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COMMENTS TO THE PRESS BY
THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER
SECRETARY OF STATE

AND

HIS EXCELLENCY YIGAL ALLON
FOREIGN MINISTER OF ISRAEL
AFTER MEETING AT PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
JERUSALEM, ISRAEL, AUGUST 26, 1975



SECRETARY KISSINGER: My friend is going to talk first this time.

FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON: We had a very good talk today. We went into many details concerning the interim agreement, after listening very carefully to the report from the talks of Dr. Kissinger with Egyptian leaders. I have the feeling that during the last two days, yesterday and today, we achieved a remarkable progress towards the conclusion of an interim agreement and we are much closer to a positive conclusion than ever since the shuttle was resumed.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I was going to say in agreeing with my friend, Yigal, that we are making remarkable progress towards an agreement and a nervous breakdown. It is going to be a race which will be achieved first.

QUESTION: What still needs to be done, Dr. Kissinger?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Seriously, I agree with what the Foreign Minister has said. As one begins talking about specific provisions of an agreement, many subtle and fine points emerge that when you talk general principles are not so apparent. Therefore, we are now going again through a minute examination of various aspects of an agreement. This is the major issue that is now before us.

QUESTION: Dr. Kissinger, are you bringing an Israeli draft agreement to Egypt?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: We are no longer working on either an Israeli or an Egyptian draft agreement. We are working on a text which is partially agreed and partially disagreed. When it is finally finished it will be the common consensus of both sides.

QUESTION: Dr. Kissinger, Mr. Allon has said that the territorial issue has practically been resolved. Can we not assume that what we are dealing with now are political matters such as an end to the boycott, an end to belligerency, and so forth?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: As I told you, I cannot go into the substance. We are now going through formulations of matters, most of which are agreed and it depends what expression they can be given. That is what we are spending a great deal of our time on in addition to bilateral Israeli-U.S. matters.

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QUESTION: Will we have an agreement by the end of this week, the way it looks now?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I just do not want to...

QUESTION: Do you have any reaction to Senator Mansfield's statement expressing concern about American presence in this? Are you worried about getting this through the American Congress?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I have not read the actual text of Senator Mansfield's statement. I am not excessively surprised. We will consult very carefully with the Congress. Our impression is that we can get it through after some serious debate.

QUESTION: What is your schedule now, sir?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: My schedule is to return from Egypt as quickly as I can, hopefully tomorrow.

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