

Inside Henry Kissinger

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DR. HENRY A. KISSINGER arose to respond to a toast at a recent dinner party in his honor at the West German embassy and said, according to another guest at the table:

"I have been accused of megalomania. Actually I suffer from paranoia and the good thing about working in the government instead of the academic world is that I can have real enemies."

Thus in 32 words did President Nixon's chief national security affairs adviser sum himself up as a realist, a humorist, a psychologist and a philosopher.

In April, Kissinger went to Johns Hopkins University to lecture 60 graduate students at the school for Advanced International Studies. The students gave him a petition holding him "individually responsible" for the Vietnam war and he walked away from the rostrum in anger.

In May, a dozen of his former colleagues from Harvard, all of whom had served with distinction as consultants to previous administrations, went to the White House to lunch with Kissinger. It was a painful affair in which each of the academics voiced objection to Mr. Nixon's invasion of Cambodia and said they now saw their duty as strengthening Congress in its constitutional battles with the President. No longer, they implied, would they consult for the Executive Branch.

Later in May it became known that another five members of Kissinger's elite staff (which had suffered seriously from defections last year) were leaving him. Some were suffering a crisis of conscience over the way their boss — and his boss — were doing business — they were particularly disturbed over the decision to invade Cambodia although this was not necessarily what led all of them to resign.

Against this background Kissinger must decide, within the next six months, whether

he will remain in the White House or whether he will claim the lifetime tenure of a professorship of government at Harvard from which he took leave in February, 1969, to join the administration.

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AND SO, on the personal level as well as on the policy-making level, these are not easy times for Kissinger. Resting casually on a sofa in his office is the photograph of a determined veterinarian getting ready to inoculate a frightened bulldog.

Kissinger admired the photo at a recent exhibition from the Soviet Union and ambassador Anatoli F. Dobrynin gave it to him.

On the back the ambassador scrawled: "Henry. Don't be too serious. Take it easy. Relax. Anatol."

The inscription tells something about the relationship between Dobrynin and Kissinger, which could be important for the future of mankind. (It also tells something about what a perceptive man Dobrynin is.)

Except in rare moments, an outsider cannot talk to Kissinger without getting the impression that he is utterly relaxed. Dobrynin knows differently.

His staff knows him privately as a tense, taciturn individual with whom they have trouble communicating.

Publicly he can poke fun at himself as he did at the German embassy dinner. Privately he sometimes feels so put upon that he shouts at his staff members.

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WHEN KISSINGER took office, though he was an author of distinction on political science and a widely used consultant to various government departments, he was little known. Now he is an international celebrity, his name is a household word.

When he is seen in Washington's dimly lit Jockey Club or at the swank Rive Gauche dining with actress Jill St. John, Washingtonians who normally discuss politics or world affairs change the subject to discuss Kissinger's private life.

Kissinger is not at all unhappy about his fame. In fact, he appears to revel in it and to use it to enlarge his image as a "secret swinger" and Teutonic grey eminence.

He showed up at one dinner party carrying a manila envelope he would not let out of his sight. What is it?" other guests asked. "My advance copy of Playboy," Kissinger answered.

At a recent dinner, he combined both images. "A young lady friend of mine invited me to attend the Woodstock festival and I wanted to go," he said. "But I looked at my calendar and discovered I could not. The festival fell on Bismarck's birthday."

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KISSINGER CONFERRING WITH A DELEGATION OF STANFORD STUDENTS
 A realist, a humorist, a psychologist, a philosopher — and privately, tense and taciturn

KISSINGER'S staff men know their boss differently from the public. He is hardly a charmer to them nor does he always respect the great expertise for which he hired them in the first place.

He hired Richard L. Sneider, a career Foreign Service officer, to oversee the Vietnam war. Sneider, in doing his job, had great difficulty getting to see Kissinger.

"My most vivid recollection of Kissinger," a former member of his staff said, "is Dick Sneider sitting literally for hours outside Henry's office waiting to talk about Vietnam while Al Haig was inside with Henry talking about Vietnam."

Al Haig — Brigadier General Alexander M. Haig — is the one staff member upon whom Kissinger relies most. Haig was one of four military men nominated, one by each service, for a key job on Kissinger's staff. A former deputy commandant of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and a former

member of Robert S. McNamara's staff in the Pentagon, Haig knew how to make himself indispensable to Kissinger, and he did.

He arrives at work before Kissinger to prepare for the day and stays later to clean up. He has gathered under his wing responsibility for all the information that flows into the office. He is the man who briefs Kissinger. He represents the rest of the staff to their boss and when Kissinger has an order for any staff man, Haig transmits it. Haig sits in on all National Security council meetings and takes the minutes.

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KISSINGER has talked to several people recently about returning to the academic life. But there could be problems.

When Kissinger took office it appeared that he would advise Mr. Nixon on how to liquidate the war. Instead many of his academic friends think he has helped to widen it. Kissinger himself, in January, 1969, thought Mr. Nixon would be able to settle the war

within two years. Now, as the possibilities for a quick settlement grow dim and as the controversy over the Cambodia decision continues to rage, Kissinger has been brooding privately about the destruction of his own standing among the intelligentsia.

He is disappointed that the President has never been able to gain the support of the American people for his policies. And without that support, he feels, a negotiated settlement to the war is rendered far more difficult.