

Kissinger Threatens to Quit

# Attacks leaks, innuendos on wiretap issue

Examiner News Services

SALZBURG, Austria — U.S. Secretary of State Kissinger threatened today to resign unless what he termed "leaks and innuendos" regarding his involvement in national security wiretaps were halted immediately.

A White House spokesman said President Nixon would be "very reluctant" to accept Kissinger's resignation under the circumstances.

In an emotion-charged news conference in Salzburg, Kissinger reiterated that he did not initiate or recommend the wiretaps and charged that the campaign against him springs from the House Judiciary Committee investigating the impeachment of President Nixon.

"I do not believe it is possible to conduct the foreign policy of the United States under these circumstances," he said.

"If it is not cleared up, I will resign," Kissinger declared, his voice hoarse and choked with emotion.

It was unclear how immediate was Kissinger's threat to quit. Although at one point in the news conference he said it was "not appropriate for me to go with the President to the Middle East without a full discussion of the issues," he made it clear later he intended to continue the tour.

After the news conference, Kissinger drove to the West German border for a conference with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher of West Germany. Kissinger said he and Genscher agreed to remain in touch on European matters and added that he expected to be back in West Germany the first part of July.

In a letter made public by the White House, Kissinger asked the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to review his testimony on wiretaps and said he was willing to appear before the committee at any time — even though he had no cause to change his testimony.

"If the committee decides on a review, I would not object should it wish to examine relevant security files and reports on wiretaps sent to my office," Kissinger said.

In Washington, the committee unanimously voted to review Kissinger's role in the wiretaps.

In making the announcement, Sen. Edmund Muskie (D-Maine) said he fully supports Kissinger and does not believe he should resign.

At issue is a series of FBI wiretaps instigated in 1969 on the telephones of several newsmen and high-level employees of the National Security Council — 17 in all — of which Kissinger, as the President's national security adviser, was then director.

The wiretaps were instituted, the administration has said, after a series of news leaks disclosed, among

other things, secret U.S. bombing of Cambodia and the U.S. negotiating position at the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks with the Soviet Union.

Kissinger acknowledged today that he knew some of his aides were likely to be wiretapped when he supplied the FBI with the names, but he insisted that he did not order their phones tapped.

At his confirmation hearings before the Foreign Relations Committee last September, Kissinger testified that he

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black man in a 1960 Cadillac, westbound on the Bay Bridge. Simon was cited for defective stoplights and a merely provided the FBI with the names of officials who had access to national security documents that were leaked. He said he had not suggested the taps nor did he ever order them used.

Last week it was reported that the House Judiciary Committee had evidence supposedly quoting the President and the late FBI director, J. Edgar Hoover, as saying Kissinger had initiated some of the taps.

At a news conference last week, when he was asked about the reports, Kissinger said that either the President must have been "under some misapprehension" or the tape was unclear.

However, he qualified his earlier denial by saying he had never "directly" ordered any wiretaps.

"I find wiretapping distasteful," Kissinger said, adding that he also finds "leaks distasteful."

Kissinger said he had informed President Nixon that he would hold the news conference here, but he added that he did not tell Nixon what he intended to say or that he would threaten to resign.

Two White House aides

Alexander M. Haig, Kissinger's former assistant and now presidential chief of staff, and press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler, appeared taken back.

Reporters were summoned there by Ziegler saying, "Kissinger has something to get off his chest," indicating he did not know the magnitude of what was coming.



**"IF IT IS NOT CLEARED UP, I WILL QUIT"**

Henry Kissinger during his emotional news conference in Salzburg today

—AP Photo