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Nixon Tapes Report Doubted by Kissinger

Associated Press

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger said yesterday that he "cannot believe" that President Nixon denied personally selecting the targets for FBI wiretapping in a 1969 search for information leaks.

In a statement read by spokesman Robert Funseth, Kissinger said that he has not seen the transcript of testimony given by Nixon last week in depositions to Morton H. Halperin, a former Kissinger aide who was wiretapped.

According to news reports, Nixon told Halperin and his lawyers that he did not personally select the persons to be wiretapped.

On the other hand, Kissinger in earlier depositions had said that Nixon specifically ordered the electronic surveillance of persons to be wiretapped.

In his statement yesterday Kissinger said he would read the transcript of the Nixon deposition when it is filed in court. Until then, his statement went on, "it would not be appropriate for him (Kissinger) to comment."

Then Funseth added that "however, the secretary cannot believe that these leaked reports accurately reflect what former President Nixon has said."