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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

TO HAK 99

Are Nixon and Henry Split?

By STAN CARTER
Diplomatic Correspondent of the News

Yalta, USSR, June 30 — Henry Kissinger, walking along the Black Sea beach behind President Nixon and the Soviet Communist Party leader, Leonid Brezhnev, was asked today how the summit talks were going.

The secretary of state shrugged his shoulders, smiled, and replied:

"Nobody tells me anything. I just follow 10 paces behind."

This was a typical Kissinger joke that the secretary used to deflect the reporter's question without giving a substantive answer or being rude. But it may have contained a kernel of truth.

Kissinger has kept much in the background during the latest round of U.S.-Soviet summit talks, as he did during the presidential tour of the Middle East earlier this month. Nixon and Brezhnev have spent a surprising amount of time with only an interpreter present.

An Analysis

Today, the President and the Communist Party general secretary met continuously for four hours and 25 minutes. Their advisers, headed by Kissinger and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, did not join the meeting until the last two hours.

Why the Difference?

The pattern is different from that of previous summits, when Kissinger sat in on nearly all the President's meetings. The reason may be merely that Kissinger has since become secretary of state, in addition to being the President's national-security adviser.

At the previous meetings with Brezhnev, and with Chinese leaders in Peking, Secretary of State William P. Rogers held separate meetings with foreign ministers while Nixon and Kissinger were conferring with the top leaders. Now Kissinger is performing two functions.

But the change comes amid rumors of a rift between Nixon and Kissinger. How much substance there is to the rumors is not known. White House aides deny them flatly. It is known that Nixon was incensed by Kissinger's threat in Salzburg, Austria, three weeks ago to resign if he were not cleared of any taint of scandal stemming from White House wiretaps. The President was said to have calmed down quickly, however.

There appear to be differences between the President, or at least some of the men around



Associated Press Wirephoto

Brezhnev points out the sights during cruise.

him, and the secretary of state over how far or how fast to go to obtain a second-stage strategic-arms-limitation agreement with the Russians.

A widely accepted theory is that the President, with the impeachment issue unresolved, is hesitant to make any concessions that might anger his conservative supporters in Congress.

Henry's Warning

Kissinger, at a press conference in Brussels before he flew with Nixon to Moscow, appeared to be trying to push the President along on a SALT agreement. The secretary warned of a possible U.S.-Soviet arms race if at least a partial agreement to limit missiles with multiple warheads was not reached quickly.

Kissinger said bluntly that it was Nixon's "duty" to act decisively on arms control no matter what "controversy" such action might provoke in Washington.

"Arms race" is just not the kind of term that Henry uses in ordinary conversation," a veteran Kissinger watcher said. "It sounded like he was warning the President, from a public forum, that this had to be settled quickly."

But the betting in the White House encourages is that Nixon will not bring from the summit any agreement that might further erode his base of support on Capitol Hill.

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