

Kissinger lied to the press, secret official papers show

WASHINGTON—We can now document from secret White House minutes our charge that presidential braintruster Henry Kissinger lied to reporters when he told them the Nixon Administration wasn't anti-India.

Contrary to Kissinger's statement to the press, the minutes show that President Nixon not only ordered a pro-Pakistan policy but became furious with his subordinates for not taking a stronger stand against India.

"I am getting hell every half hour from the President that we are not being tough

Jack Anderson

enough on India," complained Kissinger at the December 3 strategy session.

Three days later, according to the minutes, Kissinger "directed that henceforth we show a certain coolness to the Indians. The Indian ambassador is not to be treated at too high a level."

Reviewed almost daily

The India-Pakistani conflict was reviewed almost daily by a crisis team known as the Washington Special Action Group. Here's a typical excerpt from the secret minutes for December 4:

"Mr. Helms (the CIA director) opened the meeting by indicating that the Indians were currently engaged in a no-holds-barred attack on East Pakistan and that they had crossed the border on all sides. . . Although not decreeing a formal declaration of war, President Yahya has stated that 'the final war with India is upon us.' . . .

"Dr. Kissinger remarked that if the Indians have announced a full scale invasion, this fact must be reflected in our U.N. statement.

"Mr. Helms indicated that we do not know who started the current action.

"Dr. Kissinger requested that by Monday the CIA prepare an account of who did what to whom and when.

"Mr. DePalma (assistant state secretary) suggested that if we refer to the Indian declaration our discussion in the U.N., that we almost certainly will have to refer to remarks by Yahya.

"Dr. Kissinger replied that he was under specific instructions from the President, and either someone in the bureaucracy would have to prepare this statement along the lines indicated or that it would be done in the White House.

Kissinger's semantics

"Dr. Kissinger asked whether the Indians have stated anything to the effect that they were in an all-out war.

"Mr. Helms said that the terminology was 'no holds barred.'

"Dr. Kissinger asked what the Paks have said. Mr. Helms said the terminology was 'final war with India.' Dr. Kissinger suggested this was not an objectionable term. It did not seem outrageous for the Paks to say they were trying to defend themselves. . ."

Later in the meeting, Kissinger instruct-

ed: "On AID matters, the President wants to proceed against India only."

The secret minutes of the December 8 meeting shed more light on this:

"Dr. Kissinger emphasized that the President has made it clear that no further foreign exchange (surplus) commodities or development loans could be assigned to India without approval of the White House.

"Mr. Williams (deputy AID director) stated there was no problem of anything sliding through.

'Very messy problem'

"Dr. Kissinger inquired what the next turn of the screw might be.

"Mr. Williams said that the only other possible option was taking a position concerning AID material currently under contract. This, however, would be a very messy problem inasmuch as we would be dealing with irrevocable letters of credit. . . .

"Dr. Kissinger inquired about next year's budget. Mr. Williams stated that what goes into the budget did not represent a commitment.

"Dr. Kissinger stated that current orders are not to put anything in the budget for India. It was also not to be leaked that AID had put money in the budget for India only to have the 'wicked' White House take it out."

At the same time Kissinger was talking like this behind reporters' backs, he told them to their faces that the U.S. hadn't really sided with Pakistan.

Footnote: Dignified, white-maned Kenneth Keating, our conscientious Ambassador to India, also disputed the White House "explanation of development of present conflict and U.S. role in seeking to avert it.

"While I appreciate the tactical necessity of justifying our position publicly," he objected in a secret cable, "I feel constrained to state elements of this particular story do not coincide with my knowledge of the events of the past eight months."

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