

Kissinger's Secrets in Rocky's Safe

Washington

The State Department said yesterday that Henry A. Kissinger was so close to resigning as President Nixon's national security adviser in early 1973 that he moved his Harvard files and other "personal papers" to the vault of then Governor Nelson Rockefeller's Pocantico Hills estate.

But rebutting some published versions, the department spokesman, John H. Trattner, said that Kissinger did not ship memorandums of conversation or other diplomatic exchanges from the White House files to the New York estate.

In their recently published book, "The Final Days," Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein said that Kissinger was so concerned about security in the White House that he sent sensitive papers to the then governor's estate.

New York Times columnist, William Safire, reported yesterday that the papers sent to Pocantico Hills included memorandums of conversations with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin that Kissinger did not want anyone to see.

Kissinger who became secretary of state in September 1973, had told reporters and colleagues that he had considered resigning in early 1973 after the Vietnam negotiations had ended.

Trattner said "all memorandums of conversation or other diplomatic exchanges in which Secretary Kissinger was involved as assistant to the President are now and have always been in the White House files. There are no other memorandums of conversation or diplomatic exchanges."

He said that this specifically applied to records of conversations with Dobrynin and other senior Soviet officials.

"There are no other notes or documents or exchanges with the Soviets, or indeed, any other diplomatic exchange with other governments," Trattner said, in a statement cleared by Kissinger.

When asked if Kissinger had sent any papers to Rockefeller's estate, Trattner said:

"Yes, when the secretary was considering resigning from the government, he moved his Harvard files and personal papers covering the years before 1969 which he had brought down to Washington from Boston during the student riots in 1969, plus some other personal papers to a vault at Rockefeller's estate. No documents, memorandums or other records were removed from the White House files.

"When the secretary later in the year decided to stay in government, he moved all the papers back to the White House. Everything taken to Governor Rockefeller's estate was returned in the spring of 1973 when the documents were brought back to the White House."