l!S. to the NEWS

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PRINCE BERNHARD

The world has been watching t ernment handle the

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When allegations were made six months ago that Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands might have accepted more than a million dollars in bribes from **Loalcheed** Aircraft Corporation, the Dutch government set up a quiet commission of inquiry. Ti1ere were no months of public Watergate-type hearings with sensational daily exposes.

The recently released final report was firm in its conclusions about the Prince's "unacceptable" relationship with Lockheed, and it stripped him of all his military and business positions. At the same time, however, the government accepted his statement of apology and regret and announced there was "no possibility" of criminal prosecution.

One of the most attractive and charming speakers with whom I have ever shared the platform, Prince Bernhard speaks English like an American. Among the some 300 organizations to which he has lent his name and patronage are the World Wildlife Foundation and the Bilderbergers, an annual conclave of the most powerful men in the Western world which he hosts every spring.

The Bilderbergers take their name from the hotel in Holland where they held their first meeting in 1954. T»ey have met 24 times in remote and exclusive **re•orts** carefully chosen to combine the ultimate in luxury with the maximum of security, such as Lake Como in Italy, Knokke in Belgium, Saltsjobaden in Sweden, Megeve in France, and Cesme in Turkey.

These meetings are redu:udsn·tly policed by security forces that outnumber the guests, the lake side of the hotel is guarded by naval vessels, the land side by government troopa and often by the canine corps.

The SO to 100 Biltlerbergers wb.o attend eaob year come **f:mlll** three different classes. First there are the financial giants of the Western world, such as navid and Nelson llocke.feller, Henry "ord 11, Baron Rothschild of France, Baron Lambert of Belgium, Giovanni .Agnelli of Italy, owner of Piat, antl Baron. Wallenberg of SWeden, and Robert S. McNamara of the ·world Bank,.

Second, there are a few in:tluenti.al :newsmen who can be relied upon never to report wm. t was said in the sect'et sessions. Over t.he years, these have included representatives f1 om the NF:W YORK TIMES, TIME Magazine, NEWS'WEEK, Jl'OREIGN AFFAIRS, HARPrm'S, and the NEW YOltKJI.:R.

Third, the Bilderbergers include those specially chosen to advance to high office. At the 1957 conference at Sea Island, Geol'p;i., the participants included the• then... unknown names of McGeorge Bundy, Dean nusk, and Henry Kissinger, who later rose to llecome the principal :foreign policy advisers, retipactively; to Presi.dents Kennedy, Johnsont Nhron and Ford.

Later meetings were attended liy Congressmau Gerald n•. For.a and by Zbig11iew Brzezinski, who is Jimmy Carter's naenry Kissingere"

Al though the Bilderbergers are considered ·the most power:htl mMl secretive group in the Free World, :uo reporter ev(:r asks 'them what was decided at their meetings and no Congress:hn.uil cormni.tt(-H., ev,ex· invites them to explain their decisions.