

DOCUMENT RESUME

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[Information concerning Former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's Travel]. ID-78-28; B-89294. March 24, 1978. 2 pp. + enclosure (1 pp.).

Report to Rep. Chalmers P. Wylie; Rep. Leon E. Panetta; by J. Kenneth Fasick, Director, International Div.

Contact: International Div.

Organization Concerned: Department of State.

Congressional Relevance: Rep. Chalmers P. Wylie; Rep. Leon E. Panetta.

Authority: P.L. 95-1.

The travel arrangements of former Secretary of State Kissinger and his family were questioned. Travel regulations authorize family members of high-level officials to accompany them at government expense if such travel enhances official business. Secretary Kissinger's wife attended meetings and conducted visits which served the interests of diplomacy. When there are unoccupied seats on Government-owned aircraft, dependents of some senior Government officials have been permitted to travel on board. Secretary Kissinger's children traveled without charge on this basis. With regard to trips by the Secretary while his wife was hospitalized, the Secretary was on official duty during these visits. His travel by military aircraft was paid by the Government because of his position and for security purposes. (HTW)



UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

INTERNATIONAL DIVISION

B-89294

MAR 24 1978

The Honorable Chalmers P. Wylie
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Wylie:

In response to your January 19, 1978, request for information which would enable you to respond to a constituent's inquiry concerning former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's travel, we are providing the following.

Department of State travel regulations authorize family members of high-level officials to accompany them at the expense of the Government if the travel of the family member enhances the official business being conducted. Also, the United States Secret Service was responsible for providing personal protective security for Secretary Kissinger. To that end, the Secret Service insisted the Secretary travel via U.S. military aircraft rather than by commercial carrier.

The aircraft used by the Secretary of State is one of several provided by the Air Force for use by the President and other senior representatives of the U.S. Government when traveling on official business. The Air Force told us that, after the official party of the using agency has been accommodated, and unoccupied seats remain on Government-owned aircraft, dependents of certain senior Government officials have traditionally been permitted to travel on board the aircraft even if not part of the official delegation. According to the Air Force, no charge is made for the transportation since the seats which are not committed to the official party are occupied at no additional cost to the Government. When Secretary Kissinger's children accompanied him, they traveled in otherwise unoccupied space and without charge.

Concerning travel by Secretary Kissinger's wife, the Department of State told us that, when traveling in an official capacity, Mrs. Kissinger maintained a schedule of meetings and visits which added a human dimension to diplomacy and served to personalize American interest in foreign affairs and its achievements. Any expenses she incurred in that capacity were paid for by the Department or by the host governments. Her personal expenses were borne by the Secretary.

ID-78-28

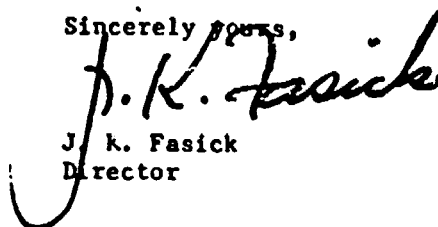
With regard to the trips to and from Boston by Secretary Kissinger while his wife was hospitalized, the Secretary was on official duty while in Boston and set up a temporary office there. Had Secretary Kissinger held a less important position in the U.S. Government, he normally would have taken leave and remained away from his job while in Boston during February 6-14, 1976, the time of his wife's hospitalization. Instead, his official duties required that he work during the full period involved, necessitating the temporary office in Boston and commuting from Boston to Washington when his presence was required in Washington.

The Department of State informed us that Secretary Kissinger's travel to Boston by military aircraft was paid by the Government because of his position as Secretary of State and for security purposes. However, the Secretary personally paid for his hotel room while in Boston, and he reimbursed the Government for his wife's transportation to Boston and return to Washington based on the first-class commercial fare since she accompanied him in a non-official capacity.

The security and protection of Secretary of State Kissinger and members of his family have been of great concern to the President of the United States and to the Congress due to the activities of terrorist groups prone to violence. Threats against Secretary Kissinger's life were then current and continuing. To fulfill a protection obligation, Public Law 95-1 was passed without objection by the Congress and signed by President Ford on January 19, 1977 (copy enclosed). On January 21, 1977, immediately after his inauguration, President Carter authorized Secret Service protection to continue for Secretary Kissinger through February 20, 1977, even though he had completed his term of office as Secretary of State.

The content of this letter is being sent to other interested parties requesting similar information.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. K. Fasick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

J. K. Fasick
Director

Enclosure

(990515)

ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE

PUBLIC LAW 95-1—JAN. 19, 1977

91 STAT. 3

Public Law 95-1
95th Congress

Joint Resolution

To authorize the United States Secret Service to continue to furnish protection to certain former Federal officials or members of their immediate families.

Jan. 19, 1977
(S.J. Res. 12)

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the United States Secret Service, in addition to other duties now provided by law, is authorized to furnish protection to a person who (a) as a Federal Government official has been receiving protection by the United States Secret Service for a period immediately preceding January 20, 1977, or (b) as a member of such official's immediate family has been receiving protection by either the United States Secret Service or other security personnel of the official's department immediately preceding January 20, 1977, if the President determines that such person may thereafter be in significant danger: *Provided, however,* That protection of any such person shall continue only for such period as the President determines and shall not continue beyond July 20, 1977, unless otherwise permitted by law.

Secret Service
protection to
certain former
Federal officials,
18 USC 3056
note.

Approved January 19, 1977.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 123 (1977):

Jan. 14, considered and passed Senate.

Jan. 17, considered and passed House.

Note.—A change has been made in the slip law format to provide for one-time preparation of copy to be used for publication of both slip laws and the United States Statutes at Large volumes. Comments from users are invited by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. 20408.