

# Nixon's Secret Call

## Washington

The Ford administration belatedly confirmed yesterday that Secretary of State Henry Kissinger had talked to former President Nixon on Monday, a day after his return from a controversial trip to China.

<sup>18 MAR</sup> The disclosure of the telephone conversation on how Mr. Nixon should report to the government on his eight-day trip to China followed five days of official denials that any high administration official had been or would be in touch with Mr. Nixon upon his return from Peking.

The disclosure prompted re-

porters at both the State Department and White House press briefings to embark upon angry exchanges with official spokesmen — reminiscent of the acrimonious news conferences of Mr. Nixon's last months in office.

<sup>18 MAR</sup> State Department spokesman Robert Funseth, who said Monday that Kissinger would not talk to Mr. Nixon, said yesterday that Monday's conversation took place with advance White House knowledge.

White House spokesman Ron Nessen, who said Tuesday that Kissinger had not spoken to Mr. Nixon since his return from China

on Sunday, said yesterday he had not known of the telephone conversation when he briefed reporters Tuesday.

Funseth acknowledged yesterday that he had known Tuesday about the telephone conversation, but said he had not disclosed it because he had not specifically been asked the question again.

The upshot of the Kissinger-Nixon conversation was that Mr. Nixon will submit a written report to the State Department on his visit and meetings with Hua Kuo-peng, China's new acting premier.

Reuters

<sup>2 MAR</sup>