

Kissinger Calls Leaks A 'New McCarthyism'

Washington

His voice cracking with emotion, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said yesterday that the leaked House intelligence committee report has bred "a new version of McCarthyism" in which officials like him "can be destroyed by the most flagrant charges."

He said he would consider resigning if the alleged smear campaign reduces his ability to conduct foreign policy, but made clear he has no present intention of resigning.

He said leaked versions of the suppressed House report, highly critical of him personally and the intelligence services in general, have spread "the impression of a malicious lie."

At a news conference, Kissinger dealt with this issue in a voice clearly strained with anger and emotion. It cracked as he spoke and he seemed to work hard to control

himself.

The House voted to block publication of the 340-page intelligence report unless President Ford has a chance to censor classified intelligence information. But much of the document has leaked to the press, and a New York newspaper, The Village Voice, published lengthy excerpts Wednesday.

A reporter asked Kissinger to comment "on the dozens of charges against you" raised by the intelligence panel headed by Representative Otis Pike (Dem.-N.Y.). The report claimed Kissinger's "passion for secrecy" had damaged U.S. policy and implied he lied to Congress about Soviet violations of nuclear arms treaties.

"It is extremely difficult to reply to charges in a leaked document," Kissinger replied.

He said the committee had misused "highly classified information ... in a manner so distorted that the total impact is to produce a malicious lie.

"Therefore even when the documents themselves are correct, they are taken out of context and they are so fitted into a preconceived pattern that we are facing here a new version of McCarthyism."

Asked whether he were considering resigning, Kissinger said:

"If I should conclude that it is in the interests of American for-

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foreign policy, I would step down.

"But what one also has to consider is whether the style of public debate should be such that any public figure can be destroyed by the most flagrant charges.

"And then the argument should be made that the effectiveness (of public officials) is affected because totally irresponsible and untrue charges are made."

Kissinger, who is leaving on a trip to Latin America Monday, also answered questions on a wide range of international issues, including:

- Angola: He credited the military victory of Soviet-backed forces largely to the presence of Cuban troops and the cutoff of American aid to the other side.

- Strategic arms limitation talks: The administration, he said, is developing a new negotiating position designed to get stalled second-phase talks moving and may forward its proposal to Moscow next week.

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