

Nixon Will Study Under Kissinger

By Don Bacon

WASHINGTON — (NNS) — In preparing his forthcoming diplomatic encounter with Communist China's Chou En-lai, President Nixon must rely heavily on the assessments and impressions of his national security adviser, Dr. Henry A. Kissinger.

According to Kissinger, Chou will be a brilliant defender of Chinese interests, who can be expected to prepare fully for the historic meeting with the American President and stand ready to exploit any weaknesses in Nixon's arguments.

The test of two strong-willed men — one trained to negotiate in the relatively straightforward Western style, the other under the often inscrutable rules of Oriental diplomacy — is shaping up as one of the dramatic events of recent times.

Restraint

Both sides seem to recognize the complexity of the scheduled talks and are approaching them, according to White House officials, with "an enormous sense of restraint and responsibility." Pitfalls abound, and the dramatic presidential journey could still be cancelled, as was President Eisenhower's planned visit to Moscow more than a decade ago.

As the talks are to unfold in Peking in about six months, much will depend on each leader's understanding of the other's mental processes.

Between now and then, Nixon will be learning all he can about Chou, much of it from Kissinger.

20-Hours of Talk

Kissinger, who has been "de-briefing" himself since his return last week from a two-day secret mission to Peking, where he negotiated the Nixon-Chou meeting, spent some 20 hours conversing with the Chinese premier.

A former professor of foreign affairs at Harvard University, Kissinger is not noted as an expert on Chinese diplomacy. But he has suddenly become the Adminis-

tration's foremost authority on the 73 year old Chou, of whom so little is known.

In background briefings for reporters and members of Congress, Kissinger has repeatedly described Chou as being extremely well informed on the United States, serious in his intentions and reasonable in his expectations. Kissinger has said he found the Chinese leader to be brilliant of mind, with a sense of humor and a strong personality.

Superlatives

The President's adviser gave some of his impressions of Chou at a meeting Tuesday with Republican congressional leaders. Again he clothed Chou in superlatives.

Senate Republican Leader Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, who met Chou in 1956 and is perhaps the only member of Congress with direct knowledge of him, agreed with the Kissinger assessment.

Kissinger spent three months preparing for his own meeting with Chou. He has divulged practically none of the substance of those lengthy talks he had in Peking July 9-11, but White House officials have described the sessions as "very businesslike, very precise, no rhetoric on either side."

One advantage Chou will have in the discussions with Nixon will be his ability to understand and speak English. The talks almost certainly will be conducted through interpreters. Chou's remarks in Chinese will have to be translated for Nixon, and vice versa. Chou, said a White House official, "has the advantage that he can think about what one has said while the interpretation is made to him."