

Post-Peace Future Unsure

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How Now, Dr. Kissinger?

WASHINGTON (AP) — Has Henry Kissinger talked himself out of a job?

President Nixon's assistant for national-security affairs simply smiled Wednesday when asked that question.

What indeed will Kissinger do now that Vietnam peace, at last, is at hand? Gossipy Washington is churning out an assortment of answers with little help from Kissinger, who has indicated he doesn't know himself.

"WHAT CAN top Paris?" he mused during a conversation, referring to the city he visited 24 times in 42 months pursuing a peace accord.

Kissinger said a few weeks ago that once a Vietnam peace was wrapped up he hoped for a leisurely vacation in Mexico. Beyond that, there has been little information about his plans.

No sudden change is anticipated in Kissinger's role as Nixon's chief foreign-policy adviser. But Kissinger has suggested to friends that the National Security Council apparatus he heads would have a better chance of enduring in subsequent administrations if it had someone else at the helm — at least for a while — before Nixon leaves office.

IN THIS way, the German-born, former Harvard professor has signaled a desire to leave the White House before Nixon does, probably to write his memoirs and return to his role as one of academia's leading experts on global politics.

But there have been signs, too, that

Kissinger would relish an opportunity to turn his immense energies to other world problems—rebuilding America's European alliances, helping build a new era in East-West relations and perhaps working for a Middle East solution.

Kissinger has appeared to leave public efforts toward a Mideast settlement to others—perhaps because he is Jewish. But the Arabs themselves reportedly have shown some interest in enlisting Kissinger's talents toward working out a solution.

Kissinger's timetable for departing from the White House conceivably could be influenced by what has been interpreted as a recent series of slights by Nixon.

IN HIS speech Tuesday night, Nixon mentioned Kissinger only once, when

he quoted an agreed-upon statement issued simultaneously with Hanoi that Kissinger and Le Duc Tho had initialed an agreement. Nowhere in the speech did he praise or pay tribute to the thousands of hours Kissinger had devoted in four years to ending the Vietnam war.

After Kissinger returned from Paris Tuesday night, he joined Nixon in meeting with six congressional leaders to report on the agreement. When cameramen were ushered into the President's office at the beginning of the session, they were led to a position behind Kissinger. Everyone's face except Kissinger's could be seen clearly in subsequent photos.

A half-hour later, Nixon convened a meeting of his full Cabinet. Around the

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big table were seated department heads and an assortment of White House counselors. Kissinger was seated in a chair against the wall.

White House aides say Kissinger's position with Nixon remains unchanged.

NIXON SENT Kissinger before television cameras Wednesday to explain details of the Vietnam agreement.

The result was a virtuoso mixture of humor and facts that left newsmen wondering whether they would face a pop quiz at the end of the lecture.

At one point, Kissinger said of the agreement: "The document . . . refers only to the parties participating in the Paris conference, which are, of course, well known to the parties participating in the Paris conference."

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Harvard Anxious to Fill Position
Vacated by Henry 4 Years Ago

Cambridge, Mass. (AP) — Henry A. Kissinger must send word to Harvard by Feb. 5 on whether he wants to return as a professor or a search will be launched for a successor, a university official said today. . . .