

Kissinger under fire: Chile and White House politics dent armor

Republicans in Congress view Secretary as less infallible despite Ford's backing

By Joseph C. Harsch

Washington

One of the more interesting by-products of the pardoning of Richard M. Nixon by President Ford is what it has done to the position of Henry A. Kissinger in the political kettle of Washington. Neither the pardon nor the storm which followed it caused a change in the Kissinger situation. Yet in the wake of the storm it is perceived that Dr. Kissinger has somehow lost his indispensability.

One now encounters Republican senators and congressmen speculating about who might make the best successor to Dr. Kissinger at the State Department. That is, the idea of a Kissinger departure is no longer unthinkable as it was before the Ford take-over at the White House and before the pardon.

The pardon storm seems to have acted as a precipitant in many ways. There was a gathering of Republican senators on Capitol Hill last Tuesday which was an eye-opener in a number of ways. Those who attended (most of the membership) discovered themselves in agreement on several related propositions.

Nixon holdovers 'must go'

One was that they want all Nixon holdovers out of the White House — and the sooner the better. After all, the Nixon pardon was done for the welfare of Mr. Nixon and the conscience of Mr. Ford, without regard for the general welfare of the Republicans who will be running for re-election in November.

They feel their prospects have been injured. Understandably, they are more interested in their own welfare than in Mr. Nixon's.

The consensus extended beyond the White House staff to the Cabinet. Republican senators and congressmen

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discover when talking to each other a willingness to consider any and all changes. Two weeks ago most of them would probably have said: Change everyone — except of course Henry Kissinger. Now it is: Change everyone.

At a breakfast meeting with newsmen Tuesday, Rep. Albert H. Quie of Minnesota said openly and for quotation that in his opinion all Nixon Cabinet holdovers except possibly Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton should go.

He specifically wanted Dr. Kissinger out on the grounds of declining credibility. He mentioned former Gov. William W. Scranton of Pennsylvania and former Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson as excellent candidates for the State Department in place of Dr. Kissinger.

Mr. Quie happens to be one of President Ford's oldest and closest friends and most frequently consulted advisers.

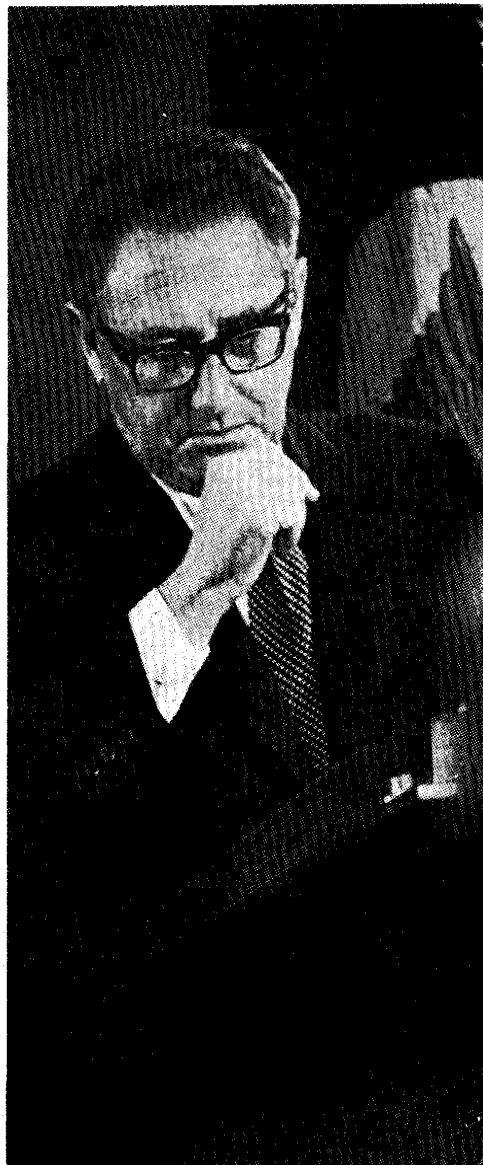
Ford's backing before UN

The President's supportive remarks about Dr. Kissinger in his speech Wednesday at the United Nations were carefully chosen. Mr. Ford's stated "full support" is in the present, not in the future, tense. The future commitment is not to Dr. Kissinger's official position in government, but to the efforts "to build a world of peace."

A member of the transition committee who is advising President Ford on the shape of his new administration says that Dr. Kissinger "will not be the first to go."

But this does not exclude him from the list of those to go eventually.

The departure of Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr. has been speeded (he leaves Friday). The departure from White House staff and Cabinet of others will be s



By R. Norman Matherly, staff photographer

Kissinger: question mark over future

In the new iconoclastic mood in Washington Henry Kissinger the miracle-worker is freshly perceived as Henry Kissinger the fallible.

