

Kissinger Move To Woo Congress

Washington

Concerned over increasing problems with Congress, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has asked his closest and most trusted aide to consider taking over as the State Department's top liaison official with Capitol Hill.

Senior officials said Kissinger has asked Lawrence S. Eagleburger, his right-hand man, to consider becoming assistant secretary for congressional relations when that position becomes vacant at the end of next month.

The present assistant secretary, Linwood Holton, a former Virginia governor, has never been included in Kissinger's inner circle.

Kissinger had personally handled much of the briefing and consultations with Congress.

But he ran into increasing problems in getting a foreign aid bill through Congress, and expects an even more difficult time next year.

Moreover, the Vladivostok arms control agreement by President Ford and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, has

not received much support, and the State Department expects difficulty in getting congressional approval if the pact is to be signed next spring.

In particular, Kissinger wants to get increased aid for Cambodia and South Vietnam — both cut back substantially in the aid bill.

Melvin R. Laird, the former Wisconsin representative who served as Defense secretary for former President Nixon, recently advised Kissinger to name Eagleburger to the congressional relations post.

Eagleburger, who is 43, and from Laird's district in Wisconsin, has reportedly had doubts about the wisdom of having a career foreign service officer in the congressional liaison job, rather than a person with political experience.

He has reportedly prevailed upon Kissinger, who is vacationing in Dorado Beach, Puerto Rico, to consider other names for the congressional post, before any decision was made. The position requires a presidential appointment and Senate confirmation.

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