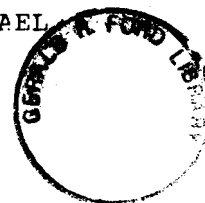


PRESS DEPARTMENT OF STATE

August 24, 1975

No. 433

STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS BY
THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER, SECRETARY OF STATE
AND
HIS EXCELLENCY YIGAL ALLON, FOREIGN MINISTER OF ISRAEL
FOLLOWING MEETING AT PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
JERUSALEM, ISRAEL, AUGUST 24, 1975



FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON: Ladies and gentlemen, we had a very long and fruitful session today. I think a great deal of agreement has been reached between us and the mediators on the American team. I do not think we can go into details for the time being, but we did discuss tangible problems related to the possible agreement. I think the Secretary of State can take with him important information to Egypt, and we shall be looking forward to his return to this country as soon as possible.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: We reviewed those elements of the agreement on which there is not yet accord between the two sides, and the Israeli negotiating team gave us some important clarifications and ideas which we shall be taking to Egypt now. We will have talks in Egypt tomorrow, and I will return here either tomorrow night or Tuesday morning. We are continuing to make progress, and we have not encountered any unexpected difficulties.

QUESTION: Would you say there has been a substantial narrowing of the gap between the two sides within the past twenty-four hours?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Since we came into the area the gap has continued to narrow.

QUESTION: Do you think it is possible to reach an agreement within the coming days or by the end of this week?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I still do not want to speculate on the basis of a deadline.

QUESTION: Are you convinced that you can arrange an agreement between the two countries?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I said I am hopeful, and I continue to be hopeful.

QUESTION: Is the question of the early warning sites now agreed upon by both sides?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: We are making progress in that direction, too.

QUESTION: Do you expect to get the question of the American presence in the passes through the Congress?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: On the basis of consultation that we had before I came out here, we think that we will get it through the Congress, yes.

For further information contact:

-2-

QUESTION: Is there yet to be had an Egyptian agreement for American presence in the passes area?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: We are working on that, and I think it is one of the areas in which differences are narrowing.

QUESTION: Is the question of lines now agreed upon by both sides?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: It is another area on which we are making progress.

* * * *