

Nixon Backs Kissinger On Wiretaps

By Carroll Kilpatrick
Washington Post Staff Writer

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., July 14—President Nixon has sent a letter to Chairman J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.) of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee taking full responsibility for national security wiretaps instituted in 1969 and supporting Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's testimony on the matter.

White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said today the President dictated and signed the letter Friday. But Ziegler refused to make it public because he said Fulbright wanted all committee members to see it first.

Fulbright's committee is scheduled to meet Monday at 10 a.m. in closed session with FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley on the national security wiretapping program. A committee spokesman said in Washington that the Nixon letter will be discussed.

The President's letter was in response to a June 25 letter from Fulbright asking Mr. Nixon to amplify his public statement of May 22, 1973, and requesting further specifics of the decision to place 17 wiretaps, four on newsmen and 13 on government officials.

According to persons who have seen the President's letter, he does not provide all

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the additional details requested, but he does completely endorse Kissinger's testimony to the Foreign Relations Committee.

Ziegler said the President's letter should put to rest "rumors of differences" between Mr. Nixon and the Secretary of State.

"These rumors have been and are unfounded," Ziegler said. The letter confirms that the President is supporting Kissinger in this matter, he said.

Relations between the two men are "strong and good," the press secretary added.

Kissinger told a news conference in Washington last month that he did not directly recommend candidates for wiretaps. In Salzburg, Austria, a few days later, he threatened to resign unless his name was cleared of charges he misled the Foreign Relations Committee in testifying on the wiretaps.

In the statement May 22, 1973, Mr. Nixon said that in mid-1969 "leaks of secret infor-

mation" about "a number of highly sensitive foreign policy initiatives" prompted him to authorize wiretaps "to find and stop" the leaks.

"I authorized this entire program," the President said. "Each individual tap was undertaken in accordance with procedures legal at the time and in accord with long-standing precedent."

The taps were terminated in February, 1971, Mr. Nixon said last year, having made it possible "to tighten the security of highly sensitive materials."

The persons whose wires were tapped were determined "through coordination among" J. Edgar Hoover, late director of the FBI; then-Attorney General John N. Mitchell, and Kissinger, the President said last year. He did not say a meeting of the officials was held to determine whose telephones should be tapped.

Kissinger did not accompany the President when he flew here Friday, but he will come here later this week, a spokesman said.

Herbert Stein, who is to

leave soon as chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, also is expected to fly here this week. Roy L. Ash, director of the office of Management and Budget, and Kenneth Rush, economic counselor to the President, are already here to help prepare a speech the President is planning on the economy.

Before leaving Washington, officials said Mr. Nixon would deliver the speech late this week, but it is now said it will be given next week, probably

before a live audience somewhere on the West Coast.

Ziegler today flatly denied a report published here that the Nixons are planning to sell their Key Biscayne, Fla., home. The Nixons are not planning to sell any property, the press secretary said.

After conferring Saturday with Vice President Ford, the President walked about a mile and a half on the beach and went for a swim, and then had dinner in his home with his family, Ziegler said.

Today Mr. Nixon relaxed at his home and conferred briefly with aides.

Soviet-Somali Treaty

Agence France-Presse

MOSCOW, July 14—The Soviet-Somali treaty signed last week by Presidents Nikolai Podgorny and Mohammed Siad Barre has strengthened the political position of the African countries in the world and helped "the noble cause of eliminating racism and colonialism from the continent," Pravda said today.