WASHINGTON DATELINE

BY TRUDE B. FELDMAN ISRAELITE'S WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

1st Jewish Secy. of State

President Richard Nixon last week nominated Security Affairs Adviser Dr. Henry Alfred Kissinger to be Secretary of State. The announcement came from San Clemente at the opening of the President's long-sought press conference on Watergate.

So it evoked not one question, during the 50-minute give-and-take, with reporters.

If he is confirmed by the Senate, Dr. Kissinger will succeed William P. Rogers,

who has held the post since January, 1969. Kissinger will not only be the first Secretary of State who is of the Jewish faith; but also the first naturalized American citizen to occupy the position. He will be our 56th Secretary of State. Also, he will retain his job of Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs.

Rogers, whose resignation is effective September 3rd, will return to his former law firm. He was an Attorney-General in the Eisenhower Administration; and he had been the only remaining member of Nixon's original cabinet.

President Nixon said that Rogers, a close personal friend and political confidante for 25 years, represented our country abroad with great skill. "He has played an historic role in the formulation and execution of those policies which can at long last produce a structure of peace that will endure long into the future, and that will make it possible for differences among nations to be settled at the nogotiating table rather than on the battlefield

Dr. Kissinger called Rogers a strong Sec-retary of State who operated with "enormous grace, wisdom, and above all, dignity. humanity....

The 50-year-old Kissinger -- a native of Germany--came to the U.S. in 1938 to flee Nazi persecution of Jews.

When asked how he would put to rest the apprehensions expressed by some Arab leaders about his family heritage; and how that heritage might affect U.S. policy in the Mideast, Kissinger replied: "I am asked to conduct the foreign policy of the U.S., and I will conduct the foreign policy of the U.S. regardless of religious and national heritage. There is no other country in the world in which a man of my background could be considered for an office such as the one for which I have been nominated, and that imposes on me a very grave responsibility which I will pursue in the national interest.

As Secretary of State, will he become a more public figure in pursuing a settlement of the Mideast situation?

"The President has repeatedly stated that the Mideast is an important area, and perhaps the most dangerous one. I will pursue, under the President's direction, those policies which are considered necessary, and in the past, that has sometimes meant a less than restrained

Dr. Kissinger said the President greatly honored him by the nomination for a position previously held by such great Americans as Secretaries Stimson, Marshall, Acheson, Dulles, Rusk, etc -- all of whom were united in one basic approach: That the foreign policy of the U.S.



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"is not a partisan matter; it concerns the whole nation, that the future of our country transcends any particular Administration.....
"That is the spirit in which I will attempt to conduct the office of Secretary of State..."
Dr. Kissinger's Deputy for National Secur-

ity Affairs had been Gen. Alexander M. Haig, Jr., recently selected by the President to be Chief of the White House staff as well as a personal adviser.

In a special interview at The Mayflower, Gen. Haig described Dr. Kissinger as a great national asset. "I don't know of a comparable intellect in his field," Gen. Haig told me today. "Most impressive is that he has an incredible ability to combine a vast historic perspective -that of a scholar, a teacher, an historian...in the true sense of the word...with a very pragmatic--and psychologically strong--characteristic, which enables him to assess on a dayto-day basis the interplay of historic trends and forces with personalities and the human side of the historic process.

"It's very rare to have a combination of these traits. One usually finds an historian, or a philosoper, or a sociologist, or a psychologist. But Henry is a man who combines ALL of these fields, and he does it extremely well. So, he is, indeed, a great national asset

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