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# Kissinger To Pass Up Nobel Rite

Associated Press

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger has turned down an invitation to accept the 1973 Nobel Peace Prize in person "because of the press of business in a world beset by recurrent crisis."

In a letter to the Nobel Peace Prize Committee in Oslo, Norway, Kissinger named Ambassador Thomas Byrne to accept the honor in his place during ceremonies Dec. 10. Byrne is the U.S. ambassador to Norway.

The letter was dated Nov. 2 and addressed to Mrs. Aase Linaas, chairman of the committee.

Kissinger wrote that "I am deeply moved by the award of the Nobel Peace Prize, which I regard as the highest honor one could hope to achieve in the pursuit of peace on this earth."

Kissinger said that, although he could not attend the ceremony, "I would hope and consider it a privilege, should you so wish, to visit Oslo at a future appropriate date to deliver the lecture which I understand is customarily given by laureates of the Nobel Peace Prize."

Kissinger received the honor along with Le Duc Tho of North Vietnam. Kissinger and Tho negotiated the Vietnam cease-fire settlement signed in January.

However, Tho declined the award on grounds that peace has not been fully restored in Southeast Asia.

American officials said Kissinger's absence in Oslo has nothing to do with Tho's refusal of the award.

State Department spokesman George Vest said Kissinger is extremely busy because of the situation in the Middle East and he "sees this continuing" for the next several weeks.

Vest also said there is precedent for Kissinger's acceptance of the award through a stand-in.

Former President Theodore Roosevelt received the peace prize through the U.S. ambassador in the early part of the century for his arbitration of the Russo-Japanese War.

Secretary of State Cordell Hull followed the same procedure when he received the Nobel Prize in 1945, Vest said.