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December 6

Q. What is the US reaction to recent statements by Israeli Prime Minister Rabin on Israeli negotiating strategy? Will we discuss these with Israeli Foreign Minister Allon when he visits Washington early next week?

A. [In answer to all questions on the Israeli position]: I am not going to comment on reports of statements by the Israeli Prime Minister. I will say that the United States -- the President and Secretary Kissinger -- are dedicated to our step-by-step approach leading to an overall settlement in the Middle East. In the context of our current period of quiet diplomacy, Foreign Minister Allon comes to Washington next week for discussion on matters of interest to our two countries and to explore the possibilities for peace in the Middle East. [Do not go beyond this]

Q. Will Allon meet with the President?

A. I have nothing to give you on that today.

1. ~~What is the purpose of the President meeting with the Jewish leaders today? What did he tell them about the current status of the Mideast negotiations?~~

12/20/74

Blad.
Labo.
Auto.
Shinner.

GUIDANCE: This morning's meeting provided an opportunity for the President to get acquainted with the leaders of a number of major American Jewish organizations. As you know, the President has been meeting with a large number of leaders of various groups since he assumed the Presidency to gain understanding of the various segments of the American society. This morning's meeting was an opportunity for the leaders to express their views on Israel and other matters and for the President to outline to these leaders the Administration's policy toward the Middle East.

hopeful —

I cannot go into any further detail about the conversation this morning. With regard to the situation in the ME, the United States remains committed to maintaining the momentum toward a Middle East peace settlement. We believe the most effective way to do this is to maintain a period of quiet diplomacy, therefore, I am not prepared to get into a detailed discussion of the Middle East situation, or our contacts with the other parties.

6. How can you justify U.S. approval of Iran's giving 20 jet fighters to Jordan?

1/8/75

Guidance: Refer to State. *I understand that*
they are essentially accurate

- 1/13/75
1. Do you have any elaboration on the President's statement to Time Magazine that the United States would put its own security interest above those of Israel? Does this mean that there is a limit of U.S. support for Israel? Was the President's statement an attempt to put pressure on Israel:

Guidance: The President's words in the interview with Time Magazine speak for themselves and I have nothing to add to them.

FYI: The same "nothing to add" position should be taken with regard to the President's expectations for war in the Middle East, a return to the Geneva Conference, the role of the Soviet Union in the Middle East, and Secretary Kissinger's words about the possible use of force in the Middle East. End FYI.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 16, 1975

Butt

MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN

FROM: LES JANKA *for*

SUBJECT: Statement After Meeting Between the
 President and Foreign Minister Yigal Allon

President Ford and Israeli Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yigal Allon met in the Oval Office for _____ minutes. Secretary of State Kissinger and General Scowcroft were present on the American side, and Israel's Ambassador Simcha Dinitz on the Israeli side.

The President and Deputy Prime Minister had a full exchange of views on the situation in the Middle East. The President stressed the seriousness of that situation and repeated his commitment to assisting the parties to move forward toward a negotiated peace settlement. Minister Allon once again assured the President that the Israeli government shares this desire for a negotiated settlement. The meeting provided the opportunity for both sides to review developments in the peace-making process since Minister Allon was here December 9, and to go over possible approaches to this next stage of negotiations.

The talks were conducted with the cordiality and friendship usual when Americans and Israelis meet. As is normal on these occasions, the two sides also reviewed several bilateral matters. Both repeated satisfaction at the excellent state of relations between the two countries.

Question: Did the President and Allon agree on the next stage of negotiations? Did they agree where they should be held? Did they agree on Israeli withdrawal from the two strategic passes and the Abu Rodeis oil fields in the next stage of negotiations? Did they agree on the duration of another agreement?

Answer: I am sorry -- I cannot go into any detail about the discussions. We have said that we are in a period of quiet diplomacy aimed at working out the next stage in the negotiations. I have nothing to say about the substance of our exchanges in this period.

Question: Did they agree on another trip to the area for Secretary Kissinger?

Answer: Here again I have nothing for you. The Secretary has said that at some future time, unspecified, that he may make another trip to the Middle East, if the situation warrants it. But nothing has been finally decided.

Question: How would you characterize the mood of the meeting?

Answer: I have already said that it was friendly and cordial -- as usual when the President and the Deputy Prime Minister meet.

Question: Was the President satisfied? Does he see the possibility of movement?

