

KISSINGER BACKED BY 52 SENATORS

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Majority Sign Resolution—
Committee Seeks Data on
His Role in Wiretaps
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WASHINGTON, June 13 —

A majority of the Senate today was backing a resolution that Secretary of State Kissinger's "integrity and veracity are above reproach" as the Foreign Relations Committee pressed the Administration for documents on his role in the wiretapping of 17 officials and newsmen from 1969 to 1971.

Late today, the Justice Department sent what a committee source said was a "responsive" reply to the request for crucial documents on Mr. Kissinger's role in the wiretapping. But the department reportedly set forth procedural criteria for using the documents that will involve additional discussion between the committee and the department.

The committee has said that it needs from the Federal Bureau of Investigation the original memos and authorization forms for the wiretapping, as well as other evidence, to judge the extent of Mr. Kissinger's participation in the decision to order the wiretaps.

Mr. Kissinger has previously testified before the Foreign Relations Committee that he did not press for the wiretaps but went along with the decision of President Nixon and others.

In an emotional news conference in Salzburg, Austria, on Tuesday, the Secretary said that he would resign if his honor was not upheld through refutation of allegations that he had not been candid in describing his role in the wiretapping.

By midafternoon, 52 Senators had signed the resolution submitted yesterday by Senator James B. Allen, Democrat of Alabama, that said that the Senate "holds in high regard Dr. Kissinger and regards him as an outstanding member of this Administration, as a patriotic American in whom it has complete confidence, and whose integrity and veracity are above reproach."

Fulbright Asks Documents

Those signing the measure included the majority leader, Mike Mansfield, and the Republican leader, Hugh Scott. Both Senators are members of the Foreign Relations Committee, which has decided at Mr. Kissinger's request to review his involvement in the wiretapping to see if there are grounds to reverse its decision of last September that cleared him of any wrongdoing.

Among the other members of the 17-man Foreign Relations Committee who endorsed the Allen resolution were John J. Sparkman, Democrat of Alabama; Hubert H. Humphrey, Democrat of Minnesota; Robert P. Griffin, Republican of Michigan; Claiborne Pell, Democrat of Rhode Island; Jacob K. Javits, Republican of New York, and Gale W. McGee, Democrat of Wyoming.

Senator J. W. Fulbright, chairman of the committee, sent letters yesterday to Attorney General William B. Saxbe, Leon Jaworski, the Watergate special prosecutor, and Carlyle E. Maw, legal adviser of the State Department, asking them to supply the committee with documents relevant to Mr. Kissinger's role in the wiretapping.

A committee source said that the group was not interested in the results of the wiretaps but rather wanted to check on Mr. Kissinger's activity in the decisions to use them starting in May, 1969 and on whether his sworn testimony to the committee last September conforms under close scrutiny with the original documents authorizing the wiretaps.

Mr. Kissinger testified that although he was alarmed at what he regarded as national security leaks to the press, he did not request wiretaps but merely acquiesced in supplying names of individuals who were among the 17 tapped.

In the public record of his testimony, Mr. Kissinger said that the names he provided were either of those who had access to material that had been leaked or of individuals who were mentioned in the investigation of others.

More Direct Role Charged

But in his news conference on Tuesday, Mr. Kissinger added another category: those who had adverse data in their security records. This suggested that some of those wiretapped may have not been directly involved with the information that was leaked.

In addition, some press reports, quoting F.B.I. memoranda, have alleged that Mr. Kissinger took a much more direct role in instigating the taps than he first testified.

A Justice Department spokesman said late this afternoon that Mr. Saxbe had responded to Mr. Fulbright's request, but the spokesman declined to go into details. He added, however, that the department wanted to cooperate with the committee.

The main legal problem for the department, he said, is that a Federal District Judge, John Lewis Smith, issued a "protective order" on April 1 barring disclosure of the material. The order was issued in connection with a civil suit for damages against Mr. Kissinger by Dr. Morton H. Halperin, a former Kissinger aide who was wiretapped.

A spokesman for Mr. Jawor-

ski's office said that it would "cooperate to the fullest extent possible with the committee", but it was understood that the office was reluctant to turn over any documents originating with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Maw responded to Mr. Fulbright's request, a State Department spokesman said, promising that "your committee can count on complete cooperation in its efforts to obtain all the evidence bearing on the problem."

Mr. Kissinger, in asking the Foreign Relations Committee to reopen the matter, promised the committee complete access to his own records.

Today, members of the committee expressed optimism that the documents sought from Executive offices would be made available. Senator Clifford P. Case, Republican of New Jersey, said that the committee's investigation "should not take too long if we get the kind of cooperation we have a right to expect."

"I think we'll get it," Mr. Case said.

No date has been set for any hearings. Mr. Fulbright first wants the committee's staff to study any new information in the documents.