

Leadership Shift Greeted Abroad With

Many See a Good Sign

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 1974

In Retention of Kissinger Hope That U.S. Policies

The change in United States leadership yesterday was greeted around the world with expressions of hope that American policies would continue unchanged, and support for this hope was seen in the retention by President Ford of Henry A. Kissinger as Secretary of State.

In Europe, Asia and the Middle East, there were expressions of relief that the long turmoil was ending. There was sympathy for Richard M. Nixon, and there were attacks upon him. And, as has been the case for several days, there were expressions of respect for the working of the American constitutional system.

Europe

By ALVIN SHUSTER

Special to The New York Times

LONDON, Aug. 9—European officials today combined expressions of relief over the end of America's Presidential turmoil with some concern over the future course of its foreign policy.

The general inclination was to accept Mr. Ford's assurances that there would be no sudden shifts in Washington's policies and the retention of Secretary Kissinger served as further reassurance.

But there was also some muted worry over Mr. Ford's lack of experience in world affairs, with some commentators and officials raising the question of whether he possessed the talent and inspiration to direct America's role in the world. They said the new President clearly lacked the interest of Mr. Nixon in international relations.

Ability Questioned

This was the view expressed, for example, in The Financial Times here. It called President Ford a decent and honest man with obvious qualifications to restore confidence in the American Presidency, but it raised the question of "whether Mr. Ford possesses the vision and intellectual ability to see domestic or international relations in a wide perspective."

Part of the reason for this concern, also reflected in private comments by some officials, is that so little is known in Europe about Mr. Ford. The Watergate scandal was not taken seriously in Europe for some time and it was only this week that officials in some capitals began earnest efforts to find out more about the new President.

In public comments, European leaders said they looked forward to working with the new Administration and to talks with Mr. Ford. Prime Minister Harold Wilson, for example, sent the President a message saying he was confident that the United States, Britain and their partners in the Western alliance "will demonstrate the purpose and determination necessary" to resolve the "problems of peace and economic well-being."

Hope for Close Attention

Although strains have eased recently in trans-Atlantic relations, officials said the alliance still needed the close attention of the President and voiced hope that Mr. Ford would provide it.

In Paris, the newspaper Le Monde also reflected concern over the course of American foreign policy. It said that even though Mr. Kissinger remained in office, officials should not necessarily assume that the Secretary would be in a position to pursue past policies without some modification.

"Behind the talents of the best of cabinet ministers there is always the political will of the real holder of power which imposes itself or fades," the newspaper said. "It is difficult to see in Mr. Ford the resolute statesman that perhaps he could be."

Italians Stress Honesty

In Italy, the Turin daily La Stampa commented that although Mr. Ford might not be a "political genius, he brings to the White House a quality it badly needs — honesty." It added, however, that "to find an ideological line or a hint of brilliant political thought in him would be a hopeless enterprise."

Luigi Barzini, the author of "The Italians," said that the United States had often "enjoyed the luck, after the loss of a President, to have been governed by earnest, honest, well-balanced ex-vice presidents, men who showed no particular genius but who were faithful to the fundamental ideals, and this is probably what is going to happen again."

Several European officials, while praising Mr. Nixon's achievements in foreign policy and, in particular, his steps to improve relations with Moscow and Peking, said they expected far less "spectaculars" in American foreign policy. They agreed this might well prove a chance for the better, noting that in the last year, many of Mr. Nixon's initiatives were viewed with suspicion and as efforts to distract public attention in the United States from Watergate.

"It is just as well that Nixon went," said one British analyst. "The world had stopped thinking of Nixon internationally and saw him only as a man fighting for his political life."

All over Europe, meanwhile, newspapers lost all inhibitions

in attacks on Mr. Nixon, describing him in the harshest terms yet. He was variously described as a "liar," "crook," "criminal" and "twister."

In Oslo, Premier Trygve Bratteli expressed his relief at the resignation saying that "as friends of the American people, we are glad the nightmare is over." The Danish Premier, Poul Hartling, said Mr. Nixon's decision saved the United States "from the painful process of an impeachment."

Will Not Change

But there was also continued praise for the American political system and its institutions. In Spain, newspapers praised the American press for uncovering "abuse and corruption." And in Paris, a commentator said the tragedy reflected the virtues of American democracy where "the law is decidedly stronger than man."

Asia

Bruce to Brief Peking

PEKING, Aug. 9 (Agence France-Presse) — David K. E. Bruce, head of the United States liaison office here, plans to meet with Chinese officials next week to assuage any apprehensions they may have over the change-over in Washington, according to American sources.

The sources said they thought the Chinese leaders might feel uneasy about Mr. Nixon's departure.

[Diplomatic reports received in Hong Kong say Chinese officials appear relieved that Mr. Kissinger will remain as Secretary of State in the Ford Administration, United Press International reported. Diplomatic sources said the Chinese had been sounding out foreign diplomats and visitors about Mr. Ford for several weeks.]

By noon today there had been no public report here about Mr. Nixon's resignation and the news was not expected to appear until tomorrow's newspapers were published.

Asked for comment on the departure of Mr. Nixon, who visited China in February, 1972, to initiate a new relationship between the two countries, the information office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry said that it "took note of the matter."

American sources here say that no "question of substance" involving Chinese-American relations is up for consideration just now. Specifically, they add, there is no sign that a movement to complete diplomatic relations is yet in sight.

Meanwhile, at the American liaison office, which was opened in the spring of 1973, a portrait of Vice President Ford was prepared for hanging in a place of honor. The word "Vice" in Vice President was covered by a piece of paper.

The new President is not entirely unknown to the Chinese. As Republican leader of the House of Representatives, he visited China in mid-1972. Mr. Ford was in a 17-member group led by Hale Boggs, then the Democratic House leader. The visitors were dinner guests of Premier Chou En-lai.

Sympathy in Taiwan

Special to The New York Times

TAIPEI, Taiwan, Aug. 9—Reaction in Chinese Nationalist official circles to the events in Washington appeared to be accompanied with considerable sympathy for Mr. Nixon, who is thought of here as an old friend despite the change in China policy in recent years.

Chinese Nationalists point out that he has long since been basically forgiven and praised for his gradual approach to Peking in contrast to what is regarded as the rush of Japan and others to establish full relations.

No dramatic changes are expected here from President Ford. In particular, no full relations with Peking are foreseen.

"Most people here understand that Mr. Ford is a pragmatist," said Chen Yu-khing, director of the Nationalist party's overseas-affairs section. "We don't expect that he would do anything too drastic to disturb the power equilibrium in this part of the world."

In the only official Government comment, Adm. Liu Hoh-tu spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, said: "We are convinced that the United States under the new Administration will continue to maintain its existing friendly relations with the Republic of China and honor the treaty obligations." This was a reference to the mutual defense treaty of 1954.

Seoul Expects Little Change

Special to The New York Times

SEOUL, South Korea, Aug. 9—The South Korean Government had no official comment today on President Nixon's resignation announcement, but some Government leaders said privately that they believed American policy toward Korea would not change under the new President.

The Government's major concern appeared to be whether the change-over in Washington would appear to be a sign of weakness to North Korea and suggest to the Communists that there was a good opportunity for some action against South Korea.

One high-ranking aide to President Park Chung Hee visited the American Embassy today to try to learn details on what policy the new President would follow.



Men reading newspaper headlines yesterday in Paris. The top one refers to President Nixon's "will." The lower: "Nixon: Scandals and also triumphs."

The New York Times/Jean Luce Hure