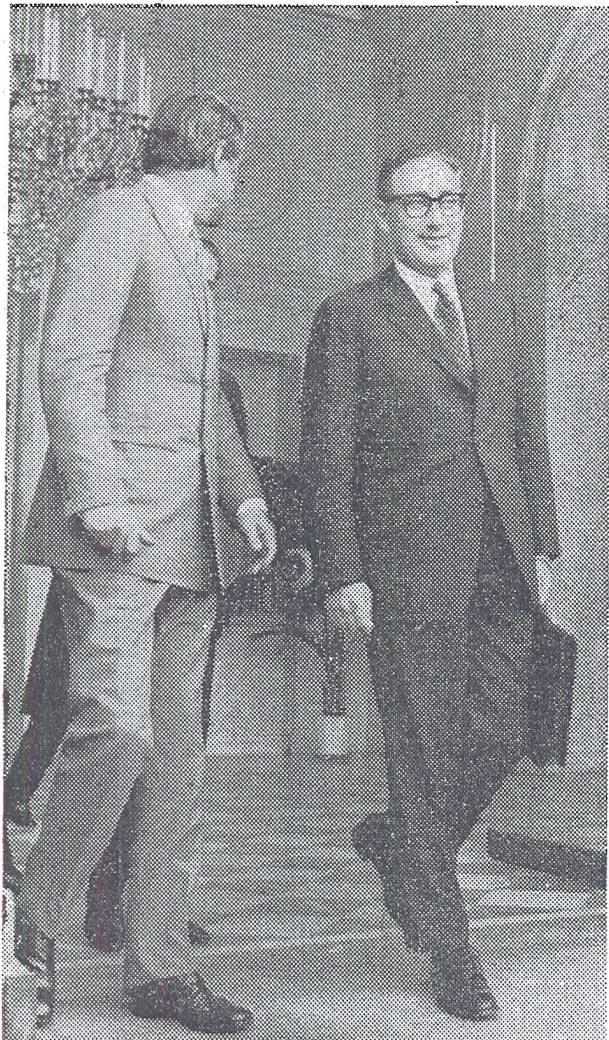


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A Few Clues From a Super-Secret Agent



Pictorial Parade

On a trip Henry A. Kissinger made to Paris on Aug. 4, 1969, he openly visited French leaders with Ambassador Sargent Shriver, left. Whatever else he did was secret.

By RICHARD HALLORAN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26—Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's specialist in super-secret diplomacy, divulged some clues today about his modus operandi in going to Paris to meet with North Vietnamese officials there.

His unpublicized trips featured a sleek "cover" each time he slipped out of Washington—switches of planes to throw off curious fliers, cooperation from the French, landings at out-of-the-way airports, stays with unknown "safe-house" keepers, and negotiations at hidden rendezvous points.

Mr. Kissinger, known to some Government insiders as "Henry the K," got a chuckle from newsmen when he said: "I don't want to go into all of the details of how it was done, because we may want to do it again."

But the Presidential adviser, obviously relishing his role as a confidential agent, revealed enough to put together a pattern of operation.

The six secret meetings in 1971 revolved around weekends, one being on a Saturday and five on Mondays. Mr. Kissinger said that "it was usually a rather hectic thing to accomplish all of this in two days," suggesting that he usually left

Continued on Page 14, Column 3

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Continued From Page 1, Col. 7

Washington on Sunday and returned Monday evening or Tuesday morning.

The first trip was over the long Memorial Day weekend in May, when the President was at his Camp David hide-away and the White House press corps was enjoying some time off. Mr. Kissinger's meeting with the North Vietnamese was on Monday, May 31.

For his second meeting, on Saturday, June 26, Mr. Kissinger flew to London for a discussion with the British Cabinet secretary, Sir Burke Treno, on the operation of the National Security Council and the comparable machinery in Britain. Then he slipped off to Paris to meet with the North Vietnamese.

The third meeting, on Monday, July 12, came just after Mr. Kissinger had his famous "bellyache" in Pakistan to cover his flight to Peking on July 9. He said to newsmen today, "The hardest part was not to get to Peking unobserved." The hardest part, he said, was to get to see the North Vietnamese unobserved since a few hundred of you were chasing me around Paris rather intensely."

Mr. Kissinger covered that meeting by appearing in public at dinner with Margaret Osmera, a television producer for the Columbia Broadcasting System. That dinner, he said today, "took place after I had already seen the North Vietnamese for four hours."

There was little difficulty in concealing Mr. Kissinger's fourth contact, on Monday, July 26, because public and press attention was focused on an Apollo space mission. President Nixon helped by going to Camp David for the weekend, watching the liftoff on that Monday morning, and returning to Washington in the afternoon.

President Nixon's unexpected announcement of his new economic policy on Sunday evening, Aug. 15, drew public and press attention on that issue on Monday, Aug. 16, when Mr. Kissinger held his fifth rendezvous with the North Vietnamese.

Similarly, the White House press corps was busy inquiring into President Nixon's conference with leading businessmen about Phase II of the economic program on Sept. 16, while Mr. Kissinger was in Paris for his sixth discussion with the North Vietnamese.

Presumably, the other six meetings Mr. Kissinger had in Paris, during 1969 and 1970, were accomplished in much the same manner.

Mr. Kissinger packed several clues into one sentence in his briefing today, saying: "We generally flew to American military bases and then transferred once or twice until we wound up, through the co-operation of President Pompidou at some little used airfields near Paris and then we generally stayed in the outskirts with the people we used as contacts."

Whether his pronoun was an editorial "we" or indicated that he was accompanied by others could not be determined. But on his secret flight to Peking, he had several aides with him.

Mr. Kissinger undoubtedly did not use this easily identifiable blue-and-white aircraft in the White House fleet but regular military aircraft. The United States has air bases in England, Germany, Spain, and elsewhere in Europe, where the switches could be made.

French Role Assessed

Since the United States no longer has air bases in France, the French appeared to have furnished air transport into the

little-used airports near Paris and the ground transport from there to where Mr. Kissinger stayed outside of Paris.

The "contacts" he mentioned appeared to have been keepers of "safe house," or hide-aways disguised as ordinary residences, run perhaps by the Central Intelligence Agency or by the French Sûreté or other intelligence service.

Mr. Kissinger also said today that "we generally met in a meeting place furnished by the other side," meaning a rendezvous set by the North Vietnamese.

Whether Mr. Kissinger ever came close to being discovered could not be determined, although he did say "there has never been a leak."

Marines Quit Maine Beach

GEORGETOWN, Me., Jan. 26 (AP)—The last of some 900 Marines who participated in the Navy's Operation Snowy Beach were evacuated from Reid State Park today. About 140 Marines and Navy beachmasters were flown by helicopter to an awaiting flotilla around noon after inclement weather forced a 36-hour postponement of the final phase of the operation.