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Contempt Action Dropped

Associated Press

House contempt action against Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger was dropped yesterday in a compromise reportedly ordered personally by President Ford.

Drawing scattered applause, Chairman Otis G. Pike (D-N.Y.) of the House intelligence committee told the House that Mr. Ford's aides have "substantially complied" with a subpoena against Kissinger for information.

Pike told the committee he was dropping the contempt

action on promise of getting details of 20 State Department requests for covert U.S. political operations abroad since 1961.

"We did not get everything we wanted," Pike told his committee, "but we got more than they were willing to give us."

The committee had approved a contempt of Congress citation Nov. 14. If the House had voted the citation, Kissinger could theoretically have been sentenced to a year in jail and fined \$1,000, but Pike had said repeatedly there was never

any danger of Kissinger going to jail.

The committee's senior Republican, Rep. Robert McClory of Illinois, said the eleventh-hour compromise offer sent to Pike Tuesday afternoon from White House aides was ordered by Mr. Ford personally.

"When the President got back (from Asia) they met with the President at once and the President told them to give us what we want," McClory said.

Committee counsel A.

See PIKE, A9, Col.1

PIKE, From A1

Searle Field said committee members got "very good assurance" at the White House Tuesday night that the committee will get the information on the covert operations it needs.

He said William G. Hyland, director of the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence, briefed a committee delegation directly from the 20 State Department proposals and from top-secret minutes of the National Security Council's Forty Committee.

Apparently because Mr. Ford had claimed executive privilege against turning over everything the House committee subpoenaed, Hyland emphasized that the committee members were not allowed to see the documents themselves.