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Columbia faculty and Students protest Kissinger teaching

NEW YORK (LNS/CUP) -- A few choice plums have fallen Henry Kissinger's way on his return to private life.

After eight years as "doer," shaping and executing US foreign policy in places like Vietnam, Chile and the Middle East, the former secretary of state and national security council advisor is now at work on his memoirs, has signed on as an NBC media consultant, and is pursuing new posts in academic where he can hang his hat. He has said he's "very much at peace."

At New York's Columbia University, however, where the political science faculty voted 24 to 5 to accept Kissinger into the department, some students and faculty members are considerably less content.

The Ad Hoc Committee Against Kissinger has so far collected the signatures of about 600 students, faculty and workers at Columbia opposed to Kissinger joining the faculty. They plan to present the petition to the student senate and to university president William McGill.

McGill is not known for his responsiveness to petitions, however, and a majority of Columbia students are reported to favor Kissinger as an addition to the faculty.

"I think if McGill can get Kissinger to come, he'll do it," said committee member George Gewirtz, a Columbia junior. "It



would be a real coup for the school. Kissinger would bring money and a lot of connections to Columbia."

Many Columbia and Barnard students have said the petition violates academic freedom and have refused to sign it. Many students also argue that "a man with his experience, even if we hate him, we can learn from this experience."

"We think the issues are bigger than that," explained Gewirtz.

"Albert Speer, who designed the Nazi concentration camps, was a great architect. Do we want him to teach us?"

Columbia petitioners are not optimistic that their petition will stop the university from hiring Kissinger. However, they say that raising the political issue about "Professor Kissinger" has been positive process at a time when Barnard and Columbia undergraduate colleges are "pre-professional for the most part," and political activism is at a minimum.

Although a majority of graduate students at the university political science department are reportedly in favor of Kissinger coming, a small group is currently drafting a

letter in opposition to Kissinger joining their faculty. According to graduate student Alan Draper, they plan to raise the issues of Kissinger's role in the 1973 overthrow of Allende in Chile, Kissinger's unresponsiveness to anti-war demonstrations, and the "Halperin thing" (when Kissinger bugged the office of his own staff member.).

"We want it known," said Draper, "that the political science department isn't completely enthralled with it, that there's a militant minority not in favor of him coming here."

British officials charged with torture

by Michael Chinoy for Pacific News Services

BELFAST -- High British officials "knew and approved" the use of torture methods on 11 internees in Northern Ireland, a former Northern Ireland official has charged.

The charges come from John Taylor, who as Ulster's former junior minister for home affairs cooperated with the British in their efforts against the Irish Republican Army (IRA). Taylor says both Edward Heath, then British prime

minister, and Lord Carrington, then defense minister, condoned the interrogation techniques when they were first used in 1971.

Taylor's charges came after the British government decided earlier this month not to contest a report issued by the European Commission of Human Rights. The report upheld charges by the Irish Government that suspected members of the outlawed Irish Republican Army interned without trial had been subject to the so-called "five techniques" of torture.

British refusal to contest the Commission report has been interpreted as a tacit admission that its security forces used the technique—hooding, subjection of intense lights and continuous noise, forced spread-eagled wall standing and deprivation of food, water and sleep.

In announcing the decision not to contest the report, British Attorney-General Sam Silkin promised the techniques would "not under any circumstances be reintroduced as an aid to interrogation."

Consequently, he asked the Dublin authorities to drop the case pending before the European Court of Human Rights and cooperate in bringing peace to Northern Ireland. But Irish Attorney-General Declan Costello rejected the request and announced that Dublin would continue to press the case to insure that the five techniques not to be used in the future.

Meanwhile, there have been widespread calls for complete disclosure of the names of all those responsible for the torture before the case can be fully closed. Amnesty International has urged the government in London to name all individuals who knew the

techniques were being used, and to say what positions these people now occupy.

Even the staunchly anti-IRA Catholic Bishop Edward Daley of Londonderry said, "Many people are asking if those who have been indicted for torture by the European Commission of Human Rights are to be brought before the courts, as they should be. Many people are asking if these people are still members of the security forces. These are questions that should be answered, and answered honestly."

The names of those associated with torture were not revealed in the Commission's 563-page report last fall. The report did say that "official tolerance (of the mistreatment) existed both at the level of the direct superiors of those having committed the acts in question and at higher levels."

The report implied that those connected with the torture could be criminally liable for prosecution. Under intense pressure from the British government, however, the Commission agreed to disguise the names by using a letter and number code.

Up to now, there has been only one serious attempt to break this curtain of secrecy and pinpoint responsibility. Last year, the Dublin magazine *Hibernia* succeeded in decoding the Commission's report.

Two *Hibernia* reporters then prepared a series of articles naming 26 Northern Irish policemen and six British Army officers "who were in positions of authority...and were directly or indirectly associated with the torture."

The articles claimed that none of the 32 men had been disciplined in any way, that all had remained in the security forces and that some even had been promoted.

Reportedly under pressure from the British government, however, Irish authorities convinced *Hibernia's* printers not to publish the articles.

The British have adopted other means as well as prevent public disclosure of the names of those involved. Sources in Belfast report that anyone who has tried to bring legal action in Northern Ireland against those who carried out the torture has been offered large sums of money to settle out of court.

Nearly \$1 million has been paid out over the past five years to people who were subjected to the five techniques, including almost



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