

WXPost

MAY 31 1975

Thai Remark Disowned

State Department spokesman Robert Funseth denied yesterday that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger had told reporters not to pay any attention to Thai politicians but only to the military.

The alleged statement, reported by the Far Eastern Economic Review, prompted Thai Prime Minister Kukrit Pramoj to respond Thursday: "Mr. Kissinger's only interested in the affairs of his own native country and the affairs of the Middle East because he is a Jew."

"We would have expected an official of any government to have asked us about the truth of such alleged remarks before commenting on them publicly," said Funseth, adding that the United States had been in touch with the Thai government about Kukrit's remark.

William Shawcross wrote in the May 30 Review: "Asked about the Thai government's complaints over the way in which the U.S. was violating its sovereignty over the Mayaguez, Kissinger told reporters that they should not pay attention to Thai politicians, but rather to the Thai military. The military were happy enough for the U.S. to use Utapao and that was what mattered, he said privately."

* WXP 30 MAY, AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE