

Kissinger's Pledges on U.S. Policy

San Clemente

Henry A. Kissinger, who has been nominated as Secretary of State, pledged yesterday to carry out a more open foreign policy in which Congress, the State Department and private citizens would have a stronger voice.

"We must create a new consensus," he told a news conference on the lawn of the Western White House one day after President Nixon announced that Kissinger would be both Secretary of State and chief White House adviser on foreign affairs.

The dual role, he said, would not be used to limit his testimony before Congress. On the contrary, he added, he would not invoke executive privilege except where it pertained to conversations with the President and would "expect to testify about all matters that secretaries of state have traditionally testified" about.

CONFIDENCE

Kissinger, appearing relaxed and confident in an informal gathering with reporters, said he would use its present bureaucracy, to institutionalize the initiatives that the administration has undertaken in the past four years and that he would work through Congress for a non-partisan policy, now that the U.S. is out of the Vietnam war.

"In the first term of the President," Kissinger said in an opening statement, "many important and some revolutionary changes were made. These required, to considerable extent, secret diplomacy and they were conducted on a rather restricted basis.

"But now," he continued, "we are in a different phase. The foundations that have been laid must now lead to the building of a more permanent structure. What has been started is still very tender."

After consulting with Mr. Nixon earlier yesterday, Kissinger was like a peacemaker, issuing promises, seeking to create a new at-

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mosphere in Washington.

To Congress, instead of the bitter disputes of the past over Indochina, which Mr. Nixon revived as recently as Monday in New Orleans, Kissinger offered "a new and full partnership" to insure that Congress be involved in the making of foreign policy as well as in the approval of it.

To the public and the press, Kissinger avoided any polemics and promised instead an open-door policy at asserting that "we have an obligation to explain our philosophy and purposes."

And finally, to the State Department's foreign-service officers, a group of talented men whose ability was often scorned at the White House, Kissinger promised plenty of work and a large share of the foreign policy load.

"What we are going to try to do," he said, "is to solidify what has been started, to put more emphases on our relationship with Europe and Japan, and to conclude during the term of the President the building of a structure that we can pass on to succeeding administrations so that the world will be a safer place when they take over."

GOALS

Kissinger made it clear that what he would seek to do would be to put the divisions of the Vietnam war and the damage inflicted to the administration by the Watergate scandals in the past and create a broad consensus for the policy initiatives now underway. There was no hint of dramatic new initiatives.

As to Watergate and the Vietnam war, he said: "There is no question if the divisions in a country grow too deep, then the conduct of foreign policy will be affected, and the people will have to decide whether the issues on which they are being divided are worth it."

He said the change that had taken place in the world and the fact that the admin-

istration was stressing the need for adequate defense budgets while negotiating for limitation of strategic arms required "a complexity of thought and a sophistication on the part of the American public that was not called for in the 1940s and 1950s."

"We have had the legacy of a war that bitterly divided Americans and that has to be healed," he said. "Therefore, one of the prime objectives of the administration will have to be to create a consensus in which the American people and the American Congress can understand and will support the necessity of carrying on adequate defense programs and disarmament negotiations."

ROLES

On the purpose of his dual role as both secretary of

state and White House assistant, Kissinger said: "The purpose of combining the two positions is, as the President pointed out yesterday, an attempt to move policy making from the White House into the Department and, therefore, to make it more accessible to congressional and public scrutiny."

He said Mr. Nixon had asked him to say that executive privilege against testifying will be used only with respect to conversations with the President.

In addition, I would feel it appropriate to testify about those interdepartmental matters with respect to which I spoke informally previously to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee."

He said, "the practical consequences of it will be that more information will be available to the congressional committees than before."

QUESTION

Asked how the fact that he is a Jew might affect American policy in the Middle East, Kissinger said:

"I am asked to conduct the foreign policy of the United States, and I will conduct the foreign policy of the United States regardless of religion and national heritage. There is no other country in the world in which a man of my background could be considered for an office such as the one for which I have been nominated, and that imposes on me a very grave responsibility

which I will pursue in the national interest."

As to his role in the tapping of the telephones of some of his White House subordinates and others during the first Nixon term, Kissinger said he expected to be asked about that in his Senate confirmation hearings.

"In those activities of which I was aware, which were conducted by processes that were considered legal at that time, according to legal processes, I will be prepared to account fully to the appropriate committee of the Senate," he said.

New York Times



AP Wirephoto

THE NEW HENRY KISSINGER
His title is no problem

Just Call Him 'Excellency'

San Clemente

Secretary of State-designated Henry Kissinger bantered with reporters yesterday on how he should be addressed in the future.

"Do you prefer to be called Mr. Secretary or Dr. Secretary," a reporter teased the former Harvard professor.

"I don't stand on protocol," Kissinger joked. "If you will just call me 'Excellency,' it will be okay."

United Press