

JACK ANDERSON

Silence Imposed On China Trip

WASHINGTON — President Nixon has imposed strict silence throughout the government on the subject of China.

He doesn't want some windy Colonel Blimp to sound off against Red China and cause the Chinese to cancel the trip. The President fears the Chinese, conditioned by decades of distrust of the outside world, might take some U.S. official's steam-blowing as the official word from Washington.

Indeed, this is the way Peking sends out signals. A statement by some minor Chinese official is often intended to let the world know what the government is thinking.

THE PRESIDENT issued the gag order through his national security adviser, Henry Kissinger, who passed the word to government departments. They were instructed not to talk to newsmen about China.



A ny official JACK ANDERSON word, they were told, would be put out by the State Department.

The hardest to hush up are the military brass who are grumbling that the Nixon administration has sold out Chiang Kai-shek.

To shut them up Defense Secretary Mel Laird directed his information chief, Asst. Secretary Dan Henkin, to prepare an edict in language the

son creates 160 gallons of waste a year.

brass would understand. The edict, of course, was stamped "For Official Use Only."

"There will be no public or press comment whatsoever," it declares, "by any Department of Defense officials on the subject of U.S.-Chinese foreign policy matters, diplomatic relations or possible future military relations. The Secretary of State has issued the U.S. government's policy statement on the subject, and it is the intention of the Department of Defense that all public comment on the matter be handled by appropriate Department of State officials."

THE STERN ORDER says all queries from the press on China must be "referred immediately" to Henkin. He will coordinate responses, "If any, with the Department of State." Any statements issued by the Pentagon must be sanitized "for consistency with the Secretary of State's policy statement."

Under heavy pressure from the boating industry, the Environmental Protection Agency may well have imposed rules...