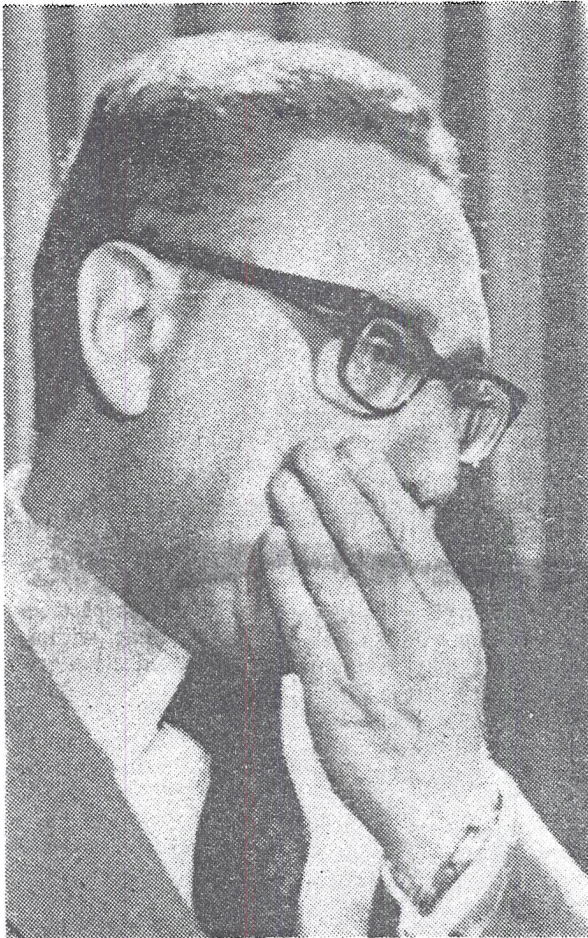


Nixon's China Trip Plans ---How Kissinger Did It



UPI Telephoto

PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER HENRY KISSINGER
A secret trip to People's Republic

President May Go to Peking Late This Year --'Risks' in Visit

FULLER ACCOUNT,
CHINA FILE

N.Y. Times Service

San Clemente

The White House said yesterday that President Nixon's trip to China would take place as soon as the arrangements could be made and that both sides were anxious that nothing should occur to hamper his historic meeting with top Chinese leaders.

At the earliest, the trip could be made late this year, officials at the Western White House said.

They also disclosed some of the details of Henry A. Kissinger's 49-hour visit to Peking July 9 to 11, in which he worked out the agreement for the presidential visit in intensive discussions with Premier Chou En-lai.

BRIEFING

The White House also made these points in a one-hour briefing for the press in the San Clemente Inn:

● The president will confer with Chairman Mao Tse-tung, as well as with Chou. During his visit Kissinger, the president's adviser for national security affairs, did not see Mao because he is chairman of the Communist party in China, not a government official, and Mr. Nixon wanted to keep the negotiations on a government-to-government basis.

● Mr. Nixon, in his brief but dramatic television appearance Thursday night, set May, 1972, as the "outside date" for the trip because he did not want "a trip of such importance for world peace" to become "mixed up in Partisan considerations in this country." The president will be up for re-election in 1972.

● Preliminary plans for the presidential trip had been made before Kissinger's Peking visit, during intensive negotiations that had been going on between the two countries since April. What remained to be determined in Peking was whether the president's trip "would be useful, whether it would contribute to peaceful conditions in the world."

● The state department
See Back Page

From Page 1

will announce in "the near future" what position the United States will take in the United Nations regarding possible membership for Communist China.

• The White House acknowledges there are "certain risks" in the visit, that the enormous differences between the two countries remain unchanged, especially United States support of Taiwan and Peking's insistence that this be withdrawn.

• The China developments have no direct relation to the war in Vietnam; and the White House does not expect the President and the Chinese leaders to settle current problems but to work out a long-range basis of peaceful relations between the two governments.

ARRIVAL

Kissinger who had been in seclusion with the President since his arrival on Tuesday, appeared in the press room yesterday with a broad smile on his face, obviously pleased with the outcome of his trip.

White House Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler insisted that remarks made in the

More Nixon-China news on Pages 8 and 9.

briefing be attributed only to "White House officials" and to no official by name.

Kissinger and three members of his staff — John Holdridge, Winston Lord and Richard Symser — arrived in Peking at noon, July 9, aboard an Air Force plane.

They flew from Islamabad, Pakistan,* one of the scheduled stops on what had been described as a fact-finding trip to several countries.

At Islamabad, Kissinger dropped out of public sight and a spokesman said then that he was suffering from an upset stomach.

OFFICIALS

During the 49 hours he was in Peking, Kissinger conferred with Premier Chou and four unidentified senior Chinese officials in two places: a state guest house where the Americans were lodged and the Great Hall of the People, which is used by Chou for receptions and dinners.

"The reception was enormously gracious and polite,"

an official said. "The mood of the session was very businesslike, very precise; no rhetoric on either side."

Kissinger spoke in English "with the verbs more carefully placed than usual," (a reference to his German background), Premier Chou in Chinese.

"Premier Chou, as some of you may know," an official said, "understands English, so he occasionally has a tendency to correct the interpreter. He has the advantage that can think about what one has said while the interpretation is made to him."

The official said a wide range of subjects were discussed but declined to be specific.

STEP

"These two countries that have had major disagreements for a long time, that have been in isolation from each other, and this was the first tentative step along the road that the president started 2½ years ago through indirect communication," he said, adding that the two sides spoke "frankly and directly, and I believe usefully."

The negotiations leading up to the trip, as well as the trip were kept in extraordinary secrecy. Only the President, Kissinger, Secretary of State William P. Rogers and a "very few senior White House staff members" were informed of what was going on.

"For example," the official said, "the President did not work on the substance of this in his office for fear that papers would be left behind and people might walk in and see (the President and Kissinger) working on the papers. So (they) usually met in the Lincoln Sitting Room in the evening, often after dinner, to go over the possible agenda and possible substance of these meetings." That was during April, May and June.

HOPES

The President and Kissinger "thought it was best to keep it secret until it was completed in order not to

raise excessive hopes and excessive speculation until there was something concrete to announce," the official said.

What impressions did Kissinger bring back regarding the usefulness of the forthcoming trip of the President, the officials would not comment specifically, but one said:

"My impression — and this is simply my impression — and at this stage we don't have even the beginning of an agreement — my impression is that the Chinese leaders are not so concerned with the specific mechanics of this or that problem, but, rather, with the longer term or medium term problem of what we expressed in the communique as normalizing relations."

"On the Chinese side one has the impression also of great seriousness of purpose. I believe both sides will behave in a responsible manner keeping in mind the long term objectives . . . it was not a conversation in which either side was trying to hold the other one up."

PEACE

At another point in the briefing, an official was asked whether Kissinger came away with any "improved hopes or greater optimism about the Vietnam peace negotiations."

The official declined to discuss "any particular issue" but added: "In general, I came away with increased hope for peace in the world and with a conviction that both sides are going to make serious efforts to bring about an improvement of relations."

Was there surprise that the Kissinger trip was kept a secret?

"Well, it took some work to keep it secret, and there were some anxious moments," he replied.

* see 24 Jul 71.
this file