

## The Wiretap on A Kissinger Aide

### Washington

The Justice Department admitted yesterday that it placed a wiretap on the home telephone of former White House aide Morton Halperin for 21 months, but it said it did so lawfully to protect "national security."

In a response to a lawsuit filed against the government by Halperin, the department argued that the wiretaps placed on Halperin's telephone between May 12, 1969, and Feb. 10, 1971, were requested by Henry Kissinger, President Nixon's national security adviser, to pinpoint leaks of classified material.

Halperin, formerly an aide to Kissinger and now a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution here, has asked the U.S. District Court to penalize Kissinger and ten

other defendants \$100 a day for tapping his phone.

Each of the defendants could be assessed damages up to \$75,000 for a total of \$825,000 under the terms of a wiretap statute in the 1968 Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act.

Justice Department attorneys Edward S. Christenbury and Benjamin C. Flanagan argued in papers filed in District Court yesterday that the wiretaps on the telephones of Halperin and other White House aides were necessary because leaks of classified material "could severely impair the ability of the President to conduct foreign policy could damage the national security of the United States." Halperin was suspected as a source of the leaks, the attorneys declared. *Washington Post*