

Kissinger mission seems to lessen importance of China 'mystery'

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (AP)—Dr. Henry A. Kissinger's second mission to Red China says a good deal about possibilities for future relations between Washington and Peking. It seems also to lessen the importance of the current "What's going on in China?" mystery.

The announcement of Kissinger's plans suggests that whatever group is in control, Red China means to establish effective communication with the United States, regardless of political conflicts.

It also suggests that despite worldwide guessing about enigmatic goings-on in connection with the Oct. 1 National Day, developments inside China don't prevent plans for President Nixon's trip from moving ahead.

Peking says Nixon's chief security adviser will be in Red China sometime in the last 10 days of October to prepare for the presidential journey. The party is expected to stay about four days.

Any four days in that period will represent a critical time in U.N. debate on China's seat. If the issue is not decided by then, the vote will be at hand.

Only a day before the announcement of the new Kissinger mission, Secretary of State William P. Rogers in a major U.N. policy speech had strongly upheld the Chiang Kaishek regime's claim to retain membership. Thus it seems likely that the Nixon visit is not dependent upon the outcome of the U.N. voting or the U.S. stand for Taiwan.

Only a few days ago Rogers voiced concern that Chinese developments could affect the presidential trip. Cancellation might have been dictated by a major

upheaval or by the loss of a top figure such as Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

Possibly something like a political reshuffle involving the top leaders has been in progress. Possibly some external event, such as heightened Soviet border tension, prompted China's recent enigmatic moves.

Those moves included cancellation of the National Day pa-

rade and banquet, cancellation of army leaves and commercial flights, omission of a major policy statement and slightly lessened emphasis on Mao's personality.

There are signs that the decisions resulted from a week of high-level party meetings beginning in mid-September. If there had been a reshuffle near the top, the leaders might not have

been ready to make it known. Thus the parade and banquet would be cancelled to remove any need to regroup the leaders by rank.

As for lessened emphasis on the leader, Mao himself was reported not long ago to have expressed worry that the adulation was out of control. Perhaps with Mao's blessing the pragmatists are ready to start a cautiously gradual de-

flation of the cult. At a time when Red China hopes to enter the world arena with a veto-wielding seat in the United Nations, it might make political sense, too, to show the world a new look.

Such a trend could arouse alarm among ultraleftists who have been more Maoist than Mao and who also might resist the idea of a Washington-Peking rapprochement as a sellout

of the revolution. A reshuffle in the party's upper reaches could involve pruning out such elements.

In any case, the U.S.-Chinese business is between governments, not parties. The original Peking announcement in July said Premier Chou En-lai issued the invitation in behalf of his government.

Chou, as a leader who lacks

ambition to be No. 1 could afford to push ahead with broad policy aims, regardless of back-room party squabbling.

Peking is preparing to take its place as one of three powers whose policies will shape world affairs. If it fears or suspects the Russians, it will need channels to the United States. Chou seems intent upon opening channels and keeping them open.

Senate rejects added funds for missiles

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate Tuesday rejected three proposals to add funds for major U.S. offensive-missile systems after Sen. John C. Stennis cautioned against doing anything to jeopardize chances for a U.S.-Soviet arms-limitation agreement.

It voted down also a proposal to stop U.S. air attacks in Indochina as it heard final passage, scheduled Wednesday afternoon, of a \$21-billion military procurement authorization bill.

Stennis, a Mississippi Democrat and chairman of the Armed Services Committee, led the opposition to added missile funds proposed by Sen. James L. Buckley, Con-R-N.Y., and backed by conservatives from both parties. Stennis said they would be interpreted, rightly or wrongly, as a U.S. bid for a first-strike nuclear capability.

Their approval could upset chances of an agreement at the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT), Stennis said. He added that in any case President Nixon wouldn't spend any of the funds "at least until the last glimmering hope of success for the SALT talks . . . is gone."

Buckley termed the argument by Stennis "something of a red herring" and contended his amendments were designed to give the United States the option of making improvements in the quality of its strategic forces.

In quick succession, the Senate voted: —66 to 17 against his proposal to add \$5 million for long-range studies to modernize the land-based Minuteman missiles and increase their range;

—By voice vote against adding \$12 million to achieve a 40 per cent improvement in Minuteman accuracy;

—68 to 12 against his amendment to add \$25 million for a similar improvement in the sea-based, multiwarhead Poseidon missiles.

In the day's only other vote, the Senate rejected, 64 to 19, an amendment by Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, to bar U.S. air attacks throughout Indochina and Thailand with the option for the President to continue air attacks in South Vietnam if needed to protect withdrawing U.S. troops.

"I don't understand why we're bombing all over Indochina if we're getting out," Gravel told a virtually deserted Senate chamber.

Stennis said "You've got to do something to keep them on the defensive as much as possible."

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