

Kissinger Gets Strained Welcome

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As if Henry Kissinger didn't have enough troubles at home lately, it seems that for some days he was per-

sona non grata in Sweden.

The man who made secret trips to China and who, before he entered the White House, had the run of European capitals, was told his presence was not particularly desired at a recent conference of politicians and diplomats held in Saltsjoebaden, near Stockholm. In earlier years Kissinger was a much sought after star of the discussions at the Bilderberg meetings.

A number of European sources have confirmed that word was sent to Kissinger from Stockholm. The Swedish Foreign Minister called in the American charge d'affaires to say that in view of the fact that Premier Olaf Palme and other high Swedish officials would be attending the conference, the presidential adviser would not be welcome.

When American representatives of the Bilderberg committee heard about this, these sources said, they were highly indignant. One

of the members is said to have called Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, founder of the yearly conferences. Bernhardt, in turn, called Palme, and told him that in view of Sweden's attitude it might be better if the conference were held elsewhere.

Palme is said to have replied that there must have been some misunderstanding and that he could not imagine how that impression had been conveyed. The prime minister called the foreign minister who in turn ordered the secretary general of the foreign ministry to make amends to the American charge d'affaires, Arthur J. Olsen. He said there must have been some mistake.

Now officials in Washington are explaining that what the Swedish foreign minister meant in his original communication was to convey the message that if Kissinger were to come Swedish officials would want to

meet with him as a U.S. official.

Because of Sweden's outspoken attitude toward U.S. participation in the war in Southeast Asia, there has been no ambassador in Stockholm since August and no Swedish ambassador in Washington since December.

Conference sources confirm that there could have been no misunderstanding the original message. In any case, by the time amends were made, Kissinger had already let it be known that his attendance at the conference would not be "appropriate at this time."

U.S. officials let it be known that Kissinger's cancellation could be seen as a rebuke to Sweden for May Day statements by the prime minister and the foreign minister accusing the United States of violating the Paris peace agreements by bombing "defenseless people" in Cambodia.