

## The Investigators

# Kissinger On the Spot

By Jack Cloherty and Bob Owens

**IT LOOKS AS IF** Henry Kissinger won't be able to reserve his version of the Vietnam war for his multi-million-dollar memoirs after all.

A Congressional subcommittee is planning to slap a subpoena on the former Secretary of State. The House Asian and Pacific Affairs panel plans to force Kissinger to testify about the war and the 1973 Paris Peace accords.

Former President Richard Nixon may also be subpoenaed by the subcommittee to testify about the war. But unlike the Kissinger action, the move to haul Nixon before the subcommittee is not definite.



Subcommittee chairman Lester Wolff, (Dem.-N.Y.), confirmed the panel's intention to force Kissinger to appear.

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**KISSINGER WILL BE SUBPOENAED**, subcommittee sources say, because he flatly refused an informal request from the panel to testify and supply documents.

In a written reply to the subcommittee's invitation, Kissinger haughtily referred the congressmen to the State Department for information. The one-time "Lone Ranger" of American foreign policy said that he would not appear, since he was no longer a member of the executive branch.

But the subcommittee plans to use this claim against the secretive Kissinger once it has him under oath.

"Since he's no longer in government," one subcommittee source said, "he'll have to appear and he can't claim 'executive privilege' either."

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**THE SUBCOMMITTEE IS** apparently anxious to question Kissinger about the existence of a secret commitment to provide more than \$3 billion in reconstruction aid to North Vietnam in return for the peace agreement.

The timing and the amount of the reparation promise have been at issue since the accords were signed in 1973. At the time, Kissinger stated that "there are no secret understandings" and that "the formal obligations of the parties have all been revealed, and there are no secret formal obligations."

But three years later, a Congressional delegation visiting Hanoi was told that former President Nixon had sent North Vietnamese leaders a secret memorandum just after the Paris agreement was signed, promising \$3.25 billion in aid.

The Nixon letter apparently was delivered in advance of the Kissinger denials.

The subcommittee hopes that Kissinger can resolve this apparent discrepancy as well as fill them in on some of the backstage political machinations at the peace talks.