

Kissinger plays a lone hand in running foreign policy

WASHINGTON — Owlsh, offish Henry Kissinger, the foreign policy wizard, is simply over his head in paperwork.

He is trying to serve President Nixon as a one-man State Department. But the paperwork is too voluminous, the problems too overwhelming even for the brilliant Kissinger to master.

Still he tries to manage every foreign crisis, to absorb every new detail, to advise the President on every development. During the three hectic weeks before Christmas, the secret White House Papers show, Kissinger had his fingers in the following pies:

He directed the top-level strategy sessions on the Indian-Pakistani conflict. He submitted the option papers, for example, that persuaded President Nixon to dispatch a naval task force into the Bay of Bengal.

Kissinger compiled a grim situation report showing a dangerous intensification of North Vietnamese military pressure in Laos, Cambodia and South Vietnam. Not only were our Laotian allies in possible peril, but the government we support in Cambodia appeared to be in danger of collapse. He recommended air strikes against North Vietnam.

He orchestrated the delicate U.S. strategy in the Middle East. Under his direction, Ambassador George Bush probed and pressed in the backrooms of the United Nations for a diplomatic solution while Egypt and Syria deployed their forces for a military showdown. To keep a military balance, Kissinger urged the shipment of Phantom jets to Israel.

Calling Kissinger

He became deeply involved in preparing the new international monetary agreement. President Nixon's unilateral economic moves last August caused a diplomatic hackfire around the world. He did not consult with America's trading partners. He offered no explanation to the International Monetary Fund. He ignored the diplomatic niceties. In all this, he was advised chiefly by Treasury Secretary John Connally. Kissinger was called in, finally, to unravel the international disorder.

He set a g e - m a n a g e d the President's globe-trotting to placate ruffled allied leaders. Not only were the briefing papers prepared under Kissinger's supervision, but he traveled with the President. Kissinger seemed to be everywhere—conferring with British Prime Minister Edward Heath, breakfasting with French President George Pompi-

dou and, after hours, hitting the night spots with beautiful young ladies.

All the while, Kissinger continued to prepare for the President's pilgrimages to Peking and Moscow. He not only handled the arrangements but plotted the big-power chess that the President will play with our two chief adversaries.

More than anyone else, Kissinger served as ring master for the three-ring Paris peace talks, Vienna SALT talks and Brussels

Jack Anderson

NATO conference that were going on simultaneously behind closed doors. He called the signals from the White House.

He also kept close watch through horn-rimmed glasses upon such far-flung trouble spots as Cuba, Chile and Korea. He monitored the diplomatic cables, intelligence digests and situation reports that poured into Washington from around the globe. His interpretations and recommendations, largely guided the President in setting policy everywhere.

Paper clip war

Day after day, Kissinger processed dozens of option papers, security memoranda and briefing papers for the President. Kissinger also worked on several major national security studies on such subjects as "Prisoners of War" and "Laos Peace Initiatives."

In short, Henry Kissinger has been running U.S. foreign policy out of his basement office in the White House. The final decisions, to be sure, have been made by the President. But Kissinger has guided the President's thinking and directed the implementation of his policies.

The State Department, with its worldwide Foreign Service network, has been relegated largely to a messenger service. Kissinger accepts briefing papers from the State Department, and the department's specialists participate in White House strategy sessions.

But the final formulation of policy is handled by Kissinger. In preparation for the President's Peking visit, for example, veteran strategists at the State Department submitted briefing papers but weren't invited to join the advance party now in Peking. This mission is completely controlled by Kissinger.