

U.S. Says It Intends To Continue Cutting Forces on Taiwan

WASHINGTON, March 11 (UPI)—The United States intends to continue reducing the number of its military personnel on Taiwan, the Chinese Nationalist stronghold, the State Department said today.

A department spokesman, John H. Trattner, refused to say whether President Ford had told China's leaders of this intent during his visit to Peking in December.

He said, however, that "we

expect to continue the process of reducing our troop levels on Taiwan consistent with the principles established in the Shanghai Communiqué issued at the end of former President Richard M. Nixon's first visit to China in February 1972.

Mr. Trattner was responding to questions on a report by a Boston Globe correspondent, William Beecher, that said Mr. Ford had given a secret pledge in Peking last December to reduce remaining American troops on Taiwan approximately 50 percent over the next year.

Plan Unknown in Taipei

Special to The New York Times

TAIPEI, Taiwan, March 11—America and Chinese National-

ist military officials here said today that they were not aware of any plan to cut the United States military presence in Taiwan in half. According to a report published in The Boston Globe, President Ford pledged that the number of American troops in Taiwan would be decreased from the current 2,200 to 1,100.

Gen. Li Chang-hao, spokesman for the Defense Ministry in Taiwan, said that while his Government had not been informed of a planned cut in manpower, such a development would not be taken as a matter of great concern here.

"I don't think it makes much difference whether there are 1,000, 2,000 or 3,000 American

military men here," he said, "since none of the units stationed here is a combat force."

Kissinger to Stay in Post, President Tells Reporters

WASHINGTON, March 10 (Reuters)—President Ford said today that he did not see Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger as a political liability to his election hopes and that Mr. Kissinger would stay on as Secretary as long as he wanted.

Mr. Ford's vote of confidence on Mr. Kissinger came in an interview with a group of Chicago reporters questioning him about next Tuesday's Illinois primary election.

"As long as he wants to stay, he will," Mr. Ford said.