One Capitol Hill veteran thinks, in retrospect, that it can be dated from last March when Dr. Kissinger got married. That made him just another married man, hence no longer of daily interest to the gossip columnists.

Another theory, more plausible, is that it dates from the curious episode at Salzburg on June 11 when he threatened to resign as Secretary of State if people continued to question his role in the matter of the wire taps.

Everyone pays Dr. Kissinger highest tribute, of course, for his manifold services to his country. Yet it is also realized now that while he got American troops out of Vietnam, the fighting still goes on in Vietnam.

And while he got a cease-fire in the Middle East, there is revived talk of another war there, and the Israelis have just handed in their biggest ever weapons shopping list.

And the Cyprus business was a dreadful tragedy and still is a long way from a solution. And American relations with Greece are in a deplorable state.

And nothing effective has yet been done about repairing and rebuilding the NATO alliance.

None of this means that Dr. Kissinger will shortly be returning to academe, or settling down to write his

Kissinger faces flak on CIA acts in Chile

By Dana Adams Schmidt and Richard L. Strout
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The Christian Science Monitor

Washington

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger is facing a growing barrage of questions about undercover U.S. operations in Chile. This barrage is, in turn, raising some questions about his future, despite President Ford's ringing endorsement of him at the United Nations.

The latest questions arose Thursday during a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing which had been scheduled only to hear the Secretary of State deliver an exposition of U.S. foreign policy and detente.

They were raised by congressional leaders who earlier had attended a morning meeting with President Ford and Secretary Kissinger at the White House.

Congressional rumblings

The questions were further spelled out in some detail by Sen. Frank Church (D) of Idaho at a breakfast meeting with reporters Thursday.

They also were earlier in the week voiced by Rep. Albert H. Quie (R) of Minnesota who went so far as to suggest that Dr. Kissinger had become less than indispensable.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D) of Massachusetts also has raised questions about the veracity of State Department testimony before congressional committee about the covert activities of the Central Intelligence Agency in Chile.

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★ Kissinger fa No Objection To Declassification in Full over CIA involvement in Chile 2010/08/27 : LOC-HAK R-110-5-43-0

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The questions about Secretary Kissinger's policies as chairman of the National Security Council and Secretary of State arising out of the disclosure before a congressional committee that the U.S. spent more than \$8 million between 1970 and 1973 to support opposition to former President Salvador Allende Gossens of Chile to "destabilize" his regime.

Ford's admission

President Ford at his last news conference in Washington denied that the U.S. had any part in overthrowing President Allende, but admitted an effort had been made to help opposition politicians and newspapers. And the President on this occasion and in his address to the United Nations Assembly Wednesday expressed full support for Dr. Kissinger.

In his capacity as head of the National Security Council and chairman of the so-called "40 Committee," Dr. Kissinger formulates and directs covert as well as overt foreign policy.

Senator Church took the lead in questioning the Secretary of State before the Foreign Relations Committee Thursday. He said the principles of foreign policy outlined by the Secretary and his wish to work out problems with the Soviet Union had a "hollow ring" in the light of "unfettered" covert intervention by the United States in Chile.

Colby testimony

Dr. Kissinger indicated he had not yet read the testimony given by CIA Director William E. Colby which was leaked from a congressional committee and which has stirred much of the current controversy. But he added that he would be glad to testify on the subject before Congress "at any time."

Sen. J. W. Fulbright, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee,

came to Dr. Kissinger's defense by asserting that the Chile affair was not germane to the subject of detente before the committee.

To this Senator Church objected, demanding to know how the Secretary could support moral principles in foreign relations "when we go into Chile in the way we did."

CIA defended

Dr. Kissinger defended CIA intervention on the grounds that although President Allende won an election in Chile, only 37 percent of those eligible to vote turned out. "Then," said Dr. Kissinger, "he proceeded to establish a one-party government on that basis."

Sen. Stuart Symington (D) of Missouri, shaking his head, observed that he had been on the CIA oversight subcommittee of the Armed Service Committee for 10 years, "and I don't know what is going on."

On the subject of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union, Dr. Kissinger said he had an understanding with the Soviet Union which he expected to come to a head within a week or so.

Baker-Weicker proposal

Earlier, at the breakfast meeting, Senator Church said he would support a proposal by Republican Sens. Howard H. Baker of Tennessee and Lowell P. Weicker of Connecticut to form a Senate-House committee to check intelligence agencies. While this might not result in direct control, he pointed out, it could establish guidelines for conduct.

The Senator asserted, however, he still had great confidence in Dr. Kissinger. "He is a great man," said the Senator, above all because of his willingness to negotiate. The Senator said he felt Secretary Kissinger would and should remain at his post.