

JOHNSON DEFENDS U.S. TRAVEL POLICY

White House Reacts to the
Schwartz Case Criticism

By JOHN D. POMFRET

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WASHINGTON, March 10—

The White House, stung by reaction to a proposed State Department reorganization that forced Abba P. Schwartz out of his job, declared today that President Johnson would continue to support a "liberal" foreign travel policy.

The statement was made by Bill D. Moyers, Presidential press secretary, who was bombarded at his briefing this afternoon by questions from reporters concerning the circumstances surrounding Mr. Schwartz's resignation.

Mr. Moyers also made it clear that the President intended to support Secretary of State Dean Rusk on the State Department reorganization plan.

The plan, in effect, would abolish the department's Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs, which Mr. Schwartz headed before he resigned on Saturday.

Mr. Schwartz, whose status was that of an assistant secretary of state, submitted his resignation to the President after he had learned of the pending reorganization plan.

Urged Liberal Regulations

Mr. Schwartz is a leading advocate of measures to liberalize regulations governing the issuance of passports and to eliminate travel restrictions upon Americans.

He had been involved in an almost constant feud with Mrs. Frances G. Knight, Director of the Passport Office, his subordinate, who protested, among other things, what she called the "dangerous" policy of letting suspected Communists obtain passports unless they were given the opportunity of facing their accusers.

Mr. Moyers said that it did not make any difference who was in charge of issuing passports.

"The President of the United States sets that policy and will continue that [liberal] policy," Mr. Moyers declared.

Mr. Moyers said that the "progressive" policies that Mr. Johnson has been pursuing with respect to foreign travel since he took office had been enhanced recently by authorization of a major relaxation in travel regulations to permit scholars to visit Communist China and other places barred to ordinary tourists.