

# Kissinger's

## Story of The Leaks

Washington

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger acknowledged yesterday that he knew a former aide had interrogated a naval officer concerning security leaks, but insisted he was unaware of any investigation or of the existence of the White House "plumbers."

At a news conference, Kissinger outlined his position concerning leaks during the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war and of reports that documents were taken from his National Security Council office and passed to Pentagon officials.

Kissinger confirmed that the former aide, David Young, had conducted an "interrogation" of an admiral who first disclosed the unauthorized transfers.

Young was a former NSC staff assistant who in 1971 was transferred to the staff of John Ehrlichman, President Nixon's chief domestic adviser at that time and the overseer of internal security matters.

Kissinger has insisted for months that he did not know of the existence of the so-called Plumbers group nor that Young was a member.

And although he listened to a tape recording of Young questioning Admiral Robert O. Welander about the unau-

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thorized transfer of secret documents, Kissinger said, "but from this, one could not suppose that David Young was conducting an investigation."

Rather, the secretary said, he supposed that Young as a staff assistant to Ehrlichman was merely taking Welander's report.

"To be specific, I did not know that David Young was conducting an investiga-

tion," Kissinger asserted, "I did not instruct him, nor did I request it. I never saw the report, nor did I know that the report existed . . ."

Kissinger said the first he knew that secret information was being sent to Admiral Thomas Moorer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was when Welander told General Alexander Haig, then Kissinger's deputy, that evidence indicated at least one of the documents suggested the leak occurred in his office.

The matter was turned over to Ehrlichman, Kissinger said, and beyond the one interrogation of Welander, "I was told nothing about the investigation . . ."

At the time, Welander was in charge of liaison between the Joint Chiefs and Kissinger's National Security Council.

Kissinger, who sounded hoarse and appeared nervous during the news conference segment dealing with the security issue, was asked why he did not seek the results of the investigation and interrogation of Welander.

"Because I was told that I was not to be informed of it," Kissinger responded. He refused to disclose anything more concerning the origin of that order.

Later, sources said Ehrlichman was the source of that order.

The secretary said the entire situation involving the unauthorized movement of NSC secrets to military officials was amazing.

"There was a full flow of information between my office" and Moorer, the secretary said . . . and therefore I have no reason to question" Moorer's statement that the incident "reflected overzealousness on the part of subordinates."

In any event the information received by Moorer was nothing the naval official "did not already possess," Kissinger added.

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