

Visit to Ford 'Disadvantageous'

Kissinger Advice on Solzhenitsyn

Washington

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger acknowledged yesterday that he advised President Ford not to see Alexander Solzhenitsyn because it would have been "disadvantageous" to this country's foreign policy.

In answer to questions at a news conference in Milwaukee, Kissinger said he regarded the exiled Soviet novelist as "one of the greatest writers of this period" and that "I have enormous respect and admiration for Solzhenitsyn as a writer."

But because of Solzhenitsyn's well-known opposition to the Soviet leadership and detente as pursued by Moscow and Washington, Kissinger said "the symbolic effect" of his meeting with Mr. Ford or other senior officials would have been "disadvantageous" for "the foreign policy aspect."

The failure of Mr. Ford to receive Solzhenitsyn since the writer's arrival in Washington last month has created a controversy.

The issue has been complicated by an apparent lack of

candor by the administration on the reasons surrounding Mr. Ford's decision not to see Solzhenitsyn.

Senators Jesse A. Helm (Rep-N.C.) and Strom Thurmond (Rep-S.C.) had written Mr. Ford in advance of Solzhenitsyn's June 30 speech to a dinner given by the AFL-CIO, asking that he receive the writer.

The White House told the senators and said publicly, that Mr. Ford was too busy, but White House sources later said Mr. Ford had decided not to see Solzhenitsyn on

the advice of his aides, including Kissinger.

About 500 letters were sent to the White House protesting the snub and none in favor, presidential press secretary Ron Nessen said yesterday. This unexpected reaction led the White House to say that Mr. Ford would be willing to see Solzhenitsyn if he wanted a reception.

But Solzhenitsyn told the AFL-CIO, his official host, that he would accept only a formal invitation, which has not been forthcoming.

New York Times