Answer: The President remains hopeful that progress can be made on the next stage of negotiations. The President found the exchanges with Minister Allon quite useful. But I cannot go into any detail on the substance of the exchanges.

(Refer all other questions of detail to the State Department)

1/16/75
1. Why is the President meeting again with Israeli's Foreign Minister Allon? Do you have any comment on the Washington Post report that Israel wants a 10 year delay on a Sinai agreement? Do you have any comment on Sadat's statement that the U. S. must achieve a disengagement within three months?

GUIDANCE: The President's meeting with Foreign Minister Allon at 5:00 p.m. today should be seen as part of our continued efforts to bring about further progress toward a peaceful settlement in the Middle East. As you know, the Administration has been in close contact with all of the parties to determine what next steps may be possible. Foreign Minister Allon is in the U. S. on a private visit and it is therefore useful for Secretary Kissinger and the President to meet with him in our efforts for further progress.

FYI: Under our current policy of quiet diplomacy, we will have no comment on the Washington Post report this morning or on President Sadat's interview. If asked whether Secretary Kissinger plans another trip to the Middle East you should say there is nothing set at this time.

Note: Material for a read-out following the Allon meeting will be provided later.

6. Can you confirm reports that ~~Israel~~ has asked for a total of \$2.4 billion in military and economic assistance for FY 1976? Will the U.S. consider such a huge request?

1/22/75

Guidance; I am not going to go into the details of our exchanges with Israel on this subject. American assistance to Israel was one of the subjects discussed during Foreign Minister Allon's recent visit here and we now have the matter under study. Also it is premature to discuss what will be in the President's budget which he will be presenting to the Congress in early February.

FYI Only: Israel will receive about \$675 million in FY 1975. End FYI.

1/27/75

2. ~~Indian Foreign Minister Chavan~~ has cancelled his March visit to the United States, presumably because of the U. S. lift of the arms embargo against Pakistan. ~~Does this act signal a deterioration of U. S.-Indian relations?~~

GUIDANCE: You will recall that Sec. Kissinger, in his press conference, characterized Mr. Chavan's reaction to the U. S. action as restrained and statesmanlike. The decision to lift the embargo does not alter in any way our basic commitment to continuing the recent improvement in our relations with India. ^{As Secretary Kissinger} We remain committed to building a long-term, durable relationship between the United States and India and we are hopeful that India will share our view.

Q - Is the President doing anything, or is the administration doing anything, to placate India?

A.



4. Does the President agree with Senator Percy's statement that Israel must be more flexible in the Middle East peace negotiations and that Israel must recognize that there are limits to U.S. aid?

1/29/75

Guidance: ~~I have no specific comment on the views of Senator Percy, except to say that we appreciate his efforts during his recent trip to the Middle East to explain American policy toward the Middle East.~~ The President and Secretary Kissinger have made a number of statements recently regarding U.S. policy in the Middle East. As Secretary Kissinger said yesterday, we are dealing with an enormously delicate problem in the Middle East and it is necessary at this time to move with great care to make progress in this complex and very dangerous situation.

we have not ^{yet} had a chance to discuss his trip with him; - we look forward to hearing his views.

4. For Your Information:

2/7/75 We would have no comment on Prime Minister Rabin's comment on the A. M. America show today in which he offered the return of the strategic bases and oil fields in return for a complete unconditional Egyptian guarantee of nonbelligerency. With Dr. Kissinger's upcoming trip to the Middle East, we should maintain our posture of quiet diplomacy.

4. What is the Administration really considering about guarantees to Israel?

5/21/75
Guidance: Briefly, nothing specific has been proposed by any party. The State Department discussed this matter very thoroughly at their briefing yesterday and I suggest you check the record of that briefing.

FYI: You may want to summarize the following quotation from State's briefing: "As we know, various parties to the conflict publicly, from time to time, over the past many months now, have mentioned the word "guarantee" more in the context of an overall settlement, but unspecified on what kind of guarantees. We have no proposal along this line; and this whole question of possible guarantees, unspecified at this time, may become relevant later on at some unknown time in the context of an overall settlement." End FYI.

March 6, 1975

Q: Is the US Government privately communicating with the Israelis regarding the terrorist act at Tel Aviv?

A: President Ford is sending a message to Prime Minister Rabin, along the lines of the statement I have just read, expressing his deep sympathy and deploring the event.

