Kissinger Pledges

But Hearing Is Snagged On Wiretaps

By Murrey Marder Washington Post Staff Writer

Henry A. Kissinger yesterday pledged to act as Secretary of State in "a climate of mutual trust" with Congress, but his confirmation hearing quickly snagged over the disclosure of a wiretapping report.

Sen. J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said the group will meet in executive session at 9:30 a.m. Monday with Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson to try to overcome the barrier over the disputed re-port. The public hearing on Kissinger's nomination is scheduled to resume at 10 a.m. Monday.

Kissinger's first public testimony before a congressional committee, therefore, opened paradoxically.

He was lauded by many ongtime critics of the Nixon administration or a "brilliant" exposition of what Kissinger called "the urgent need for reconciliation" to reneed for reconciliation" to restore national cohesion and consensus in the conduct of American policy. Alluding to the Watergate sandals, Kissinger said the nation must shake itself free from the "traumatic events" that sappartional confidence. national confidence.

The wiretapping controversy which sidetracked his hearing yesterday, however, was a product of the Water-gate period. The committee was determined to clear that record before proceeding with the expected approval of Kissinger's nomination to be Sec-

retary of State.

Kissinger portrayed himself as the man caught in the mid-dle by the Nixon administration's decision not to release a report on the 1969-1971 wire-tapping of 13 government officials, including members of Kissinger's National Security Council staff, plus four news-men. One of the former NSC staff members reportedly wire-tapped was Richard M. Moose, now a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, which adds

(Kissinger) nomination until that report has been re-ceived."

to the committee's sensitivity.
"I think it is clear," said
Sen. Clifford P. Case (R-N.J.),
"that the committee will not
be in a position to act on the

Fulbright said he agreed that the problem has to be resolved. At the end of the fourhour session with Kissinger, Fulbright, who said the Jus-tice Department earlier had refused to turn over the report on the 17 wiretapped individuals, telephoned Richardson to arrange the Monday meeting with him.

Despite the controversy yer wiretapping, and several other points of disagreement

See KISSINGER, A7, Col. 1

KISSINGER, From A1

hearing was never acrimoniproduced in the inquiry, the after the Nixon administration

Kissinger, appearing tanned and serious, was relaxed, enjoying the encomiums heaped upon him for his past accompressed by Fulbright and the hope, expressed by Fulbright and other members, that his appointment as Secretary of State will open a new era of cooperation with Congress in Schooling foreign policy. shaping foreign policy.

Kissinger was told by Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.) that "a crisis of confidence in the truthfulness of our leadthe truthfulness of our leaders" exists in the nation. Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) told him that many Americans are convinced that "we are living through a period of constitutional crisis" over "the use of excessive executive power."

In a six-page opening statement, Kissinger adroitly headed off some of the ques-tions by pledging "to work out procedures for enabling the committee to share more fully in the design of our foreign policy."

Kissinger said: "We will seek to maintain a climate of mutual trust so that arguments can center on methods, not motives. We hope that this restraint will be mutual. In this manner, our foreign policy debate can avoid the extremes of civil war and sterile accord for its own sake."

Kissinger defended the use of wiretaps in the 1969-71 period, but said he was not responsible for instituting the practice.

"There were no personal is sues involved at all," Kissinger said. "It was a very difficult and painful thing."

Kissinger said, as President Nixon has related, that soon came into office in 1969 it was "confronted with leaks to the press of documents which were considered of the greatest importance to the national security."

In May, 1969, Kissinger said,

President Nixon conferred with his new Attorney General, John N. Mitchell, and with FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, and was told that "the most effective way" to stop leaks was to use wiretaps. The President was told that "this procedure met the legal requirements," Kissinger said, and that it had been used by

previous administrations.

"At the time," Kissinger said, I had been in the government four months. I must say that it did not occur to me to question the judgment of these two individuals."

Kissinger repeated, as he previously has said publicly, that the handling of wiretapping reports was conducted between his deputy, then-Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr, and the FBI.

"I saw very few of these reports myself," he said. In the summer of 1970, Kissinger said, it was decided to separate out "internal aspects of national security," and the reports began going to the office of HP. (Pob) Haldeman these of H.R. (Bob) Haldeman, then White House chief of staff. "From then on," said Kis-

singer, "my office was not involved."

