

MAY 10 1972

# 'Some Risk' Admitted In Mining

SFChronicle  
AP & Reuters

Washington

The White House said yesterday that President Nixon hopes his tough sea quarantine of North Vietnam will not prevent his talking with Soviet leaders in Moscow later this month.

Henry A. Kissinger, the President's assistant for national security affairs, told a White House news conference that Mr. Nixon realizes his attempt to block arms-carrying Russian ships from Haiphong and other northern ports confronts Soviet leaders with "short-term difficulties."

However, Kissinger said the chief executive still believes the two superpowers are on the verge of forging "a new era in East-West relations" that could be spurred by Mr. Nixon's scheduled May 22-29 visit to Russia.

## RISK

Kissinger acknowledged that Mr. Nixon's decision to mine approaches to North Vietnamese ports often used by Soviet shipping "of course involves some risk." But he said the administration decided "it did not involve an unacceptable risk."

As for Mr. Nixon's order to cut rail lines linking North Vietnam and mainland China — another major route for war supplies — Kissinger discounted the possibility that the Peking government might get edgy.

"We will take great care," he said, "that the People's Republic of China will not misunderstand our intentions."

In another development yesterday, Secretary of State William P. Rogers indefinitely postponed resump-

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tion of a tour of Western European countries interrupted when he was called home for a Monday meeting of the National Security Council that preceded Mr. Nixon's latest Vietnam moves.

Rogers had been on an eight-country trip to brief allies on plans for Mr. Nixon's Moscow trip. Kissinger said the U.S. government has yet to receive any indication from the Soviets as to whether they feel the visit should be made as scheduled.

He surmised that a day or so might pass before a reaction is received. Meanwhile, he said the United States is continuing with preparations.

The security affairs adviser said the U.S. government in recent months "perhaps underestimated the massive inflow of offensive weapons, particularly from the Soviet Union," for use by Hanoi's forces.

These Soviet shipments, he contended, tipped the military balance in favor of North Vietnam.

If Mr. Nixon's stringent new moves created some difficulties for the Soviets, he said, Mr. Nixon's prospective hosts "permitted a situation that posed massive difficulties for us."

While picturing Mr. Nixon as having been forced by events to impose an air-sea quarantine "with enormous pain and great reluctance," Kissinger said the U.S. stands ready to resume public or private peace talks. If Hanoi balks at the prospect now, he suggested, it might later find reason to change its mind.

In his speech, Mr. Nixon proposed a complete American withdrawal from Vietnam within four months of the start of an internationally supervised cease-fire throughout Indochina and the release of American prisoners of war.

Although similar proposals have been made before, it was stressed that the President did not demand that North Vietnamese forces in South Vietnam should pull back to positions they held before launching their invasion more than five weeks ago.

Some diplomatic observers believe the President in effect had recognized the difficulty of restoring the old lines and is prepared to see a political settlement based on the reality of power and territorial occupation as it existed today.

Asked about his view, Kissinger said he would not discuss the U.S. position should a serious negotiation begin but he added that "we would approach the negotiations in a generous spirit."

Kissinger said that only events will show whether Mr. Nixon's tactics will succeed.

In any event, he said, he would not expect the sea quarantine to affect the heavy fighting in South Vietnam during the next three weeks. But, after that, there should be some impact if the plan to curtail Hanoi's war goods succeeds, he said.

Kissinger indicated that there are two schools of thought within the administration regarding Soviet involvement in the situation:

- That Moscow conceived, planned and supplied the current Hanoi offensive with the aim of subjecting Mr. Nixon to maximum humiliation prior to his Moscow visit.

- The Soviets did not plan the operation but, because they were the major source of weapons, "must bear part of the responsibility."

Kissinger said, "We tend to lean toward the latter interpretation."

He spoke scornfully of the way Hanoi's Le Duc Tho handled his most recent private conference with Kissinger, in Paris a week ago.

While the White House adviser said he gave assurances that the United States would listen to "every conceivable approach" in negotiations, Le Duc Tho repeat-

ed verbatim a time-worn Communist formula. Said Kissinger:

"What we heard could have been clipped from a newspaper and sent to us through the mail."