Q: Do you see this event as affecting Secretary Kissinger's peace efforts?

A: Until Secretary Kissinger has had a chance to talk with various leaders in the Middle East, it will be impossible to tell. Clearly, we hope that nothing will hinder progress in the negotiations which the Secretary ^{is} ~~will be~~ undertaking, ~~during the coming week.~~

March 6, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE

Statement by the President

The act of terrorism which occurred last night at Tel Aviv resulting in the tragic loss of innocent lives should be strongly deplored by everyone. Outrages of this nature can only damage the cause in whose name they are perpetrated.

I extend my deepest sympathy, and that of the American people, to the families of those persons who have been killed as a result of this senseless act.



F.Y.I. Press
from [illegible]

REMARKS OF MOSHE DAYAN FOLLOWING
MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER

APRIL 3, 1975

WASHINGTON, D.C.

- Q: Mr. Dayan, how did your meeting go with the Secretary? Could you tell us?
- A: Yes, just very well. I'm sure you are used to this expression by now -- it was a constructive and a good meeting. I'll tell you, what happened was that the Secretary learned that I was here in the States and he asked me to come over to discuss the situation in the Middle East, and so we did. And that's it.
- Q: There's been some speculation that he might go back for one more try. Did he indicate anything along that line?
- A: Now gentlemen, I really don't want to disappoint you but I will not say anything beyond that -- how it happened that we had this meeting and that it was a good meeting and that the subject was the situation in the Middle East. I won't say anything else. You are wasting your time.
- Q: Could you tell us while we waste our time whether you believe that the United States is now specifically leaning upon Israel and applying considerable pressure now in order to get a softer negotiating position?

A: Now, you see, had you met me in Israel in my house I probably would have said many things but not now, coming right from the Secretary's office.

Q: General, on another subject, --

Q: You've been traveling around the country; you've read the papers; you've read the statements. You must have an opinion.

A: Yes I do have, but just now I'm coming from the Secretary's office and whatever I say will have an impact on that.

Q: On another subject, you also have been to Vietnam. What is your assessment on what happened and on what is going to happen?

A: I listened to General Gavin and I think that what he said is probably the most important and sober assessment about it, including of what he said that -- one-way or another America is stronger now that you are not there than the other way around.

Q: There have been some who say that our failure to provide new military aid to South Vietnam weakens our position as ally and friend to other nations including Israel.

A: That's what I said what I won't discuss now. Thank you very much.

IF ASKED ONLY

QUESTION: What assurances on emigration has the President received from Romania?

ANSWER: The pertinent documents will be submitted to Congress as the law requires. Let me only for now refer you to the Declaration of the Presidents of the United States and Romania of 1973. The two leaders stated "they will contribute to the solution of humanitarian problems on the basis of mutual confidence and good will." We have been assured that when such problems arise they will be solved, on a reciprocal basis, in the spirit of that Declaration.

Per C - R. Blackwill

April 3, 1975

emigrate or he may waive this prohibition under certain circumstances. The President was chosen to use the waiver procedure in the case of Romania.

Q. What assurances on emigration has the President received from Romania.

A. We will deal with such questions at the time the President takes whatever action he is required to undertake pursuant to the Trade Act. At that time officers in the White House and in the State Department will brief the press.

Use
substitute
Q + A
Attached

Q. Does this agreement do anything other than extend most-favored-nation tariff treatment to Romania?

A. Yes. It contains a number of provisions that will be of assistance to American companies in conducting trade with Romania. For example, it contains language designed to facilitate business representation in Romania. This means offices, services, travel, and other favorable arrangements. It also provides for the operation of government commercial offices to assist trade in each country.

Q. What about U.S. imports from Romania? Is there protection against large low-price imports?

A. The agreement contains a very extensive safeguards system providing for restrictions to remedy actual or threatened market disruption.

Q. Is the agreement likely to lead to a substantial increase in trade?

A. It certainly will be helpful in further improving the conditions for trade expansion. The agreement envisages that total bilateral trade in comparison with 1972-74 will at least triple during the initial three-year period of the agreement.

Q. What does the trade agreement say about freedom of emigration from Romania?

A. The trade agreement proper deals only with trade. As you know, however, the Trade Act requires the President either to prohibit MFN to any country denying its citizens the right or opportunity to

ROMANIAN TRADE AGREEMENT

Press Guidance

Ambassador Harry G. Barnes signed yesterday in Bucharest a Trade Agreement with Romania. This agreement is the first to be negotiated under the provisions of the Trade Act of 1974. In accordance with the provisions required under that Act, it includes most-favored-nation treatment for Romanian goods exported to the U.S.

