

# CAPITAL RALLYING ROUND KISSINGER; VINDICATION ASKED

JUN 13 1974

39 Senators Voice Esteem  
— Impeachment Panel  
Is Accused of Leaks

NYTimes

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 12 — Members of Congress and Government officials rallied to the support of Secretary of State Kissinger today, urging that his reputation be cleared so he would not carry out his threat yesterday to resign.

The backing took the form of speeches on Capitol Hill and even a resolution introduced late in the day by 39 Senate Republicans and Democrats expressing high regard for Mr. Kissinger. The resolution, sponsored by Senator James B. Allen, Democrat of Alabama, will probably gain more signatures tomorrow.

## House Committee Assailed

The Nixon Administration seemed to seize on the Kissinger affair to step up criticism of the House Judiciary Committee, now holding closed impeachment hearings on President Nixon.

Both Vice President Ford and Dean Burch, counselor to the President, charged the committee with having leaked derogatory information about Mr. Kissinger and said the committee should open its hearings to the public.

Mr. Burch, who insisted that the leaks were coming from the committee, even though newsmen maintained this was not so, said that Peter W. Rodino Jr., the chairman, had lost control of his committee. The charge was denied by Mr. Rodino and a senior Republican in the group, Representative Robert McClory of Illinois.

The Vice President told newsmen, "I think generally the people who are leaking this information are proimpeachment." Both he and Mr. Burch said it would be a tragedy, a calamity, and catastrophic for Mr. Kissinger to resign.

At the State Department, the reaction was more subdued and cautious. Officials were stunned by Mr. Kissinger's outburst in Salzburg, Austria, in which he said he would quit unless the

Senate Foreign Relations Committee declared him free of any impropriety in the wiretapping of officials and newsmen.

Senator Barry Goldwater, Republican of Arizona, in a Senate speech, called for an end to the "incessant nit-picking" over what Mr. Kissinger did or did not say about his wiretapping role, and for "a determined inquiry" to put and to leaks of secret information.

"It is time that we decide once and for all whether it is

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more important to protect secret information relative to our Government or more important to provide more circulation for newspapers, more viewers and listeners to the electronic media, and more money and adulation for people willing to turn against their government," Mr. Goldwater said.

Commerce Secretary Frederick B. Dent issued a statement attacking "the irresponsible assault" on Mr. Kissinger's honor and asserting "I have confidence in his integrity."

Some statements suggested that Mr. Kissinger was the victim of a major campaign.

## Doubt About Purpose

Most of the articles that have aroused Mr. Kissinger's ire have stemmed from information suggesting that Mr. Kissinger had not been completely candid in discussing his role in the wiretapping of 17 officials and newsmen from 1969 to 1971.

The charges have been made periodically over the last year and were revived in connection with the House Judiciary Committee's investigation of impeachment charges against President Nixon.

At the State Department, officials were surprised at Mr. Kissinger's threat to resign.

"What's amazing to me is that he thought it would do him any good," one senior official said today.

"I think the reaction around here has ranged from totally cynical to totally anguished," another official said.

Another close aide said Mr. Kissinger's hour-long news conference "showed how super-sensitive he is to any criticism."

Everyone interviewed at the State Department expressed the hope, with varying degrees of concern, that Mr. Kissinger would not resign out of pique. Several officials said they doubted that the issue would ever be resolved completely satisfactorily.

## Two Themes Stressed

Two themes were struck consistently in conversations:

That Mr. Kissinger publicly said in the midst of an important presidential trip that he

might resign underscored his personal dominance in foreign policy. "Whatever his personal concern, his ego is astronomical," one official said.

The outburst made clear what many of his closest aides have said for years: that Mr. Kissinger is thin-skinned about personal criticism. "I'd compare yesterday's performance with his attack on the French—highly emotional and exaggerated but based on a feeling that he was being personally abused," another official said.

On the whole, officials tended to the view that Mr. Kissinger was probably free of any personal impropriety but many questioned whether he should have made such an issue out of it.

It was generally assumed that the Senate Foreign Relations

Committee would reconfirm its findings of last September that Mr. Kissinger was fit to serve as Secretary of State. But many officials doubted that Mr. Kissinger would be able to keep the issue out of public discussion.

"It's a Pandora's box," one aide said. "I don't think anyone can predict now the ultimate result of the press conference yesterday."

Mr. Kissinger joins a long line of Secretaries of State who have found themselves working long, thankless hours only to find themselves attacked by the press or Congress. Mr. Kissinger was the first known case of a Secretary publicly threatening to resign over a matter of personal honor.

The closest parallel was probably that of Dean Acheson, who served under President Harry S. Truman.

On Jan. 25, 1950, the day that Alger Hiss was convicted of perjury, Mr. Acheson said at a news conference in answer to questions about the former State Department official, "I do not intend to turn my back on Alger Hiss."

## Resignation Refused

Mr. Hiss's case was deeply controversial because of charges that he had Communist affiliations. Mr. Acheson, in his memoirs, "Present at the Creation," said he had offered his resignation to Mr. Truman, but the President had approved his statement and refused to accept the resignation.

John Foster Dulles and Dean Rusk, two of Mr. Kissinger's other predecessors, were criticized for the foreign policies they espoused, and Mr. Rusk yesterday said Mr. Kissinger "should accustom himself to the fact that the Secretary of State is subject to criticism."

Mr. Kissinger has developed a reputation in the State Department as a highly emotional perfectionist who can explode with anger at subordinates. Some of his aides said his news conference showed he was frustrated over his inability to prevent the publication of charges that he had been

less than candid before the Foreign Relations Committee.

Mr. Kissinger's resignation threat was being examined by foreign embassies for policy implications.

If he were to leave, a large void would be formed in the foreign policy machinery, since the department has only a Deputy Secretary-designate, Robert S. Ingersoll, a former business executive with minimal experience in foreign affairs.

## Bluff Is Doubted

One friend said Mr. Kissinger was not bluffing about resigning if he were not cleared to his satisfaction.

"He would not make that statement if he did not know the consequences," he said.

The department said the public response to Mr. Kissinger's news conference had been running about 10 to 1 in his favor, with more than 100 messages received so far, most

of them urging him to stay in office.

Remarks on Capitol Hill were similar. Senators from both parties deplored that Mr. Kissinger had to respond to articles suggesting he was not completely candid.

"It is outrageous that Secretary of State Kissinger, who has achieved such diplomatic successes under very difficult circumstances, must now carry the extra burden of serious and misleading innuendo against him," Senator Strom Thurmond, Republican of South Carolina, said.

Senator Bennet Johnston, Democrat of Louisiana, said: "I believe Dr. Kissinger to be an honest man and a great American. He deserves a speedy and just vindication by the Congress."

Senator Edward J. Gurney, Republican of Florida, joined in the attack on the press, saying that "the irresponsible and vicious media attacks upon Secretary Kissinger while he is with the President upon a most delicate diplomatic mission—seeking to bring peace to the Mideast—can do nothing but destroy our effectiveness in foreign relations."

"The media has gone wild again," he said "anything goes with them, whether it destroys a man, our nation, or indeed, our hopes for worldwide peace."