

By **TERRY ROBARDS**  
 Special to The New York Times

LONDON, June 12—Secretary of State Kissinger's threat to resign over allegations that he was involved in illegal wiretapping aroused surprise and feelings of sympathy in the European diplomatic community today.

Europeans generally hold Mr. Kissinger in high regard, tending to see him as the man who negotiated peace in Vietnam and worked out a Middle East settlement.

Watergate and the other domestic difficulties of the Nixon Administration are either not clearly understood in Europe or are discounted as exaggerated by the news media.

Diplomats and politicians privately expressed surprise that the Secretary of State should choose a European setting to make comments about a matter that they view as mainly domestic. They also expressed a certain degree of alarm at the emotional tone of his remarks.

#### Threat Widely Reported

Mr. Kissinger's threat to resign over allegations of "illegal or shady activity" made yesterday at a news conference in Salzburg, Austria, has been widely reported and commented on in the European press. Mr. Kissinger's tenseness and anger in speaking to newsmen were mentioned prominently in many newspaper accounts.

Government officials in general declined to comment publicly on the situation, but privately they expressed sympathy with Mr. Kissinger's position. Many seemed to assume that his anger had been fully justified by the circumstances, whatever they might be.

In Brussels, a Belgian diplomat said it was "inconceivable for Europeans that Kissinger would lose his post because of a matter like the wiretaps problem."

In Bonn, Americans were

bombarded with questions: What does it mean? Does he really mean it? What did he do?

The wiretapping of government officers and others is a matter that arouses little surprise in most European capitals, where official eavesdropping is regarded—perhaps erroneously—as a common practice.

In Geneva Mr. Kissinger is being thought of as a victim of an affair that concerns him only because he is a leading figure in a tarnished administration. Diplomats expressed surprise that the Secretary of State would be "attacked," just after his diplomatic successes in the Middle East.

In London, Mr. Kissinger's news conference was the lead article in most of the morning newspapers, but government officials and diplomats were not commenting. There seemed to be a disinclination to take his resignation threat seriously.

Europeans are fully aware that President Nixon has serious political difficulties at home because of the Watergate scandal and they would not be surprised if he did not finish his present term, either because of a decision to resign or because of an impeachment proceeding.

But they have been assuming that American relations with Europe would not be seriously damaged if the President were to leave office, mainly because of the imposing presence of Mr. Kissinger in foreign affairs. Thus, Mr. Kissinger's departure would be alarming.

"His resignation would be far more alarming to the world than that of Mr. Nixon," the Times of London said editorially.

At the moment, however, they seem to feel that the Secretary of State will remain in office and that his threat to resign was issued either as a domestic political maneuver or because he was overwrought

after 34 days of intense negotiations in the Middle East.

#### Arabs Express Support

Special to The New York Times

BEIRUT, Lebanon, June 12—Arab newspapers today carried front-page articles in support of Secretary of State Kissinger against what several called "this campaign of slander."

Right-wing and independent newspapers here said that the pro-Israeli lobby in Washington hoped to undermine President Nixon's Middle East tour by attacking Mr. Kissinger.

"Zionism has shown its ugliest face in this campaign," the conservative Al Hayat said.

The pro-Cairo daily Al Anwar observed that Mr. Kissinger's accusers in Washington would have taken a different attitude had he and President Nixon decided to limit their tour to Israel.

The leading Lebanese daily, An Nahar, said, "Mr. Nixon and Mr. Kissinger may be called liars in Washington, but to the Arabs they are truthful."

#### Arabs' Trust Cited

Several newspapers said that the Arabs would try to help Mr. Nixon and Mr. Kissinger surmount their difficulties at home by showing how much the Arabs trust them.

Radio Damascus, in its news coverage, referred to the "poisonous atmosphere" in Washington and the radio in Riyadh, the Saudi Arabian capital, said American Zionists seemed determined to wreck the peaceful conditions that the Secretary of State had succeeded in creating in the Middle East.

But not all sections of the Arab press supported President Nixon's visit.

Strong criticism has come from newspapers here that support Iraq and Libya, the two Arab countries that oppose current efforts for an Arab-Israeli settlement.

The daily Beirut, known to reflect Iraqi thinking, called Mr. Nixon the "new emperor" and compared his visit to that of Napoleon III of France to Egypt for the opening of the Suez Canal.