

U.S. READY TO TALK WITH INDOCHINESE

Kissinger Says He Now Sees 'No Obstacle' to Principle of Normal Relations

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 14 — Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger told a House committee today that the United States was now ready to open discussions with the Communist normalizing relations.

Mr. Kissinger was speaking at a closed-door breakfast meeting at the State Department with members of a new committee set up to deal with Americans missing in action in the Vietnam war. He said that he saw "no obstacle to the principle of normalization of relations and that the United States was also prepared to reciprocate on the basis of gestures made by the Southeast Asian nations."

This statement was made public with Mr. Kissinger's authorization by Representative G. V. Montgomery, Democrat of Mississippi, the chairman of the group, called the House Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia.

When Communist forces took power in Cambodia and South Vietnam last spring, the Ford Administration adopted a wait-and-see attitude toward future relations. Mr. Kissinger said in May that American policy would be determined by the 'new regimes' actions toward the United States.

Members of the House Committee, which hopes to meet with leaders in North Vietnam and their representatives in Paris, told Mr. Kissinger that they planned a wide-ranging discussion of issues, including the status of the missing American and possible normalization of relations.

Communist View Unknown

The United States Government officially lists 820 Americans as missing in action in Indochina. In addition, 1,500 are counted as dead but with whereabouts unknown.

Mr. Kissinger, according to Mr. Montgomery, gave "strong support to the committee's efforts to have discussions with representatives of North Viet-Cambodia" and to inform them

that the Administration itself was ready in principle to talk.

It was not known, however, whether the Communists would be willing to hold discussions without having a prior American commitment for aid.

Mr. Kissinger told the committee members that the United States was making the "good-will gesture" of allowing church and humanitarian groups in the United States to export more liberally to North and South Vietnam than had been permitted since the Com-

munist takeover in the south.

This was being done, Mr. Kissinger said, because of the recent release of nine Americans who had been captured in South Vietnam in March.

Also, American officials said later, the United States had noted the willingness of the Communists to accept a ship carrying 1,600 Vietnamese who wanted to return home after being refugees in Guam and elsewhere.

Ever since they took power in Saigon, the Communists have called for negotiations on normalizing relations but have conditioned it on Washington's complying with terms of the 1973 cease-fire accord signed in Paris. They have especially cited Article 21, which obliges the United States to act sympathetically toward providing economic aid to North Vietnam.

Mr. Kissinger told the House committee, according to several that the Administration did not envisage providing aid to Indochina at this point and that it was more realistic to

talk initially of normalizing travel and trade and similar matters.

He also said that while the United States saw no reason not to normalize relations with North Vietnam, this should not be done on the basis of the Paris agreement.

Mr. Kissinger said that he regarded the Paris accord as "dead" given Saigon's fall.

Later today, Mr. Kissinger went to Capitol Hill and defended the Administration's \$4.7 billion foreign aid request. He urged Congressmen not to cut funds from any nation because it voted for the United Nations resolution equating Zionism and racism.

Several members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations suggested that the Arab states, who sponsored the anti-Zionist resolution, should be punished.