

Kissinger off to Moscow

United Press

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Henry Kissinger went to Moscow today on orders from President Nixon to discuss "means to end the hostilities in the Middle East" with Soviet leaders.

President Nixon dispatched Kissinger on the dramatic diplomatic mission after a series of personal exchanges with Soviet Communist Party Chief Leonid Brezhnev.

His trip was apparently timed to coincide with the return to Moscow by Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin who flew to Cairo earlier this week apparently to nudge the Egyptians into accepting

a ceasefire in place. Kosygin had five meetings with President Anwar Sadat as Soviet arms shipments to Egypt continued.

The White House announcement of Kissinger's surprise peace journey came shortly after midnight, several hours after Nixon asked Congress to authorize a \$2.2 billion emergency military aid program for Israel to replace its battle losses in the conflict with Soviet-equipped Arab armies.

Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield, one of three congressional leaders briefed by Kissinger late last night, said the secretary left in response to "an urgent request from Kosygin, not that he come there in a

matter of days, that he come there in a matter of hours."

Mansfield urged consideration of his proposal for a six-nation summit conference of the heads of the governments of the United States, Soviet Union, West Germany, France, Britain and Japan, the countries with the greatest stake in the Middle East.

Making his first trip to Russia as Secretary of State, he was accompanied by Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin, with whom he has been in close contact throughout the crisis, and Assistant Secretary of State for Middle Eastern Affairs Joseph Sisco.