

Kissinger on Nixon Woes

Washington

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger strongly defended the administration's foreign policy yesterday against any suggestion that President Nixon is trying to manipulate it for domestic political advantage.

In a news conference at the State Department, Kissinger heatedly and specifically assailed Senator Henry M. Jackson for asserting that the administration is planning a "quick fix" at accord on strategic arms at June's summit with the Russians to buttress Mr. Nixon's position against impeachment charges.

"We are conducting our foreign policy on the basis, as I have said before, of the national interest — not geared to any deadlines, and not geared to the present domestic difficulties," Kissinger said.

He acknowledged, however, that Mr. Nixon's problems could weaken the administration's foreign policy over the long term, but that so far American foreign policy has not been affected by "the Watergate discussion."

Kissinger will leave tomorrow for talks in Geneva on Monday with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko before starting another Middle East trip that could last more than two weeks.

On the Middle East, Kissinger said he hopes to make progress in bringing Syria and Israel closer to an accord on troops separation. He made no predictions on the possible success of the negotiations. He will be the

Confusion in Ethiopian Mutinies

Addis Ababa

Units of Ethiopia's Division in Addis Ababa and police commandos staged mutinies here yesterday that could spark a possibly military takeover with Emperor Haile Selassie as commander-in-chief, military sources said last night.

The situation in the capital was extremely confused

with what appeared to be two separate mutinies. The army was arresting ministers of the former government and the police commandos were invading their headquarters to arrest a number of senior officers who they said supported the ousted police commissioner, Lieutenant General Yilma Shibashi.

Reuters

mediator, shuttling between Damascus and Jerusalem.

In the 55-minute conference, Kissinger also:

- Vigorously urged support, in an opening statement, of the administration's \$5.18-billion foreign aid package, arguing in answer to a question that the decision to seek \$250-million in economic aid for Egypt "represents the assessment of this administration that Egypt is sincerely attempting to bring about a constructive solution to the problems of the Middle East."

- He said there are no current plans to sell arms to Egypt, which is now seeking to end total reliance on Soviet military support.

- Said, as to the requested \$100-million contingency aid fund for the Middle East, that talks have not

taken place with Syria on possible assistance, but that if there is a disengagement accord between Syria and Israel, "it is not impossible" that such aid might be made available.

- On the sensitive Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, said that he would present Gromyko with "various considerations" that if the Soviet Union regards as "worthy of discussions" could lead to a detailed American counter proposal. He said that he does not know if a significant arms agreement would be reached by the time of Mr. Nixon's Moscow trip, but the U.S. is working toward limits of each side's multiple-warheads—the MIRVs.

- Continued to take a hard line toward Cuba, asserting that if asked to vote today on whether Cuba should attend a hemispheric meeting in Buenos Aires next year, the U.S. would cast a "negative" ballot. But he kept options open by saying the U.S. is awaiting the results of a poll being taken by the Argentines on this question among other countries.

Kissinger was asked several questions dealing with the implications of Watergate for American foreign policy, and his responses

were consistent: Although Watergate did not make the conduct of foreign policy any easier, his activity was continuing without regard for the domestic problems.

"I have said on the record that the problem of authority is always essential to the conduct of foreign policy and, therefore, over a period of time it is bound to affect the conduct or the ability to conduct foreign policy," he said.

But he quickly added that "I have not noticed" that Watergate has affected "any area" of foreign policy.

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