

Kissinger, South Vietnam's Enemy No.1 and the Most Nefarious Secretary of State in US History

During wars, presidential campaigns often exhibit deliberate manipulation of military events. To understand the degree of impact of wars on presidential campaigns, we only need to look at the presidential races of 1968 and 1972.

As a former member of the South Vietnamese government, I have collected, and am continuing to collect declassified documents from the CIA, NSC (National Security Council) and various communications of the White House during that period; many formally classified as top secret.

In 1968, Richard Nixon was running for the presidency against the Democrat nominee, Vice President George Humphrey. Then, like now, anti-war activists dominated the Democrat party. Henry Kissinger, an advisor to candidate Nixon, launched his most duplicitous and successful strategy both for his own celebrity addiction and to play a double agent between the Republican and Democrat parties during the 1968 Presidential election.

According to now available obtained documents, during the explosive 1968 presidential campaign, Kissinger went to Paris and learned that U.S. Negotiator Avril Harriman and North Vietnamese representative Xuan Thuy were ready to sign a peace agreement.

Knowing the importance of this information, he flew back to the US, and reported this to John Mitchell, Nixon's campaign manager. He devised his atrocious idea of continuing the war in Vietnam in order to beat the Democrats in the election. This strategy revealed the dark side of Henry Kissinger. He suggested using Madame Chennault, who was a lobbyist for the South Vietnamese government and wife of well known Flying Tiger General Chennault. Her assignment from Kissinger was to fly to Vietnam and convince South Vietnamese President Thieu to sabotage the Paris Peace agreement. She assured Thieu that a President Nixon would produce a more favorable situation for South Vietnam than his Democratic opponent, Hubert Humphrey.

In the final days of the campaign, precisely when Humphrey was overtaking Nixon in the polls, a peace agreement between the United States and North Vietnam would surely have accelerated Humphrey's momentum.

Madame Chennault was successful in persuading the South Vietnamese president to torpedo the peace talks. Partly because hopes for a negotiated peace settlement was squelched, Nixon beat Humphrey. As a result of this ploy, Kissinger earned both the positions of Chairman of the National Security Council and Secretary of State under Nixon---the only time in the U.S. history that one person occupied both positions. The war continued with hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese and American soldiers killed because of this despicable act of betrayal by Kissinger.

Four years later, Kissinger betrayed the people and government of South Vietnam when he told Chinese foreign minister Chou en Lai in Peking in 1972 that, if North Vietnam were to overtake South Vietnam, the U.S. would not defend the South.

Kissinger duplicity extended beyond political manipulation of negotiations. The evidence paints Kissinger as South Vietnam's greatest enemy and the most nefarious Secretary of State in US history. For example, Kissinger weakened the South Vietnamese militarily. He did order the cancellation of military supplies and equipment reserved for South Vietnam government, instead, sending them through the U.S. Air Force to Israel for the Yom Kippur war against Egypt and Syria. As a result, the South Vietnamese army had to cannibalize their equipment for spare parts to survive. In regard to this action, Kissinger said "The security of Israel is a moral imperative for all free people." And about the war in Vietnam he said, "What President Nixon and I tried to do was unnatural. And that is why we didn't make it."

However, despite his treachery, Kissinger did not refuse the Nobel Peace Prize; his North Vietnamese counterpart did. Kissinger did not have the courage to go to Norway to collect the Peace Prize, because he was aware of world opinion against him. He asked an American Ambassador to bring home the Prize for him.

In sum, what recently declassified documents prove is that Kissinger and Nixon were master manipulators of military events for political purposes. They secretly sold out South Vietnam and Taiwan governments in 1972-73 during negotiations with China.

I believe Kissinger's actions are especially egregious. He was Jewish refugee of Hitler's death camps. We would have expected him to be highly sensitive to human rights. On the contrary, he committed crimes against humanity for political and personal interests. Consider these quotations from the arrogant Kissinger:

" The illegal we do immediately. The unconstitutional takes a little longer"..." There cannot be a crisis next week. My schedule is already full."..." Power is the ultimate aphrodisiac " ..." The nice thing about being a celebrity is that when you bore people, they think it's their fault".

The American people must recognize that wars can be a political tool in presidential campaigns. Political ambition can grow so grotesque, that the facts are manipulated for political gain. This is true for both those who support or oppose a contemporary war. For the people and government of South Vietnam, the consequences were tragic.

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