We believe it will give further impetus to improved US-Romanian political and economic relations. It will foster additional American exports to the growing markets of Romania and will remove the non-MFN discriminatory treatment of Romanian products in the U.S. market. MFN for Romania is a goal which the administration has pursued for several years, and it represents a key to full normalization of US-Romanian economic relations. This agreement will now be submitted to both Houses of Congress for approval.

*Non - Guidance from
State on American
events of 4/3/75
→ F. G. L. - details
should be referred
to State*

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 4, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN
FROM: MARGI VANDERHYE
SUBJECT: Guidance Revision and Update

1. Attached is revised guidance on the Lance Missile and F-15 jet fighters to Israel. It should be substituted for the similar question in the President's Briefing Book in case it is needed in the future.
2. If questioned about the various proclamations by the North Vietnamese on their humanitarian intentions regarding the refugees and South Vietnamese you might want to say that we must examine their statements on the basis of their past actions and policies in this regard. And, of course, it is helpful to reemphasize that the refugees are still trying to seek more secure government controlled areas. (There are eight Vietnamese relocation centers in the Delta area currently trying to assist the influx of uprooted Vietnamese.)
3. Operational details on the transportation of orphans should be referred to Department of Defense.

*LDR Chasen
San Francisco*

ISRAEL - LANCE AND F-15

Q. Is it true that the United States has held up a letter of offer to Israel for the Lance Missile and new F-15 jet fighters and that the visit of an Israeli evaluation team was postponed?

Will the decision on the Lance and the F-15s be part of the reassessment of U. S. policy of the Middle East ordered by the President?

A. With regard to our military relationship with Israel, just let me say that following Prime Minister Rabin's visit last fall the United States agreed to substantial military shipments to Israel. These shipments, I believe, for the most part have been completed and have had a major impact on Israel's defensive capabilities.

I would add that our military relationship with Israel is always under study. At the present time, these efforts are being integrated into our overall Middle East reassessment -- this includes the question of new commitments as well as completion of the arrangements on a few items that have been under discussion in the past.

APR 21

US ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL

Q: Charges are being made that the US commitment to Israel is in doubt and that Israel cannot be more flexible in negotiations unless the US supplies more military assistance.

A: Let us make the record clear: In October 1973, when Israel was in need, the US responded with urgent, massive assistance. Some 3.3 billion dollars has been appropriated by Congress for Israel since then, with over 3 billion already disbursed. Since I became President, Congress has appropriated some 750 million and we have continued to assist Israel on a large scale in its military improvement.

The net result has been to improve considerable Israel's military capability over that which it had in October 1973 -- at a time when the US has been experiencing economic difficulties. This cannot be construed as a weak commitment.

It has been and remains our earnest hope that the US commitment to Israel's survival will facilitate early, rapid progress toward peace in the Middle East.

At the present time, all aspects of our Middle East policies are being integrated into our overall reassessment. New aid levels

have not yet been determined, but we will make our own decisions on aid on the basis of our national objectives and our commitment to the survival of Israel. The reassessment is not a punitive exercise against any country.

4/21/75

MEETINGS WITH ISRAELI LEADERS -- ALLON, RABIN

MEETINGS WITH ARAB LEADERS

Q: Why didn't you meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Allon while he was in Washington this weekend and will you meet with Prime Minister Rabin in the near future?

What are your plans for meetings with Arab leaders such as King Hussein, Presidents Sadat and Asad, King Khalid? Did the Moroccan King cancel his State visit because of the breakdown in negotiations? Is the Tunisian Prime Minister still coming?

A: I met with Foreign Minister Allon when he visited Washington last January. I am pleased that Foreign Minister Allon was able to come to Washington this time while he is in the U.S. on private matters. He and Secretary Kissinger had a useful review of the Middle East situation, and Secretary Kissinger conveyed my views and my greetings to Foreign Minister Allon. Both sides were satisfied with this. I have no current plans to meet with Prime Minister Rabin.

As far as leaders of the Arab nations, the only meetings which are presently planned are with King Hussein of Jordan and Tunisian Prime Minister Nour. There are many invitations outstanding but nothing specific at the present time.

