of State Kissinger to meet with a group of House members to clarify the Ford Administration's position of human rights in Chile.

Mr. Fraser, chairman of the international organizations and movements subcommittee, said in a telephone interview that he initiated his call for a meeting after learning of Mr. Kissinger's reported rebuke of the United States Ambassador in Santiago.

The New York Times reported today that Mr. Kissinger had become angered on learning that the Ambassador, David H. Popper, had discussed torture and other human rights matters at a meeting on military aid with Chilean officials on July 22. "Tell Popper to cut out the political science lectures," the Secretary reportedly scrawled on an official State Department cablegram summarizing the Popper remarks.

"I find it outrageous—incredible," the Minnesota Democrat said of Mr. Kissinger's action. "I'm beginning to wonder how long the Secretary's usefulness to his country will continue."

Kissinger's View

The State Department spokesman, Robert Anderson, today refused to discuss the specifics of The Times's dispatch, but he told newsmen that Mr. Kissinger "considers it a disgrace to the Foreign Service when members of the Foreign Service leak classified information."

"On the general question of human rights," Mr. Anderson added, "the Secretary's concern for human rights questions is very well established."

Mr. Kissinger has repeatedly told newsmen who cover the State Department of his deep concern for human rights stemming, he says, from his youth in Nazi Germany. But publicly making an issue of such concerns, he has said, can be counterproductive.

In Congressional testimony on Soviet Jews, Mr. Kissinger has said that he does not favor linking that issue to the question of foreign aid for the Soviet Union. Similarly, State Department officials have explained that Mr. Kissinger's rebuke of Mr. Popper was based not on the substance of the Ambassador's discussions but on the fact that he chose to bring up human rights issues during a discussion of military aid.

Says He's Astonished

In the interview, Representative Fraser said that he had learned a few months ago of Ambassador Popper's private efforts to raise the human rights issues whenever possible in his talks with Chilean officials.

"I'm not complaining about the fact that it's being done quietly at the ambassadorial level," Mr. Fraser said. "What astonished me was that he was rebuked by the Secretary for doing it that way."

"In effect," he said "the Secretary of State has dressed down the Ambassador raising the human rights issue."

Mr. Fraser said that State Department officials indicated today that a meeting with Mr. Kissinger would be arranged within a week or two.

"We want that meeting," he said, "in order to get a very clear statement from the Secretary as to whether he's going to carry out the provisions in the foreign assistance act."

Under that act, as approved by Congress last year, the Administration's aid grant to Chile was dependent on the Administration's assurance that it would request the Chilean Government to "protect the human rights of all individuals."

Mr. Fraser was one of 104 members of the Senate and House who signed a letter sent to Mr. Kissinger last week objecting to continued United States economic and military assistance "to foreign governments which are increasingly indifferent to internationally recognized human rights and deal with their own people in an increasingly oppressive manner."

Mr. Fraser, whose subcommittee has held more than 20 hearings on human rights in the last year, has already announced that he will offer amendments to the pending foreign aid bill to reduce or eliminate military aid to Chile next year.

In the interview, he also said that he would join with other liberals in offering amendments to the foreign aid bill and other appropriation legislation that would bar all covert activity by the Central Intelligence Agency.

A similar amendment offered Tuesday by Representative Elizabeth Holtzman, Democrat of Brooklyn, was defeated by a vote of 291 to 108.

Miss Holtzman said today that she also would continue to offer such amendments. "There's a tremendous feeling among a large number of members that this activity has to stop," she said in a telephone conversation. "We have no idea how much money is in the C.I.A. budget and no idea what it's for. This is an extraordinarily important issue if Congress is to keep control of the executive."