

FOLD AD

Dr. Ray Quits State Dept.; Critical of Kissinger Policy

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WASHINGTON, June 20—Dr. Dixy Lee Ray resigned today as the State Department's top science official, charging Secretary of State Kissinger and other high aides with deliberately not consulting her office on key policy matters.

It was the first time in Mr. Kissinger's 21-month tenure as Secretary that a senior official had quit and made known complaints.

But the 60-year-old former chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission has been well known in Washington for speaking her mind, and today, after sending her letter of resignation to Mr. Kissinger, Dr. Ray was no less outspoken in a conversation in her seventh floor suite.

Dr. Ray's irritation seemed directed primarily at being excluded from important policy matters dealing with scientific subjects such as research and development of new energy sources, something she said had been taken over by the department's Office for Economic and Business Affairs with Mr. Kissinger's approval.

It was also evident from conversations with her and her aides that Dr. Ray believed that Mr. Kissinger had not delegated to her bureau the responsibility it was due by Congressional mandate. Mr. Kissinger has often been criticized for keeping policy decisions confined to a dozen or so top aides.

It is readily acknowledged even by Mr. Kissinger's closest associates that Dr. Ray, while highly regarded professionally, was not a member of the Secretary's "inner circle."

Mr. Kissinger, through a spokesman, said only that he was "sorry" that Dr. Ray was resigning and that he had forwarded the letter of resignation

to President Ford, who formally must accept it since he appointed her.

Thomas O. Enders, the Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs, declined to comment publicly on Dr. Ray's resignation.

Dr. Ray joined the State Department five months ago as the first Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs. The new bureau was set up by Congress to give added prestige and importance to these matters within the department.

In her letter to Mr. Kissinger,

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Dr. Dixy Lee Ray

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Dr. Ray said:

"For some time I had hoped that my office and the bureau I head would play a significant role in the formulation of the department's science policy and in the provision of information upon which to base policy in those areas of technology specifically assigned to the O.E.S. bureau by Congress.

"Unfortunately, that desirable condition has not been fulfilled. Many of the areas for which O.E.S. has statutory responsibility are, in fact, being pursued in other bureaus and offices.

"I sincerely hope that the department seriously re-examines its administrative procedures with a view toward permitting its bureaus to function efficiently."

Referring to Mr. Enders, with whom she has disagreed on energy matters, Dr. Ray said:

"His understanding of research and development in energy makes as much sense to scientists as his 'floor price' proposition does to economists."

The "floor price" proposal, made public by Mr. Kissinger last winter, called on the major consuming countries not to sell crude oil domestically at below a set minimum price.

The price would be lower than current world prices, but high enough to provide incentives for the development of new conventional energy sources.

A high State Department official, aware of the division of responsibility between Mr. Enders and Dr. Ray, said that "a piece of paper" had been signed by each that carefully gave certain tasks to their bureaus.

"Neither one got what it wanted one hundred per cent," the official said.

"Dr. Ray simply did not get around to organize her bureau for fighting the bureaucratic wars," he added.

Dr. Ray lost her job as head of the Atomic Energy Commission when that body was disbanded under a re-organization of energy agencies last year. She had been a member of the commission since August, 1972 and chairman since February, 1973.

Nuclear Sale to Brazil

She has also let it be known that her decision to quit was hastened by being left out of the department's negotiations with Brazil and West Germany on the controversial decision by Bonn to sell to Brazil an entire nuclear fuel cycle.

The United States barred an American company from selling to Brazil on the ground that safeguards against conversion of nuclear material into explosives were inadequate, but it failed to prevent the Germans from going ahead.

Dr. Ray argued that the United States should have allowed the American company to get the business and give an impetus to the nuclear industry here.

She believes that too much State Department attention is paid to safeguards and not enough to energy development. And she has criticized influential officials in the arms control and disarmament agency and elsewhere in the department who she asserts have Mr. Kissinger's ear and are "too hysterical."

Dr. Ray said she was thinking seriously of running as a Democratic candidate for Governor in the state of Washington next year, but was not certain. The former professor of zoology at the University of Washington will probably go back there to teach.

She is also working on a book, "Good-bye America" in which she states, "I am convinced the United States will drift into oblivion if it continues on its present course."