APRIL 21

US SUPPORT FOR ISREAL--FOREIGN POLICY ADDRESS

Q: In your foreign policy address on April 10, you made clear that the US would work toward peace in the Middle East. Why did you not mention US support for Israel's security?

A: US support for Israel's survival and security is a vital element of the policy of this Administration just as it has been since the Israeli state came into being in 1948. There has been no change in this clear and frequently stated policy. But -- as Israel's leaders agree -- there could be no better long-term assurance of Israel's survival and well-being than a peaceful settlement with its Arab neighbors. In my speech April 10, I pledged the United States to a major effort for peace in the Middle East, an effort supported by the American people and the Congress.

April 21, 1975

US SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL--FOREIGN POLICY ADDRESS

Q: In your foreign policy address on April 10, you made clear that the U.S. would work toward peace in the Middle East. Why did you not mention U.S. support for Israel's security?

A: U.S. support for Israel's survival has been an element of American foreign policy since the Israeli state came into being in 1948. There has been no change in this clear and frequently stated policy. But there could be no better long-term assurance of Israel's survival and well-being than a peaceful settlement with its Arab neighbors. In my speech April 10, I pledged the United States to a major effort for peace in the Middle East, and effort supported by the American people and the Congress.

U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

Q. In his address on April 10, the President made clear that the U.S. would work toward peace in the Middle East. Why was he so reticent in his support for Israel's security last night?

A. In his speech April 10, the President pledged the United States to a major effort for peace in the Middle East, an effort supported by the American people and the Congress. U.S. support for Israel's survival and security is a vital element of the policy of this Administration just as it has been since the Israeli state came into being in 1948. There has been no change in this clear and frequently stated policy. But -- as Israel's leaders agree -- there could be no better long-term assurance of Israel's survival and well-being than a peaceful settlement with its Arab neighbors.

April 22, 1975

U. S. ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL

Q. The President, in his interview last night implied that the U.S. commitment to Israel is in doubt. In view of his remarks on the current reassessment, what are the U.S. intentions with regard to support for Israel?

A. Let us make the record clear: In October, 1973, when Israel was in need, the U.S. responded with urgent, massive assistance. Some \$3.3 billion dollars has been appropriated by Congress for Israel since then, with over \$3 billion already disbursed. Since he became President, Congress has appropriated some \$750 million and we have continued to assist Israel on a large scale in its military improvement.

The net result has been to improve considerably Israel's military capability over that which it had in October, 1973 -- at a time when the U.S. has been experiencing economic difficulties. This cannot be construed as a weak commitment.

It has been and remains our earnest hope that the U.S. commitment to Israel's survival will facilitate early, rapid progress toward peace in the Middle East.

At the present time, all aspects of our Middle East policies are being integrated into our overall reassessment. New aid levels

U.S. Assistance to Israel (Continued)

Page 2

have not yet been determined, but we will make our own decisions on aid on the basis of our national objectives and our commitment to the survival of Israel. The reassessment is not a punitive exercise against any country.

DOD ASSURANCES TO ISRAEL

If asked about Secretary Schlesinger's assurances to Israel that the U.S. reassessment of Middle East policies will not diminish U.S. support for Israel's security, you may say that though you have seen the reports, the American policy is as follows:

Use Guidance of Tuesday, April 22 entitled: "U.S. Support for Israel," and "U.S. Assistance to Israel." The former, in particular, spells out our policy towards Israel during the reassessment.

May 3, 1975

TREND IN US-ISRAELI RELATIONS

Q: How do you see US-Israeli relations evolving as contrasted to the improvement in US-Arab world relations? Do you agree with some Israeli assessments that there is an erosion in US support--including public opinion and Congressional support--for Israel and for Israel's negotiating positions? Since the Israelis believe that the Administration is privately blaming Israel for the breakdown of the recent negotiations, do you expect them to toughen their position until the US-Israeli relationship is straightened out?

A: Support for Israel's security is an essential element of the policy of this Administration and I am sure it continues to have strong support from the Congress and the public. In the spirit of our close relations, I have already met with Prime Minister Rabin, President Katzir, Foreign Minister Allon and former Prime Minister Golda Meir. Secretary Kissinger recently saw Foreign Minister Allon and I look forward to meeting Prime Minister Rabin again in the near future. America's commitment to Israel's survival has not changed. Nor has America's commitment to peace. We have a continuing close dialogue and we are trying to work with Israel as well as with the Arab parties towards achieving peace in the Middle East.

