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RNR488
NIGHTLEAD KISSINGER 2 WASHINGTON

MC GEE IS NOW IN MEXICO CITY WITH KISSINGER FOR THE HEMISPHERE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING WHICH BEGAN YESTERDAY. HIS COMMENTS ON THE STAR-NEWS REPORT, RELAYED BY AN AIDE HERE, APPEARED TO BE FALL SHORT OF AN OUTRIGHT DENIAL OF THE NEWSPAPERS ACCOUNT OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

ACCORDING TO THE AIDE, THE CONVERSATION WAS A HYPOTHETICAL ONE POSING THE QUESTION OF WHETHER ANYONE IN GOVERNMENT COULD BE INDISPENSABLE.

HE SAID THE QUESTION HAD BEEN RAISED BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO FELT THAT KISSINGER SHOULD REMAIN IN OFFICE IF NIXON WERE IMPEACHED AND THE SENATE WERE TO THEN DECIDE THE PRESIDENT SHOULD BE REMOVED.

CONGRESSMAN FORSYTHE, A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, SAID THAT IN THE CONVERSATION KISSINGER INDICATED THERE WOULD BE A VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION INTERNATIONALLY IF PRESIDENT NIXON RESIGNED OR WERE IMPEACHED AND FOUND GUILTY BY THE SENATE.

MORE 1726

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RNR487
NIGHTLEAD KISSINGER

BY WILLIAM SCALLY

WASHINGTON, FEB. 21, REUTER -- SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER WAS REPORTED TODAY TO HAVE TOLD A SENATOR HE WOULD RESIGN IF PRESIDENT NIXON WERE IMPEACHED.

BUT THE SENATOR, DEMOCRAT GALE MCGEE OF WYOMING, SAID THE WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS REPORT HAD QUOTED HIM OUT OF CONTEXT AND KISSINGER WAS TALKING ABOUT A HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION.

THE STAR-NEWS QUOTED MCGEE AS SAYING KISSINGER MADE THE STATEMENT TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ON HIS PLANE DURING A RECENT TRIP TO PANAMA.

ACCORDING TO THE NEWSPAPER, KISSINGER SAID HE WOULD RESIGN IF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VOTED TO IMPEACH PRESIDENT NIXON OVER WATERGATE AND WOULD NOT WAIT FOR THE RESULTING TRIAL BY THE SENATE.

ANOTHER MEMBER OF CONGRESS ON THE PLANE WITH KISSINGER DURING THE CONVERSATION, REP. EDWIN FORSYTHE (R-N.J.) DENIED THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAD SAID HE WOULD RESIGN. FORSYTHE SAID KISSINGER HAD INDICATED HE WOULD "NOT ABANDON HIS COUNTRY" - WHICH HE TOOK TO MEAN HE WOULD STAY IN OFFICE.

MORE 1722

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LATIN 2-21
DAY LD

BY JUAN J. WALTE

MEXICO CITY (UPI) -- SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER, IN HIS FIRST MAJOR LATIN AMERICAN POLICY SPEECH, WAS EXPECTED TO AVOID TALK OF ANY DRAMATIC, NEW PROGRAMS AT A CONFERENCE OF SKEPTICAL WESTERN HEMISPHERE FOREIGN MINISTERS.

KISSINGER'S WENT BEFORE THE OPENING SESSION OF THE THREE-DAY CONFERENCE IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS BY TWO DOZEN LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS ON THE FUTURE SHAPE OF HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS.

U.S. OFFICIALS SAID THE SECRETARY WAS NOT LIKELY TO PROPOSE ANY MAJOR NEW LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAMS, BUT INSTEAD WOULD GIVE "FRANK ANSWERS" TO THE 24 FOREIGN MINISTERS' PROPOSALS.

DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAID KISSINGER, ALTHOUGH A KEY ATTRACTION AT THE TALKS, FACED A SLIGHTLY SKEPTICAL AUDIENCE IN OUTLINING WASHINGTON'S IDEAS ABOUT A "NEW DIALOGUE" WITH LATIN AMERICA.

THE SECRETARY WAS SCHEDULED TO ADDRESS THE CONFERENCE FOLLOWING AN OPENING SPEECH BY MEXICAN PRESIDENT LUIS ECHEVERRIA. COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ALFREDO VAZQUEZ CARRIZOSA WAS TO SPEAK FOR THE LATIN AMERICAN DIPLOMATS.

KISSINGER WAS ALSO EXPECTED TO SPEAK ABOUT THE ENERGY CRISIS AND THE IMPACT OF HIGH OIL PRICES ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE WAS LIKELY TO DISCUSS MAJOR WORLD PROBLEMS, SUCH AS THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS, WHICH HAS TAKEN UP MUCH OF HIS TIME IN RECENT MONTHS.

THE LATIN AMERICAN MINISTERS HAVE BEEN MEETING IN MEXICO CITY SINCE MONDAY, DRAWING UP THE EIGHT-POINT AGENDA PROPOSED BY KISSINGER. THE MAIN SUBJECTS WERE ECONOMIC MATTERS, SUCH AS DEVELOPMENT AID, TRADE PREFERENCES, TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND THE ROLE OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS.

KISSINGER FLEW TO MEXICO WEDNESDAY AFTER TWO DAYS OF MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON WITH ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS. HE WAS SCHEDULED TO FLY TO THE MIDDLE EAST MONDAY IN AN ATTEMPT TO GET TROOP SEPARATION TALKS STARTED BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA.

"WE ARE HOPEFUL BECAUSE WE HAVE COME HERE IN A NEW SPIRIT AND WE ARE ASSEMBLED HERE ALSO BECAUSE OF A NEW IMPERATIVE, THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF NATIONS," KISSINGER SAID IN AN ARRIVAL STATEMENT.

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT RECENTLY DEFUSED TWO POTENTIALLY TROUBLESOME ISSUES--THE RETURN OF THE PANAMA CANAL AND PERUVIAN NATIONALIZATION OF AMERICAN COMPANIES.

AMERICA SIGNED A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES FEB. 7 AGREEING TO THE EVENTUAL RETURN OF THE WATERWAY TO PANAMA. IT SIGNED A \$76 MILLION PACT LAST TUESDAY ENDING A FIVE-YEAR DISPUTE WITH PERU OVER COMPENSATION FOR EXPROPRIATED FIRMS.

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Scowcroft
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