

# PRESS DEPARTMENT OF STATE



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September 22, 1973

No. 340

## BIOGRAPHY OF SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER

Henry Alfred Kissinger, of the District of Columbia, was sworn in today at the White House as the 56th Secretary of State. He will continue to hold the position of Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs which he first assumed in 1969.

Secretary Kissinger was born in Fuerth Germany, on May 27, 1923 and was naturalized a United States citizen on June 19, 1943. He received the B.A. degree at Harvard College in 1950 and the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees at Harvard University in 1952 and 1954 respectively.

From 1954 until 1971 he was a member of the faculty of Harvard University, both in the Department of Government and at the Center for International Affairs. He was Associate Director of the Center from 1957 to 1960. He served as Study Director, Nuclear Weapons and Foreign Policy, for the Council of Foreign Relations from 1955 to 1956; Director of the Special Studies Project for the Rockefeller Brothers Fund from 1956 to 1958; and Director of the Harvard International Seminar from 1951 to 1971. (He was on leave of absence from January 1969 to January 1971).

Secretary Kissinger has written six books and more than forty articles on foreign policy, international affairs, and diplomatic history. Among the awards he has received are the Guggenheim Fellowship (1965-66), the Woodrow Wilson prize for the best book in the fields of government, politics and international affairs (1958), and the American Institute for Public Service Award for the greatest public service performed by an elected or appointed official (1973).

He has served as a consultant to the Department of State (1965-68), United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (1961-68), RAND Corporation (1961-68), National Security Council (1961-62), Weapons Systems Evaluation Group of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (1959-60), Operations Coordinating Board (1955), Director of the Psychological Strategy Board (1952), and Operations Research Office (1951).

From 1943 to 1946 Dr. Kissinger served in the U.S. Army Counter-Intelligence Corps and from 1946 to 1949 was a Captain in the Military Intelligence Reserve. He speaks French and German.

Secretary Kissinger is the father of two children, Elizabeth and David.

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**For further information contact:**



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PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

December 3, 1968

## EXCERPTS FROM NIXON NEWS CONFERENCE ON KISSINGER DUTIES

Following are excerpts from the transcript of a news conference given Monday by U.S. President-elect Richard M. Nixon, with Dr. Henry Kissinger and Dr. Richard Allen, at the Hotel Pierre in New York City:

Mr. Nixon: Ladies and Gentlemen, today I am pleased to announce the first appointment to the White House staff in a major policy position. Dr. Henry Kissinger, Professor of Government at Harvard University, has agreed to come with the White House staff as the Assistant to the President-elect for National Security Affairs. Dr. Kissinger is a man who is known to all people who are interested in foreign policy as perhaps one of the major scholars in America and the world today in this area. He has never yet had a full time government assignment, and he will bring to this responsibility a fresh approach, and I trust under his direction he will establish a new organization, bring new men and develop new ideas and new policies for the critical problems America has in the field of foreign policy around the world.

We will have an opportunity to discuss this in more detail, but now I know you would like to hear from Dr. Kissinger.

Dr. Kissinger: Mr. Nixon, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am honored by the confidence that the President-elect has expressed in me, for the opportunity to serve in his administration. The President-elect and I have had many extensive conversations over the past week about the problems and the opportunities confronting the United States in the international field. He has urged me particularly to bring in new procedures and the best talent in the country, whether or not it agrees with his views. I enthusiastically accept this assignment and I shall serve the President-elect with all of my energy and dedication. Thank you.

Now I am pleased to announce that Dr. Richard Allen, who served as Mr. Nixon's Foreign Policy Advisor during the campaign, has consented to join my staff as one of my principal aides. I look forward to working with him very closely.

Question: Mr. Nixon, how would you describe both Dr. Kissinger's and Dr. Allen's general views on negotiations between East and West, and how they are related to yours, just so we can get some feel as to why these people were selected in terms of foreign policy approach?

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Kaplow, it would not be appropriate at this time to indicate what Dr. Kissinger's views were to various major problems in the field of foreign policy. This is a matter that he will have responsibility for in terms of mobilizing the White House Staff, and also in developing within the administration, with the Department of State, and with the Defense Department, and other Departments dealing with foreign affairs, the policy lines that we will be following.

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As we have indicated in this statement, it is our plan to revitalize the National Security Council, and we are doing that because my eight years on the National Security Council convinced me that it is vitally important to have planning procedures set up so that we may not just react to events when they occur, but that we will have a contingency plan ready to go into effect. We cannot, of course, be always sure that that plan will be the right one, but failing to plan, I think, can be very dangerous to the national security.

This one area is one that we are going to concentrate on particularly, the organization of the National Security Council, its restructuring and also revitalizing some of the other planning functions in the State Department, for example, the State Department's Policy Planning Board.

Question: Mr. President-elect, there has been some talk that you really intended to serve as your own Secretary of State. Do you have any comment on that as relates to this appointment?

Mr. Nixon: Dr. Kissinger will serve as my chief foreign policy advisor within the White House. Of course, the Secretary of State is the chief foreign policy adviser to the President of the United States.

As far as the government is concerned generally, there must be the very closest relationship between the Secretary of State and the White House Staff.

Dr. Kissinger is keenly aware of the necessity not to set himself up as a wall between the President and the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Defense. I do not think we will have a problem.

As far as your question with regard to my serving as my own Secretary of State, I can only say, based on my experience, that the Presidency is more than a full-time job. Certainly the Secretary of State is the most back-breaking job within the Cabinet. I think it takes two men, and I intend to have a very strong Secretary of State.

Question: Could I ask one more question? I think some people have felt that both Dr. Kissinger and Dr. Allen lean more toward the harder line of negotiating than many others. What is your comment on that, Doctor?

