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PRESS CONFERENCE NO. 8  
of the  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

*MRJ.*

7:03 P.M. CST  
February 11, 1975  
Tuesday

Ballroom  
Ramada Inn  
Topeka, Kansas

THE PRESIDENT: Won't you please sit down, and before responding to the first question, I do wish to thank Governor Bennett and the other Governors who were here with me in Topeka. I wish to thank the people of the State of Kansas and, particularly, the people in the Topeka area, for the very wonderful and very warm reception. It has been a very good day.

Mr. Morgan.

QUESTION: Mr. President, your energy and economic concerns will go down the drain for naught if we have war in the Middle East, could you please give us your latest information on Dr. Kissinger's negotiations in the Middle East and whether or not you think there is the possibility of a quick settlement in the wake of those negotiations?

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Morgan, the Secretary of State left Sunday night for a most important mission in the Middle East. He will be gone approximately 10 days, visiting a number of Arab, as well as Israeli -- and he will be more or less on an exploratory mission. We believe that the possibility exists for a step-by-step progress in the Middle East, but no one can be certain in that very volatile and very difficult area.

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