

Down From the 'High Road'

Nixon's Hard Line on UN

By Thomas B. Ross

WASHINGTON — (CST) — Reacting overnight to right-wing pressure, President Nixon reversed a decision to accept defeat quietly and denounced the "shocking spectacle" of jubilation in the United Nations over the collapse of his two-China policy.

Nixon implied that he might be forced to cut foreign aid and U.S. support for the U.N.

Reliable administration sources said the President's bitter statement yesterday represented an abrupt reversal of his decision Tuesday to "take the high road" and avoid the role of a "sore loser" over the U.N. vote Monday night to expel Taiwan.

The sources said Nixon was influenced by "right-wing politicians" and a wave of telegrams and telephone calls to the White House from supporters of the Chiang Kai-shek regime.

The president's reaction was likened to his response to the Senate rejection of his nomination of Harrold Carswell for the Supreme Court and to his intervention in the Calley case.

Nixon's U.N. statement was issued by White House Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler, who made it clear he was speaking "absolutely" for the President.

Ziegler said the "shocking demonstration and undisguised glee" on the U.N. General Assembly floor after the China vote could have a "detrimental effect on support of the United Nations in this country."

Generous

Noting that the United States has been "quite generous" to some of the countries represented in the demon-

stration, Ziegler added that the "shocking spectacle could also affect foreign aid allocations."

The White House statement was in sharp contrast to Secretary of State William Rogers' low-key reaction in an appearance before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"We are a democratic nation accustomed to being bound by majority views," Rogers declared. "The fact that we lost is not a great defeat for the United States."

In Nixon's first response to the U.N. vote, Rogers had been designated Tuesday as the sole spokesman for the administration. He held a subdued press conference at the State Department and, while expressing regret at Taiwan's ouster, avoided all mention of the reaction in the U.N. after the vote.

By yesterday morning, however, the decision had obviously been made to go on the attack. In addition to Ziegler's statement, Vice President Spiro Agnew granted an interview to the Associated Press in which he declared:

"The U.N. has increasingly become in recent years a propaganda sounding board for the left . . .

"My judgment is that we will move away from assigning a position of predominant importance to that body until such time as there is a more even balance and fairness exhibited by member nations."

Agnew argued against a U.S. withdrawal from the U.N. however, contending "it's good to be in the other guy's huddle."

He denied that Nixon's de-

cision to visit Peking had undermined Taiwan's position and insisted that conservatives should direct their outrage at the U.N. and not the administration.

Ziegler said it is not the administration's "intention to retaliate" against the U.N. but he emphasized over and over that the reaction of the public and of Congress was likely to be severe.

"The President has often expressed support of the United Nations," Ziegler declared. "The President wants to see the United Nations succeed. But this type of demonstration, shown extensively to the American people on television, could very definitely impair the ability on the part of the administration to maintain support for the United Nations."

Reporters at the U.N. described how several delegates cheered and applauded when the U.S. motion to save Taiwan was defeated. One African delegate broke into what some observers said was a dance of joy.

The delegate, Salim A. Salim of Tanzania, said his delegation was "jubilant" but that the emotions were not directed against anyone.

Ambassador Radhma Krishna Ramphul of Mauritius said he did not see Salim dance.

"You know, when an African claps his hands, his whole body moves," Ramphul said.