Our reassessment has nothing to do with blame. We are focussing on where we go from here, not on what happened in the past. I will not speculate on policies of the Israeli Government.

Trend in US-Israeli Relations

- 2 -

I believe, based on my discussions, that they share our interest in peace in the area which is, after all, the best guarantee for Israel's survival. We will continue to work toward this objective.

May 5, 1975

BACK-UP Q'S AND A'S FOR
RABIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Q: Was the President pressured into meeting with Rabin because of his meeting with Sadat? Is this Rabin meeting in any way to balance the Sadat meeting? .

A. The President said himself in a TV interview recently that he was very much interested in receiving the views of all parties. The planned meetings with both President Sadat and Prime Minister Rabin should be seen in that light. Each meeting has been under discussion in recent weeks.

Q: Will the President meet with Syrian President Asad ^{or} with King Khalid of Saudi Arabia--both leaders with whom he has not met?

A. As the President has said, he remains interested in receiving the views of all parties but I have nothing to announce on any further meetings at this time. (FYI: Do not go beyond this)

Q: Will the President be launching a new initiative in his talks with Sadat and Rabin and will he be transmitting views from one to the other? Will the US policy reassessment be concluded by the time of these meetings?

A. This is seen as an opportunity for the President to have his first personal meeting with President Sadat and to renew his acquaintance with Prime Minister Rabin--whom he met last fall--for a review of the Middle East situation.

The President will be interested in discussing with both leaders how progress can be made toward peace for the Middle East. Our reassessment remains underway and I am not going to speculate on the outcome of meetings which have yet to be held.

May 5, 1975

ANNOUNCEMENT

FORD MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER RABIN

FOR RELEASE BY WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN ON
MONDAY, MAY 5, 1975, AT 11:30 A.M. :

"President Ford has invited Prime Minister Rabin to meet with him in Washington for discussions of matters of mutual interest and in order to further strengthen the friendly ties between the two countries. The Prime Minister has accepted the invitation and the visit will take place on Wednesday and Thursday, June 11-12."

[Q's and A's attached]

May 22, 1975

LETTER FROM THE SENATORS ON ISRAEL

During the reassessment it is especially valuable to have a wide range of views. I am happy to receive recommendations from the Senate. We welcome all suggestions from all sources as we continue the process of reassessment. Of course the United States is dedicated to the survival of Israel and we are working hard to maintain peace in the Middle East.

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#

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May 22, 1975

LETTER FROM THE SENATORS ON ISRAEL

It is valuable to have a wide range of views. I have received the recommendations from the Senate and will consider them. We welcome all suggestions from all sources as we continue the process of reassessment. Of course, the United States is dedicated to the survival of a free and independent Israel, and we are working hard to maintain peace in the Middle East, which is after all the best long-term assurance for Israel, and the other states in the area.

ca [5/1/75]

5/6 President's press conference
5/7 Morning guidance item

MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL --
SALES TO JORDAN

Q. Why has the U.S. held up certain new items for Israel as part of the Middle East policy reassessment but has gone ahead with the sale of the Hawk to Jordan? Is Israel being discriminated against?

A. We are moving on schedule to complete our economic and military assistance agreements with all countries in the Middle East for FY 75. On arms, the large special program Israel requested in late 1974 on an urgent basis has already been delivered, except in three or four cases of technical or availability problems. As for the regular military supply relationship, we are continuing to meet routine arms supply requests and deliver a large number of items in the pipeline; however, commitments for deliveries of new or advanced technology are not being made during the course of the reassessment. As our overall policy review proceeds, decisions will also be taken regarding these.

We have been discussing for over a year what help we might be able to give Jordan for its air defense. King Hussein was informed several months ago of our decision in principle to supply air defense equipment over the next several years. A survey team went to Jordan in February

and the matter was discussed further during King Hussein's visit last week during which final agreement was reached on details. A decision was made in principle before our reassessment began and, after careful consideration during the reassessment process, we have decided to go forward with it. The equipment involves purely defensive weapons and does not constitute a step to shift the balance in the area. In due course, decisions will be made with respect to other countries as well.

May 13, 1975

MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL--
SALES TO JORDAN

Q: Why has the U. S. held up certain new items for Israel as part of the Middle East policy reassessment but has gone ahead with the sale of the Hawk to Jordan? Is Israel being discriminated against?