When Fulbright asked if the sources of the leaks were discovered, Kissinger replied, "I prefer not to go into individ-ual cases. There were cases in which the sources of some leaks were discovered and corrective action taken."

was wiretapped involved is whether Moose oined the Senate committee time,

would doubt it very seri-

restrictions on the use of wire-approved the cover story that hrough" and sent back(s see General Richardson sent over implications. Kissinger said taps, but that he is not the of-created the belief that the that subsequent court deci. "double-bookkeeping and the sions have placed more drastic cover story." He said the NSC ditions." He sought assurance "is not in accord with our trato him a copy of the heport on plied to Congress listed the tice will end. Kissinger replied from Kissinger that the pracficial to deal with all the legal Wiretapping, said Fulbright, persons wiretapped, Kissinger

mary report on the procedure. Kissinger also was ques-Fulbright said that what the

licly earlier, denied any knowl-dressed to a foreign audi-Kissinger, as he has said publence ... was entirely ad-1971 break in of the office of salvage the negotiation," Kis-Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist. singer said. "My press confermember, David Young, who nam cease-fire accord was later joined the White House signed in Paris, after a masweek in Los Anglees in the among those indicted this | North Vietnam. tioned about his former staff until Jan. 25, 1973 that the Viet-'plumbers' group and was sive intervening bombing of

deceived." committees were "consistently ington (D-Mo.) said yesterday tioned at some length yester- the agreement. day about the secret B-52 bom-

in agreement with the policy," stalemate.

Fulbright said one question which he said etnamese troops operating out tional Security Council. At the der of Cambodia. of sancturaries across the boralties a month, with North Visive" was inflicting 1 mously approved by the Na-"massive Communist offen-Kissinger was unani-1,300 casusaid,

Wednesday Attorney never had any knowledge" "leafed in South Vietnam. South Vietnam, but that "we that Pentagon statistics supbombs as having been dropped bombings were taking place in two Kissinger said there were problems involved,

FBI's "raw files," but the sum-hand" in the Vietnam war, committee seeks is not the Oct. 26, 1972, that "peace is at tial election, when it was not justify his public statement of just before the U.S. presiden-He also was challenged to

"My primary concern was to

dent's, Kissinger said, "I was the B-52 bombing to break the not his to make, but the Presi-the United States launched lations and Armed Services in "one more session," he said, about which Sen. Stuart Sym-velopments, he said, in a rare that decision. bing of Cambodia in 1969-70, mistake" from subsequent de-will not try to circumvent" that the Senate's Foreign Re-plan to produce an agreement Although that decision was the Communist side, and then "put us in a strait admission of error. His stated producing "I believe it was a tactical "stonewalling" jacket, on



Secretary of State-designate Henry A. Kissinger during his Senate confirmation hearing yesterday. By James K. W. Atherton—The Washington Post

Kissinger also was quest to stick to the main lines of greed with Congress on haltin Cambodia on Aug. 15, "it Kissinger, in his opening granting most-favored-nation been deeply moved by the ap-mestic structure" of nations it

could not support your confirsmile that if Kissinger had given "an opposite answer, I mation." Senator Church said with a

another widespread congres. Soviet Union." Kissinger repdisagreement, however, with overwhelming opposition sional position. This is and House

edge of the "plumbers" activi-ence," to "convey to both Viet-statement, said that although trade treatment to the Soviet peals for intellectual freedom nam parties that we intended the Nixon administration disa- Union as long as it places any in the Soviet Union by such ing U.S. B-52 bombing support Jews or others seeking to leave that country. curbs on the emigration of

Kissinger firmly expressed cerned about the fundamental the lied that as an individual, and in as "a member of the intellec-to tual profession, he, too, has Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.) the policy of relaxation of tensaid, is "an essential part of denial of human rights in the said, "Many of us are conthe policy of relaxation of ten unspoken element in discussion that we have pursued." sion yesterday on the Jewish to the Soviet Union, Kissinger To grant the trade benefits

Andrei Sakharov. eminent Russians as physicist

emigration and academic freesinger would be the first influence his policy decisions. licly that his heritage will not that office. That factor was an ion. Kissinger has stated pubdom issues in the Soviet Unson of Jewish origin to hold structure of the As Secretary of State, Kisper-

(try to "transform . . . the do Union. the proposition that it should

ion." tire foreign policy" cannot be involved in every country will find ourselves massively "dependent upon the domestic the world." He said "our deals with, Kissinger said, "we Soviet Unen-

If the United States adopts to grant the equal trade treatment benefits to the "emotional" as the problem is, emigrants, and as "painful" or sion of the exit tax on Jewish must proceed with its pledge he believes the United States Union has agreed to suspen-Kissinger said the Soviet Soviet