

India War Strategy

Kissinger's Tough

By William McGaffin

WASHINGTON — (CDN) — Presidential assistant Henry A. Kissinger reprimanded, on President Nixon's behalf, a high State Department official who ventured an argument about the pro-Pakistan U.S. policy being followed during the India-Pakistan war.

This is one of the additional secrets that now can be revealed demonstrating the pro-Pakistan policy the administration was following in private at a time that it publicly was proclaiming its "strict neutrality" in the conflict.

The reprimand was delivered during an exchange between Kissinger and Samuel DePalma, assistant secretary of state.

Their dialog is contained in the "secret sensitive" text of a meeting of the National Security Council's Washington Special Action Group, made available by syndicated columnist Jack Anderson.

CIA Chief Quoted

The meeting in the White House "situation room" began with a comment by Richard M. Helms, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, that the Indians have begun their "no holds barred" offensive in East Pakistan.

He also observed that "Moscow is supporting Delhi throughout in continuation of its major policy switch which occurred just prior to Chinese emergence into the United Nations scene."

Kissinger spoke next about an approach the administration was preparing to make through the United Nations. "If the Indians announced full-scale invasion, this must be reflected in our UN statement this afternoon," he said.

But DePalma cut in at this point with the argument that both President Agha Yahya Khan of Pakistan and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India were making bellicose statements. If the administration referred to Mrs. Gandhi's statements, should it not also refer to Yahya's statements, he wanted to know.

Fires Back

Kissinger fired back with this remark: "The President says either the bureaucracy should put out the right statements on this, or the White House will do it." Then he asked "can the UN object to Yahya's statements about

WASHINGTON — (AP) — An assistant secretary of defense accused the press of slanting coverage against Pakistan during top-level government meetings on the India - Pakistan war, according to a memorandum that The Washington Post says was made available by columnist Jack Anderson.

The memo quoted in today's editions of the Post is said to cover a Dec. 4 exchange between Assistant Secretary of Defense for Security Affairs G. Warren Nutter and presidential adviser Dr. Henry Kissinger.

"It goes without saying," Nutter is quoted as saying, "that the entire press is slanting this war to place the entire blame on the Pakistanis and to show that they attacked India."

defending his country?"

Still obviously bothered by the pro-Pakistan approach of the White House, DePalma replied: "We will have difficulty in the UN because most of the countries who might go with us do not want to tilt toward Pakistan to the extent we do."

Kissinger's answer reflected not only that the U.S. State Department was in the presidential "dog house" but demonstrated that U.S. foreign policy is made in the White House rather than at State.

"Whoever is doing the backgrounding at state is invoking the President's wrath," he said. "Please try to follow the President's wishes."

'We Told the Paks'

DePalma then said, "We are not sure whether the meeting will be this afternoon or this evening. There will be statements by India and Pakistan, and we need to be the next speaker after that. As other countries will quibble with our preferred statement, we need to decide now how far we can bend."

Kissinger, revealing how committed the administration was to the Pakistan government, said, "We have told the Paks we would make our statement."

He continued, "Let's go

Kissinger is then said to have replied, according to the Post:

"This has been a well-done political campaign for which we will pay."

The Post said the memorandum is one of several on the secret White House meeting that, it reported, Anderson provided. Another was published in Wednesday's editions.

The latest memorandum also was reported to record an assertion by Kissinger that the press backgrounding on the war and U.S. strategy in the United Nations done by the State Department was "invoking the President's wrath."

Assistant Secretary of State Samuel dePalma is quoted as asking Kissinger:

"Both Yahya (West Pakistan President Yahya Kahn) and Mrs. Gandhi (Indian Premier Indira Gandhi) are making bellicose statements.

"If we refer to Mrs. Gandhi's in our statement, do we not also have to refer to Yahya's?"

Kissinger is reported as replying: "The President says either the bureaucracy should put out the right statement on this, or the White House will do it. Can the UN object to Yahya's statements about defending his country?"

DePalma is quoted as answering: "We will have difficulty in the UN because most of the countries who might go with us do not want to tilt toward Pakistan to the extent we do."

ahead and put in our own statement anyway regardless of what other countries want

to do. We need now to make our stand clear even though it has taken us two weeks of

Reprimand

fiddling. We need our resolution tabled."

He then disclosed that "we want to insist on a cease-fire and withdrawal of forces before (before was underlined in the secret text) the details of a political settlement are considered."

Falls Into Line

DePalma, falling into line like a good soldier, said: "If others are prepared to go with this resolution — fine; otherwise, we will go it alone."

Kissinger than noted that the President wanted to cut off all foreign aid for India only. "We need to develop a public statement to explain our action," he said. The public statement was necessitated by the fact that aid would be continued to Pakistan while it was cut off to India.

Toward the end of the meeting, Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt Jr., chief of naval operations, gave, as his judgment, that Pakistan's army could not ward off defeat in East Pakistan for more than one or two weeks.