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DEPARTURE STATEMENT OF
THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER
SECRETARY OF STATE
AND
HIS EXCELLENCY YIGAL ALLON
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ISRAEL
BEN GURION AIRPORT, FEBRUARY 14, 1975

Secretary Kissinger: Mister Foreign Minister, on behalf of all my colleagues and myself, I would like to thank the Israeli Government, especially the negotiating team, for the very warm reception we have had here. When I came on my official visit a few days ago, I pointed out that I was here on an exploratory visit to see whether a basis could be created for more complete talks later on. I am happy that the talks that I have conducted here and in other capitols enable me to come back in a few weeks for the more concrete discussions that we envisaged, and I am therefore very satisfied with my visit here which strengthened the already strong ties of friendship between our two countries. Thank you.

Foreign Minister Allon: Mister Secretary and your colleagues, friends. One could not expect more during a short visit, which was devoted mostly for exploration, as the Secretary put it, and I do hope that in the future this visit will be recognized as an important opening for new political initiatives in our area, which badly needs political progress towards a peaceful solution. Therefore, I am sure that all the capitols you visited, Mr. Secretary, during the last week are awaiting you for your second visit. Without drawing too early any final conclusions as to what would be the results, I am sure that all of us should do our best to see to it that your endeavor will be crowned with success. There is no need to define oneself whether one is an optimist or pessimist because if one is a pessimist he is bound to do nothing, and if he is too optimistic, he may fall victim to illusions. Let us be people who believe in the necessity of peace, and let us be guided by this important conviction. Thank you for coming and come again.

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