

PRESS DEPARTMENT OF STATE



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PRESS CONFERENCE BY
HIS EXCELLENCY ANWAR AL-SADAT
PRESIDENT OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
AND
THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER
SECRETARY OF STATE
BEFORE MEETING AT MAAMURA
ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT



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QUESTION: Mr. President, are you satisfied with the progress of the negotiations?

PRESIDENT SADAT: We have not yet started the negotiations with Dr. Kissinger, he has just returned this morning.

QUESTION: But he was here before.

PRESIDENT SADAT: Yes, yes of course he was here before and we discussed a lot, and we surveyed the whole thing. I am waiting to hear, especially after the Cabinet meeting in Israel.

QUESTION: We understand there have been some exchanges while Dr. Kissinger was away. Do you say the substantial issues have been solved?

PRESIDENT SADAT: There are still issues to be discussed.

QUESTION: Mr. President, there was a report from Israel yesterday, that Egypt has pledged not to join in a war if it is launched by another Arab country. Can you tell us anything about that, sir?

PRESIDENT SADAT: Well the Israelis have always been saying lots of things, and I am not ready to answer anything the Israelis say.

QUESTION: Mr. President, what is your reaction to the demonstrations against Secretary Kissinger in Israel?

PRESIDENT SADAT: It is purely an internal problem for Israel, but it is not for me to comment on this.

QUESTION: Mr. President, do you see any problem in making public some of the things that both Egypt and Israel agree to privately?

PRESIDENT SADAT: Well, we cannot say privately, because the whole thing is in the hands of Dr. Kissinger, and I don't think like last March, if we

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could have done the same now and then we come with nothing after that, it is not in the benefit of both of us, the United States and us. We should wait until we reach a certain point and then after that everything can be said quite openly.

QUESTION: Mr. President, is Egypt ready for an extended period of peace with Israel?

PRESIDENT SADAT: I don't know what you mean by "extended period of peace?"

QUESTION: Period lasting more than one year?

PRESIDENT SADAT: Well, this is something the Israelis say from their point of view, and we have our point of view, and as I told you it is not time yet to disclose all this detail.

QUESTION: Mr. President, will Egypt make any secret promises to either the United States or Israel, or will all the agreement be made public?

PRESIDENT SADAT AND SECRETARY KISSINGER: (Laughter)

SECRETARY KISSINGER: -- [Inaudible]

PRESIDENT SADAT: Nothing will be secret.

QUESTION: Mr. President, how do you feel about the presence of American technicians in the passes to man early warning systems?

PRESIDENT SADAT: Well, I am discussing this with Dr. Kissinger.

QUESTION: Mr. President, if you say that nothing will be secret, do you mean whatever Egypt might do politically, economically and diplomatically, will be publicly?

PRESIDENT SADAT: Quite right.

QUESTION: Can we ask Dr. Kissinger about his reaction to his talks, in both Syria and Israel?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: As your President has said, we are exploring all aspects of an agreement. We are making progress, but issues remain to be settled. In respect to Syria, I have stated publicly that the United States believes that overall settlement must include all the countries and all of the issues and I have also expressed the willingness of the United States to help any parties, including Syria, to reach any interim agreements that can be negotiated. I have expressed that same view to President Asad, with whom I had a very constructive talk.

QUESTION: Mr. President, is it correct that you have agreed in the course of negotiations, to the retention of two early warning posts, one to be manned jointly by Israel and some American civilian technicians, and the other to be built, to be manned by Egyptian and some American civilian technicians?

PRESIDENT SADAT: (Laughter) -- are you asking the question or are you doing the negotiation? (Laughter)

QUESTION: You have the choice of roles.

PRESIDENT SADAT: All this must wait until we [interrupted]

QUESTION: President, do you accept an invitation to visit the United States this fall?

PRESIDENT SADAT: Welcome, sure, sure, welcome.

QUESTION: Thank you Mr. President.

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