Dr. Kissinger: I have been expressing my views publicly on international affairs for the last 15 years, and I have tried to avoid labels like "hard" and "soft" and express my best judgment on the substance. Therefore, I find it very difficult to characterize myself.

Mr. Nixon: I should emphasize, Mr. Kaplow, in answer to that question, that one of the major responsibilities that Dr. Kissinger will undertake will be to bring to the White House, in his own small staff, points of view that are not compartmentalized. We want a broad spectrum within the White House Staff. In addition to that, he is going to bring to the President the points of view outside the government, the great well of knowledge that exists, for example, in the educational institutions, and in other areas in this nation, and also from experts in foreign policy abroad, which will be a new departure.

I am one who likes to get a broad range of viewpoints expressed, and Dr. Kissinger has set up what I believe, or is setting up at the present time, a very exciting new procedure for seeing to it that the next President of the United States does not hear just what he wants to hear, which is always a temptation for White House Staffers, but that he hears points of view covering the spectrum so that the President can make the decision which he must make after he has heard all of the arguments.

Question: Mr. Nixon, would you identify for us where you will regard the most troublesome areas in the foreign policy field when your administration takes over--what areas?

Mr. Nixon: Yes, I can go into that without going into, of course, the substantive angles, which would not be appropriate at this time, until the inauguration.

The areas of the world are those that I identified during the campaign. We begin, of course, with Vietnam, the most immediate and pressing problem.

The next area of importance is East-West relations, the upcoming negotiations, if those negotiations do materialize, between the United States and the Soviet Union in a number of areas, including the problems of national defense, the offensive and defensive missile discussions, and so forth.

The third area, very close to the second, and directly related to it, and an area in which I think action must take place before too much progress can be made in the second area, is that of strengthening and revitalizing the NATO organization, our relations with Western Europe.

Then beyond that, there are the areas which we all are aware of, the problems of Latin America. I have indicated the necessity for a new approach to the Alliance for Progress; problems of Africa, and then in a specialized sense the area of the Mid-East, which I should perhaps move up on that scale.

If you are going to say one is more important than the other, in terms of an urgent and immediate problem, you would have to have Vietnam first, the Mid-East second, and then, of course, these other areas that I have mentioned relate to the broader problems which might arise later.

Dr. Kissinger: The chief instruction which the President-elect has given to me, and which I enthusiastically support, is to make certain that the planning mechanism of the government functions more effectively and presents to the President all of the relevant contingencies and choices.

I would intend , on the staff of the National Security Council and of the White House, to elevate the planning function and to encourage planning functions throughout the government.

Another effort which will be a very high priority one is the one that the President-elect mentioned before, which is to draw in the best talent in the country, whatever their point of view, and to bring their thinking to bear on the issues confronting the United States.

We will try to avoid orienting the whole National Security Council machinery to its solution of the immediate problem, and try to develop middle-term and long-range policy and contingency plans for foreseeable emergencies.

Another prospect that I find exciting is the request of the President-elect that we draw on the best talent not only in the United States, but from all over the world. There are many friends of ours who feel that their fate is closely connected with ours, and who can make a major contribution. They have not been tapped in any systematic manner or on any official basis in the past.

Mr. Nixon: Let me perhaps respond to that also. What led me to emphasize this point in my discussions with Dr. Kissinger were my own travels abroad. I have found that in addition to talking to governmental figures--and what we are talking about here we must make very clear is not, of course, to infringe upon the responsibility of the State Department to conduct negotiations with government officials--what we are referring to are people outside of government who can make that kind of contribution. But I have found in my visits to world capitals, to London and Paris and the rest, that outside of government there are in other countries, as there are in the United States, foreign policy experts who can make a very significant contribution to a discussion.

I refer, for example, to men like Alastair Buchan of the London Institute of Strategic Studies. It is this kind of man that we from time to time--when they are visiting the United States--whose knowledge we hope to tap.

Question: Mr. Nixon, Dr. Kissinger is known as a European, North Atlantic specialist. Does this mean you are going to have more emphasis on that part of the world in your administration?

Mr. Nixon: You ladies and gentlemen will have noted that during the campaign I emphasized the imperative necessity for the United States to get on the front burner the problems of Western Europe and to strengthen our ties and associations with Western Europe in order to be able to develop effectively what we all want, the position from which we can negotiate the reduction of world tensions in the East-West conflicts.

So, Dr. Kissinger's views and mine are very close together on this point. The answer would be that one of the first responsibilities as far as not only the State Department's Policy Planning Board, but the National Security Council's Policy Planning Board, is to examine our relations with Europe and make recommendations as to how they can be strengthened.

Question: Mr. Nixon, one of the problems that has been discussed before has been that our main problem is General De Gaulle. Do you feel that way?

Mr. Nixon: He may feel that way. Seriously, when we look at the problems of Europe, I don't think they can be summarized and blamed on one man. I think as we examine what has happened over the past years that we have to take some blame, we in the broadest sense, the United States, and all administrations have made some mistakes.

I have often said, and I say it again, I do not believe that Europe, speaking of Europe as an entity, can go forward without



France. By the same token, I don't believe France can go forward without Europe. I am confident that General De Gaulle also has that belief. I think there is a possibility for a common meeting place some day.

Question: Mr. Nixon, earlier, in talking about East-West relations as one of the major problems you will face, you talked about upcoming negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union. Could you say what negotiations you are referring to?

Mr. Nixon: There are a number of areas. There has been public discussion and I will limit my answer to that public discussion. There has been public discussion with regard to the possibility of negotiations on the Mid-East crisis and the offensive-defensive missile system. These are two areas that I would have in mind.

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