

Kissinger as The Key Man

Washington

Henry Kissinger, through his triple role in the administration, is the key man in approving or disapproving covert intelligence activities, two former government officials told the House intelligence committee yesterday.

The witnesses said that Kissinger's positions as secretary of state, presidential security adviser and chairman of the "40 Committee" give him a large measure of control over the nation's intelligence agencies.

William Watts, former staff secretary of the National Security Council, and James Gardner, former State Department liaison officer with the 40 Committee, said the various positions Kissinger now holds should be separated by new legislation after the 1976 elections.

The 40 Committee is a select administration group of five with Kissinger as chairman and including CIA Director William E. Colby, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the State Department undersecretary for political affairs and the deputy assistant to the defense secretary.

The committee approves or disapproves proposals for covert intelligence activities.

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