

KISSINGER DENIES

WASH. (WNS) - Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger had denied that the United States has changed its position against dealing with the Palestine Liberation Organization and declared that the U.S. would not change its policy toward the PLO without the "fullest consultation with Israel."

Appearing before a subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Kissinger said he had repeated "innumerable times that the U.S. will not consider dealing with the PLO until it recognizes Israel and UN resolutions" 241 and 338. "If we change it, it won't be announced by a Deputy Assistant Secretary

U.S. SOFT ON PLO

before a Congressional subcommittee. It would be on the level of the President or the Secretary of State and after the fullest consultations with Israel."

Kissinger's remarks were in response to a question about testimony by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Harold Saunders before a House subcommittee which was viewed by the Israel Cabinet as a softening of the American position on the PLO. The State Department had earlier said that Saunders' statement "represented only a restatement" of U.S. policy. In his testimony, Saunders said that "there are some indications that co-existence between separate Palestinian and Israeli states might be considered" by the PLO.

Meanwhile, in Israel, Premier Yitzhak Rabin told a group of students in Acre that Israel was preparing a memorandum of protest to the U.S. government on Saunders' statements. At the same time Rabin said that Saunders' testimony did not indicate a change

of U.S. views on the PLO.

Kissinger, at the UN where he met with UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim prior to Waldheim's trip to the Mideast to seek an extension of UNDOF, repeated his denial to reporters that the U.S. had changed its policy toward the PLO. He also said the U.S. would "spare no effort" to achieve an agreement between Israel and Syria. He said the U.S. was "prepared to move on to Geneva" in pursuit of a Mideast settlement but ruled out PLO participation in the conference.

ISRAEL FEARS U.S. SHIFT ON PLO STAND

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Concern that the United States may shift its position to imply support for the Palestine Liberation Organization under some circumstances is being shown in Israel.

Syrtan President Hafez Assad has said he will make no further political moves unless the Palestinian problem is taken up by the U.S. and there is concern that the U.S. may show support

for the PLO as a means of leverage on Syria to negotiate a second disengagement agreement with Israel on the Golan Heights.

The Cabinet has angrily denounced what it described as testimony by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Harold Saunders "before a Congressional committee in Washington in which Saunders allegedly intimated that the U.S. would be open to the idea of a Palestinian State on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip if the PLO recognized Israel and accepted United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

After Saunders' testimony, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger met with Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz to assure him that there had been no change in the U.S. position on the PLO. (But the Cabinet was not satisfied and said that Israel's "reservations and qualifications" would be brought "in full" to the U.S. government.

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