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We have been discussing for over a year Jordanian air defense needs. King Hussein was informed several months ago of our decision in principle to supply air defense equipment over the next several years. A survey team went to Jordan in February and the matter was discussed further during King Hussein's recent visit, at which time final

agreement was reached on details. Thus, a decision was made in principle long before our reassessment began and, after careful consideration during the reassessment process, we have decided to go forward with it. The equipment involves purely defensive weapons and does not constitute a step to shift the balance in the area. In due course, decisions will be made with respect to other countries as well.

ISRAELI CARGO TRANSPORT

Background - FYI Only:

In a Washington Post story today, Israel's Transportation Minister said that Egypt had pledged in writing to permit Israeli cargo through the Suez Canal, adding that a shipment of sugar would be a test case. (A-18). A cable in this morning states that there is in fact no ship with Israeli cargo on its way to the canal.

As for an Egyptian pledge at the (January 18) disengagement agreement on the transport of Israeli cargo, there are several aspects. There was a public open agreement establishing general guidelines for withdrawal and limitation on armaments and forces. There was a private disengagement agreement in which Israel and Egypt specified the limitations and conditions on forces and armaments levels (contained in your background summaries sent to you on the plane). There was a secret exchange of letters between the Egyptians and the U. S. and between the U. S. and Israel ^{concerning provisions} ~~discussing~~ ^{concerning provisions} for the transport of Israeli cargo through the Suez Canal when the Canal was reopened. We do not comment on either the private agreements or the exchange of letters.

Q: Can you comment on the assertions that the Egyptians gave assurances that the transportation of Israeli cargo through the Suez Canal would be permitted when the Canal reopened?

A: It has been and continues to be our policy not to discuss the particulars of the disengagement agreement. The appropriate committees of Congress (SFRC and HFAC) were briefed on the agreement at the time.

ISRAELI CARGO TRANSPORT

Background - FYI Only:

In a Washington Post story today, Israel's Transportation Minister said that Egypt had pledged in writing to permit Israeli cargo through the Suez Canal, adding that a shipment of sugar would be a test case. (A-18). A cable in this morning states that there is in fact no ship with Israeli cargo on its way to the canal.

As for an Egyptian pledge at the (January 18) disengagement agreement on the transport of Israeli cargo, there are several aspects. There was a public open agreement establishing general guidelines for withdrawal and limitation on armaments and forces. There was a private disengagement agreement in which Israel and Egypt specified the limitations and conditions on forces and armaments levels (contained in your background summaries sent to you on the plane). There was a secret exchange of letters between the Egyptians and the U.S. and between the U.S. and Israel, ~~discussing~~ ^{concerning, among other things} provisions for the transport of Israeli cargo through the Suez Canal when the Canal was reopened. We do not comment on either the private agreements or the exchange of letters.

Q: Can you comment on the assertions that the Egyptians gave assurances that the transportation of Israeli cargo through the Suez Canal would be permitted when the Canal reopened?

A: It has been and continues to be our policy not to discuss the particulars of the disengagement agreement. The appropriate committees of Congress (SFRC and HFAC) were briefed on the agreement at the time.

June 9, 1975

Agenda for Prime Minister Rabin's Visit

Background:

The Washington Post today cites reports that Prime Minister Rabin in his talks with President Ford will seek an understanding on future Middle East peace moves before entering into any discussion on a pullback of troops from the Sinai front. Reports from the Egyptian news source Rose El Youssef speculate that President Ford will tell Rabin that the U.S. will defend Israel only to its 1967 borders.

Q: Can you comment on reports that Prime Minister Rabin will seek an understanding from President Ford on future Israeli peace moves in the Middle East contingent on U.S. assurances on aspects of the negotiations and the shape of the final settlement? Has the President made any decisions that he will present to Rabin this week?

if pressed
A: As you are aware, the U.S. is reassessing its Middle East policy and as a part of this reassessment, President Ford has met with President Sadat and will be meeting with Prime Minister Rabin. He is looking forward to the meeting and to the chance to exchange views personally with Prime Minister Rabin on the Middle East situation before making any final decisions or concluding our reassessment. The United States is taking a constructive attitude
open → In our approach to these talks and we assume the Israelis are doing the same.

