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New Study

A Sharp Attack On Kissinger

Washington

A frontal attack on Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's global strategy has just been published by a senior official of the Nixon administration, with a forward by former Defense Secretary Melvin Laird.

The attack and the endorsement represent one of the strongest challenges from former Pentagon officials to Kissinger, his strategy of East-West detente and his diplomatic style.

The publication is likely to become a handbook for critics on the right flank of the Republican party in renewed attempts to split President Ford away from Kissinger. Laird is one of President Ford's original private advisers.

G. Warren Nutter, former assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs is the author of the 111-page study entitled "Kissinger's Grand Design," published by the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research.

There is fundamental conflict, Nutter charges, between what he calls Kissinger's personalistic, secretive, mysterious, style and the need for American foreign policy to "rest on consensus." That can only be achieved, Nutter said, if the American "grand design is full revealed and openly discussed."

Nutter's basic target is Kissinger's search for detente with the Soviet Union. The pursuit of this goal, Nutter charged, can only "lead to the demoralization of the West and Soviet victory by default."

According to Nutter, "confusion reigns in Congress and the public, and it cannot be dispelled by consensus because diplomacy has become personalized. There is no way for the legitimate organs of government to guide the direction of American foreign policy as long as it conforms to Kissinger's grand design."

Laird uses milder language to make the same point in a brief introduction to the Nutter critique.

A national consensus on global policy can only be reached, Laird says, "if we are willing to listen to criticism as well as praise."

Laird, a former congressman, says there must be "discussion, agreement and public understanding" of foreign policy, with Congress and the President both participating in "framing and implementing" policy.

Kissinger, is charged by Nutter with ignoring most of the warnings about the conduct of diplomacy that Kissinger cautioned about before taking office.

Much of the volume quotes Kissinger versus Kissinger, with Nutter claiming "Kissinger the public official could find no more severe a critic of his policy of detente than Kissinger the scholar."

He charges that Kissinger has put before the public a "quite loaded" set of stark alternatives between detente and a return to constant crises. Nutter argues that Kissinger's diplomacy "has created too much detente, an over-relaxation of tension," with the United States, "giving the assets away without requiring any strategic benefits in return."