

PRESS DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH
THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER
SECRETARY OF STATE

AND
HIS EXCELLENCY YIGAL ALLON
FOREIGN MINISTER OF ISRAEL
KING DAVID HOTEL
JERUSALEM, ISRAEL



AUGUST 24, 1975

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, are you making progress now would you say?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I had useful talks in Egypt and I reported about those talks as well as about my conversations in Syria to the Israeli negotiating team. We had a very constructive discussion this evening. As you know, the Israeli cabinet is meeting tomorrow, and after that we will meet again with the Israeli negotiating team. We will leave for Egypt probably first thing Monday morning.

QUESTION: How close are you to an agreement?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I do not want to measure distances, but we are continuing to make progress and the difficulties continue to be removed. We have encountered no unexpected obstacles up to now.

QUESTION: Did you wrap up some additional points tonight?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: We went over some additional points tonight, yes. After the Israeli negotiating team has studied them, they will give us their answer tomorrow.

QUESTION: Where were the talks held this evening? Were they in Tel Aviv?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I tell you the truth I do not know exactly where they were held. (Laughter)

QUESTION: Would you please pursue your talks with President Asad?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I think no, except we reviewed the whole context of negotiations and the problems of an overall peace settlement. I think you better take over (to Foreign Minister Allon).

FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON: The Israeli negotiating team and Dr. Kissinger and his colleagues managed to combine pleasure and business tonight. We had a good dinner and we talked. After listening to the report which

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Dr. Kissinger gave us about his impressions from Alexandria and Damascus, we could clarify further the problems that are connected with the possible interim agreement. And I couldn't but support what Dr. Kissinger told you just now that we are making progress, and every additional meeting brings us closer to hopeful results. But we had a brief meeting tonight and tomorrow after the weekly cabinet session we will meet again with the American team. We asked Dr. Kissinger to postpone his visit to other countries until we have had sufficient time to discuss previous points as well as the new ones. By tomorrow afternoon we will be able to continue our talks.

QUESTION: Mr. Allon, are you still talking about a three-year agreement? I mean is that still out in the open?

FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON: Well, I think think this is a basic mistake using this terminology. I believe that the agreement will be valid until it is superseded by another agreement. These limitations of years are connected more to the problems of the renewal of the mandates but not of the length of the agreement. The duration is unlimited, namely that we shall make the effort to achieve a better agreement later on, so this will remain in power until its being superseded by another one.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, did you raise the possibility of an interim as settlement with Mr. Asad in Syria?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: We discussed the general context of negotiations, -- of various possibilities. But one interim negotiation is all that my colleagues and I are capable of handling.

QUESTION: Did you have the feeling that your talks with Mr. Asad would have any effect on the negotiations for an interim settlement in Sinai?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, I had useful talks with President Asad. And I continue to believe that we can make progress towards a Sinai settlement.

QUESTION: Do you have agreement on American presence in Sinai?

FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON: We are still discussing it with America. It is an important item. There are a few remaining important items. We will tell you about them.

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