

SFChronicle FEB 26 1973

Kissinger's Views on Viet Future

New York

Presidential adviser Henry Kissinger said yesterday the U.S. would not be opposed to a peaceful and democratic Communist takeover of all of Vietnam.

"If the performance of one part or the other (North Vietnam or South Vietnam) is so clearly superior to that of the other that it tends to achieve moral superiority over the other, that is not an American concern," he said in a televised interview with Barbara Walters of NBC.

"If the North Vietnamese are willing to compete peacefully, if they are willing to develop their country, if they are willing to rely on a political process, then we don't object to their objective."

AID

Kissinger said passage of the administration's aid program for Hanoi is necessary for preserving peace in Vietnam. The program has been estimated at anywhere from \$2.5 billion to \$3.5 billion, but Kissinger did not mention any figures.

"In the present circumstances, when you have a peace that has many precarious aspects after ten years of war . . . not to consider what may be psychologically, politically and humanly necessary is simply a wrong allocation of priorities," he said.

The President's adviser said he would not testify formally before Congress to push the aid measure, but

he would meet with Senators and Representatives on a less formal basis.

"The economic assistance pact which received so much attention in our newspapers here wasn't even discussed until the third day of my stay in Hanoi," he said. "Much of the first day was devoted to the question of prisoners and to missing in action."

He said the U.S. insisted on a full accounting of prisoners and the estimated 1300 missing in action, which the North Vietnamese promised to provide.

Kissinger declined to say whether Mr. Nixon's decision to bomb the Hanoi-Haiphong area last December was made with his approval or over his objections, but he did say "you can assume that if I could not support a major policy I would resign." The administration has consistently said that Kissinger is in accord with President Nixon's policies.

He defended his prediction "peace is at hand" prediction, which came ten weeks too early, as not a bad guess considering the war's ten-year duration.

United Press