

Kissinger Urges Hanoi Not to Storm Saigon

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BY BERNARD GWERTZMAN

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WASHINGTON, April 29—Secretary of State Kissinger appealed to North Vietnam today not to storm Saigon because the United States believed the new South Vietnamese Government was prepared to capitulate.

In a lengthy news conference, Mr. Kissinger said that a bloody take-over by the Communists was now "unnecessary" since the Saigon Government of Gen. Duong Van Minh was "ready to draw the conclusions from the existing situation and in fact was formed to correspond to the demands of the Communist side."

Somber and grim throughout the session at the Executive Office Building next door to the White House, Mr. Kissinger conveyed the disappointment of the Ford Administration with the Communist decision yesterday to step up military activity and make it impossible to carry out the evacuation on a normal basis any further.

He was pressed for details on the extensive American efforts in recent weeks to bring about a negotiated cease-fire and settlement—an effort that had only limited results at best.

An Understanding Suggested

Mr. Kissinger said the endeavor was not a "failure" because "at least some of the efforts, especially those related to evacuation" were carried out "through intermediaries" that had contacts with both Hanoi and the Vietcong.

Strongly suggesting that there was at least an understanding with the Communists to let the evacuation proceed without opposition, Mr. Kissinger said that through different "third parties" "we were in a position to put our views and receive responses."

The dynamics of the situation, he said, and the "impatience" of North Vietnam to "seize power" accelerated events in the last day and a half.

He also noted that as the military situation improved for them, the Communists stepped up their demands, at first asking only for the resignation of President Nguyen Van Thieu, and then the ouster of his successors, and the dismantling of the South Vietnam military and government administration.

Mr. Kissinger said "I think it is too early to make a final assessment" of the Vietnam debacle, but at the same time he said there was not point in not admitting that the defeat in Indochina would have serious repercussions.

"There is no question that the outcome in Indochina will have consequences not only in Asia but in many other parts of the world," he said. "To deny these consequences is to miss the possibility of dealing with them."

"We are determined to manage and to progress along the road toward a permanent peace we have sought, even though there is no question there will be consequences."

Mr. Kissinger said he was opposed to any aid to North

Vietnam. He said that the United States would have to wait and see what happens in South Vietnam "and whether there is going to be a South Vietnam" before deciding on aid or diplomatic ties.

He said that the United States hoped "to crystallize an Asian policy that is suited to present circumstances," reaffirming the American treaty commitments to South Korea, Japan and the Philippines, the countries most concerned about an American withdrawal from the area.

He was decidedly cool toward both the Soviet Union and China, the chief supporters of North Vietnam, but he refused to condemn them both when offered the chance by a questioner. He said the Soviet had provided "some help" in the evacuation effort.

Asked what the American commitment to countries like Israel, Mr. Kissinger said the United States must scrupulously honor its pledges.

"I would therefore think that with relation to other countries, including Israel, that no lessons should be drawn by the enemies of our friends from our experiences in Vietnam," he said.

Mr. Kissinger said that because of the possibility of nuclear war, the United States must continually seek to work out agreements with the Soviet Union. While the Soviet Union and China must be held responsible for shipping offensive military equipment into the areas such as the Middle East and Indochina, he said, "we cannot ask of the Soviet Union that it do our job for us."

The rise of the Communist party in Portugal, he said, was the result of European developments and not Soviet pressure.