

Kissinger Seeks Debate on Purposes

A Nuclear 'Numbers Game'

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MUNICH, July 6 — Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger — concerned that the Soviet-American nuclear negotiations are bogged down in a "numbers game" in the wake of the Moscow summit — feels that a basic national debate is necessary to explore the purposes of U.S. nuclear power in an era of detente.

Kissinger is described as convinced that the United States — and, in its own way, the Soviet Union — must develop a consensus among political and military leaders on the political purposes behind the use of nuclear weaponry. His objective is to look beyond what he deplors as a mindless debate too narrowly centered on nuclear "numbers."

These views, together with new details on what happened behind the scenes in Moscow, were made known as Kissinger reached this West German city on his round of Western European capitals to report on the summit talks that ended Wednesday.

At the conclusion of the

Moscow summit, Kissinger told newsmen that any search for security in nuclear superiority is an illusion. He said, "Both sides have to convince their military establishments of the benefits on restraint."

The same day, Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger denied in Washington that the Pentagon stood in the way of accords more significant than those reached in Moscow.

The theme of Kissinger's concern, as it is developing during this week of travel around Western Europe, is that the problem is not primarily the military establishment on either side, but rather broader national attitudes.

The secretary is reportedly amazed by criticism from some American hawks that the two sides' inability to make spectacular progress in Moscow indicates that the arms race will continue unchecked. He is equally surprised by criticism from liberal elements that the modest successes in Moscow prove that Watergate has ruined the Nixon administration's ability to conduct foreign policy.

Instead, Kissinger contends that President Nixon and Soviet Communist Party leader Leonid Brezhnev had profound discussions about nuclear weaponry and strategy, and that for the first time since the initial Moscow summit in 1972 the two superpowers are doing something more than simply haggling over numbers and generalities.

President Nixon and Brezhnev took the initiative at the point of potential stalemate during the summit to establish the framework for a midterm nuclear-arms limitation accord that could extend to 1985, a senior U.S. official said.

During these private attempts to set a new pattern, it was disclosed, Kissinger had a discussion with a powerful member of the Soviet Politburo, D.F. Ustinov, previously unidentified with such subjects as nuclear-arms limitation. Ustinov is the Politburo member in charge of defense, industry and space.

Kissinger's discussions with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko were twice delayed during the most critical days of negoti-

ation, Monday and Tuesday, because the Soviet Politburo was meeting to examine the idea of a nuclear accord running for about 10 years.

It was disclosed today by the American side that an illustrative range of possible limitations on nuclear weapons—with examples of numbers—had been mentioned by the United States during the talks.

The main thrust of the American contention now being pursued by Kissinger is that numbers alone do not provide security for either side, regardless of who may seem to have a mathematical advantage at any particular point.

The Soviet concern, Kissinger is emphasizing in his rounds of talks, is still focused predominantly on current Soviet inferiority in numbers compared to the United States.

American military leaders and their supporters in Congress, on the other hand, are alarmed about the possibility of the Soviet Union gaining numerical superiority, permitting it to catch up with the long American lead in multiple nuclear warheads.