

# KISSINGER CALLS AID DEBATE OVER

## He Says Administration Will Accept Congress' Verdict on Vietnam Funds

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WASHINGTON, April 17—Secretary of State Kissinger said today that the Vietnam debate was over and that the Ford Administration would accept the verdict of Congress on its latest billion-dollar aid request "without recrimination or vindictiveness."

In the Administration's most significant effort yet to refocus foreign policy discussion away from Indochina, now that Cambodia has surrendered and Saigon's future is in doubt, Mr. Kissinger said there now was "a grave national imperative" for cooperation between Capitol Hill and the White House in foreign affairs.

He said the United States must respond to the Indochina debacle "with dignity" and make clear to the world its determination to continue to play a major role in international affairs.

### Assets Cited

"We have strong assets—a sound foreign policy design, major international achievements in recent years and the enormous capacities and the will—to turn adversity into opportunity."

In a luncheon speech to the American Society of Newspaper Editors, Mr. Kissinger made a determined effort to put the Indochina debate behind the nation.

Although in the past, he has been a leader of those arguing about American commitments to South Vietnam and Cambodia and blaming Congress for the setbacks, today he was noticeably restrained.

After asserting that he supported Mr. Ford's appeal for nearly a billion dollars in aid "for the anguished people" of South Vietnam, Mr. Kissinger said:

"The Vietnam debate has now run its course. The time has come for restraint and compassion. The Administration has made its case. Let all now abide by the verdict of the Congress—without recrimination or vindictiveness."



United Press International  
Secretary of State Kissinger addressing the American Society of Newspaper Editors in Washington yesterday.

### Acceptance Promised

Later, in answer to a question, Mr. Kissinger said that the Administration would accept Congress's decision without recrimination.

Mr. Kissinger's lengthy speech stressed the need for the nation to repair its wounds and restore "civility" into its national debates.

"Over the years of the Vietnam debate," he said, "rational dialogue has yielded to emotion, sweeping far beyond the issues involved. Not only judgments but motives have been called into question. Not only policy but character has been attacked. What began as consensus progressively deteriorated into poisonous contention."

His most pointed remarks were aimed at the Soviet Union, China and other "guarantors" who participated in the 12-nation international conference that endorsed the Paris cease-fire accords in March, 1973.

With Moscow and Peking in mind, Mr. Kissinger said that the United States would continue to seek an easing of tensions, but "we shall insist that the easing of tensions cannot occur selectively."

"We shall not forget who supplied the arms which North

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NYT  
Vietnam used to make a mockery of its signature on the Paris accords," he said.

But in answer to a question, Mr. Kissinger seemed to soften this statement by asserting that detente had not reached the point where the United States could expect Communist countries to cut aid because the United States had reduced aid to its allies.

### Question of Commitments

Yesterday, Mr. Ford said at the same editors' convention that the United States could not blame the Russians and Chinese for living up to their commitments in Indochina because the United States did not live up to its own.

Ron Nessen, the White House press secretary, said today he saw no inconsistency in the comments of Mr. Ford and Mr. Kissinger.

Mr. Kissinger devoted a major section of his speech to a review of what he described as a switch in American thinking away from the "internationalism" of the years after World War II to a re-emergence of isolationist tendencies.

"Leadership opinion," he said, has, to an alarm degree, turned sharply against many of the internationalist premises of the postwar period.

"We now hear, and have for several years, that suffering is prolonged by American involvement, that injury is perpetuated by American inaction, that defense spending is wasteful at best and produces conflict at worst, that American intelligence activities are immoral, that the necessary confidentiality of diplomacy is a plot to deceive the public, that flexibility is cynical and amoral—and that tranquility is somehow to be brought about by an abstract purity of motive for which history offers no example."