

DEPARTMENT OF STATE



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REMARKS OF
THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER
TO MEMBERS OF THE PRESS
HARAS DE PIENCOURT
DEAUVILLE, FRANCE
AUGUST 10, 1976

SECRETARY KISSINGER: First, my apologies to the Americans. I had no idea that these two were not a pool that were here this morning. I saw a group standing here and said hello and answered two questions.

QUESTION: Dr. Kissinger, the DCM of the Embassy went to the French Foreign Office and issued an apology today and said that you had apologized for misinterpretations by the press of your statements, and that there was no pressure on Pakistan.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: He did not do that on instructions. The DCM was instructed to explain to the French Foreign Office the circumstances of the discussions and to explain that it was in the context of the Symington Amendment, which was a law passed by the Congress and had certain automatic features. That is what he was supposed to do, and I am sure that that is what he did.

QUESTION: He had no instructions to express regrets on your behalf?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: His instructions were to explain to the Foreign Office, as I explained to the French Foreign Minister this morning, the context in which the restrictions take place — the Symington Amendment has certain obligatory features — so that the French Government understands that this is national policy legislated by Congress. Secondly, I talked to the French Foreign Minister this morning in a very friendly and conciliatory conversation. I made it clear that this was a matter that we would discuss among friends and in a nonconfrontational atmosphere.

QUESTION: So the DCM had no instructions to express regrets on your behalf?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: The DCM's instructions were to explain to the French Government the circumstances that are involved in the Symington Amendment.

For further information contact:

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QUESTION: He was not supposed to say that the press misrepresented what went on in Pakistan?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: The press had not misrepresented what went on in Pakistan. What may not have been clear to those who do not know the American legislation is that there is an American law and that this has obligatory features, and I wanted to make sure that the French Government understood this.

QUESTION: I think that most French people worry about the possible change of Administration in the States. If we had a Carter Administration, in your view, what would the Franco-American relationship be like?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I believe that friendship between the United States and France reflects the fundamental interests of both countries. Any American President, on examining the issues, will come to the conclusion that friendship between our two countries is not only a historical fact but a necessity under contemporary conditions.

QUESTION: A week before the Republican Convention in Kansas City, are you optimistic about the chances of President Ford to beat Ronald Reagan and eventually Jimmy Carter?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: My expertise is in foreign policy, and my colleagues here can tell you that my judgment in domestic affairs has not been infallible. I am confident that President Ford will be nominated and hopeful that he will be elected.

QUESTION: If he is nominated, do you think that you will still be the Secretary of State?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: If he is nominated, I certainly will be the Secretary of State. And as for after the election, I have stated by views on the subject repeatedly.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, could you explain now what America wants to do in regard to this French-Pakistani deal? Do you want to nullify it? Do you want to add new parts?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I don't want to say any more. This is a matter which has to be discussed between the various parties. France is a close ally and good friend. Pakistan is a country with which we have very friendly relations. It is a matter which will be discussed in an atmosphere of cooperation and with the conviction that the non-proliferation of weapons is in the interest of all of mankind. I believe that it is possible to find solutions that take into account the concerns of all of the parties.

QUESTION: If President Ford is elected in November, does that mean that we will have an American policy of intervention in Mozambique and Rhodesia?

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SECRETARY KISSINGER: There is no American policy of intervention in Africa. Our policy is to let African problems be settled by Africans. We are trying at this moment to find a negotiated solution to the problems of Rhodesia, Namibia and eventually for all of southern Africa. We are not considering any military intervention of any kind.

QUESTION: Dr. Kissinger, are you in touch with the Turks and the Greeks over the Aegean problem? I understand that you said that you are predicting no war.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: We have been in frequent touch several times a week with both the Greek and the Turkish sides. We have urged the utmost restraint on both sides. And we have expressed the view that the issues, which are essentially of a legal nature, can be determined in many forums, and that they do not, in our strong opinion, justify the recourse to military action by either side.

QUESTION: About the DCM, either the French Foreign Ministry misrepresented what he said or he exceeded his instructions.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Look, I don't know what happened. I am telling you my position is that I sent the DCM to explain to the French Foreign Office: (1) that I was explaining the provisions of the Symington Amendment to the press and that those are nationally legislated policies of the Congress, which is something that may not have been self-evident to the casual observer; and (2) to call the attention of the French Foreign Office to my "undirected" press conference in Lahore, in which I emphasized that the matter would be handled in a cooperative spirit and in which I pointed out that when these negotiations were started they were done in good faith by all of the parties and that we will look for a solution to take into account the concerns of all of the sides. But, you have to understand, I saw this Deputy Chief of Mission, who is an outstanding officer, only for five minutes at the airport. It is conceivable that I did not express myself as clearly as I might have. But I have seen no reports of what he said --

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, the French Foreign Office issued a report saying that at your instruction, Mr. Gammon expressed the Secretary of State's regrets that press interpretations and commentaries have given the impression that the US Government is seeking to put pressure on the Government of Pakistan.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, I think I have explained exactly what he was instructed to do. I have explained that the press represented correctly what the provisions of the Symington Amendment were, but that for those who do not follow American politics in detail, it may not have been as self-evident that there is a law that imposes certain requirements on the Executive, and this is the point that I wanted to have emphasized; and secondly, the point that we deal with France as a friend and we will not deal with France on the basis of pressure. We will find a solution on the basis of --

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concerns of all sides, and we will do this when, after the holiday, everybody is available and all of the three parties can have an opportunity to exchange their opinions. This is our policy and this is what you should be guided by.

I hope you have a pleasant evening.

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