

Kissinger Insists Presidents Knew of Covert Actions

He Challenges Testimony Given by Former Aide at House Inquiry

by John M. Crewdson
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Washington, Oct. 31 - Secretary of State Kissinger told the House Select Committee on Intelligence today that during his more than six years as a national-security adviser to two Presidents, no covert intelligence operations had been undertaken by this country without Presidential approval.

Mr. Kissinger's assertion followed testimony before the same committee yesterday by James Gardner, a former State Department aide, that between 1972 and 1974 some 40 covert operations were approved by a four-man subcommittee of the National Security Council whose members never held a formal meeting.

Mr. Kissinger said today in response to a question that if Mr. Gardner had meant to imply that any of those operations had not been passed on personally by President Richard H. Nixon, Mr. Gardner was "mistaken."

From WXPPost same date, by George Lardner Jr.:

Repeatedly put on the defensive by the roughest questioning he has ever faced on Capitol Hill, Kissinger made the disclosure in light of complaints by committee members that Kissinger may have had the final word on all too many secret and often questionable projects.

The Secretary's response demolishes the theory of "plausible de iability" that has so often served to insulate Presidents from past disclosures.

"Every operation is personally approved by the President," Kissinger declared....