June 10, 1975

STATEMENT ON RABIN VISIT FOR TUESDAY NOON BRIEFING

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel is arriving in Washington this afternoon to begin an Official Visit with the President tomorrow. The President will meet with the Prime Minister tomorrow morning at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday morning at 10:30 a.m. The President will host a working dinner in the Prime Minister's honor at the White House tomorrow evening. Prime Minister Rabin will meet with Secretary of State Kissinger and other high level officials as well as with Members of Congress during this visit. This visit is part of the consultative process in the President's continuing efforts to review ways in which progress toward peace in the Middle East can best be made...

Q: Why is there no State dinner? Does the absence of ceremonial functions reflect US irritation with Israeli inflexibility?

A: This is essentially a working visit to discuss options to moving toward peace in the Middle East and to receive Prime Minister Rabin's personal views on the Middle East situation, following the President's recent working meeting with President Sadat. Prime Minister and Mrs. Rabin paid an Official Visit to Washington last September, during which there were the arrival ceremony and State dinner as well as numerous (3) meetings between the President and Prime Minister. Mrs. Rabin

is accompanying the Prime Minister. We understand that she will be the guest of Mrs. Kissinger at a dinner tomorrow evening but you should check with State. [Mrs. Ford was invited to this dinner but the issue of whether she will accept is still unresolved. Therefore, you will have to indicate that you do not know at this time whether Mrs. Ford is attending the dinner but that you will find out.]

Q: In answer to all questions on the substance of the talks, whether Rabin is bringing new proposals, what the President

A: will tell Rabin, etc., you should indicate that you are not going to get into detail in advance of the visit, that the purpose is to get Rabin's assessment, to review with him our views following the meetings with Sadat, and that all options and means of making progress will be discussed.

Q: Will the President discuss aid levels with Rabin?

A: This issue could well arise in the talks but I have nothing specific to give you in advance of the meetings. As we have said, following completion of the reassessment there will be consultation with Congress on aid levels for the Middle East.

June 12, 1975

ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS

Q. When did President Ford and Sec. Kissinger first learn of Israeli plans to thin out its troops as a gesture towards peace?

A. The President and Sec. Kissinger were both informed shortly before the official announcement of the Israeli thinning out -- (by shortly we mean, at most, several hours, and more likely within the hour of the announcement.)

Q. Was the Israeli move, in fact, a real thinning out?

A. I would not want to characterize the military aspects of the thinning out. The important point is that Israel undertook the step, whatever the magnitude, as a serious gesture for peace. Presidents Ford and Sadat welcomed the gesture at the time and President Ford believes it is a positive step in the direction of a durable peace in the Middle East.

RABIN VISIT

Q. Where do you go from here? Did the Prime Minister and the President reach any tentative conclusions about the best approach? Is the next step a restarting of the Kissinger shuttle? Did they discuss a new approach to an interim settlement on the Golan Heights, to be discussed now with the Syrian Foreign Minister? Did Israel have any concessions on an interim settlement with Egypt? [To all such detailed questions]:

A. I cannot state any such specific conclusions from the talks.

We consider them constructive. Prime Minister Rabin is returning to discuss his meetings here with his cabinet.

Until there are more specific understandings on the next steps, it is inappropriate for me to go into detail.

Q. How much of the talk was on economic and military aid? When is the Administration going to send its aid request for the Middle East to Congress? Did the President relate this aid request for Israeli willingness to make concessions in the negotiations?

A. As I said in my statement, the subject of aid was discussed, but the main subject of the discussions was how to move on the diplomatic front. As soon as recommendations on aid are ready, we will be discussing them with Congress, but we must first complete our policy review of the diplomatic options. There is no specific date set for submitting a request to Congress on FY 76 assistance for Israel and Middle East countries.

Q. When is this review to be completed?

A. I do not have a specific date for you. Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam is coming on June 20. We have said repeatedly that the President wants the views of all the parties before reaching conclusions about how he sees the best way to proceed with fruitful negotiations?

Q. Where does Secretary Kissinger's planned meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko in July fit into this scenario? Is Geneva to be postponed again?

A. I have nothing to add to what has been previously said on these subjects. In their Vienna meeting, Secretary Kissinger and Foreign Minister Gromyko agreed to a further meeting. They also agreed that a reconvened Geneva Conference must be carefully prepared. It is premature for me here today to discuss possible timing of the Geneva Conference.

Q. Is the fact that this visit has been treated in such low key -- with no State dinner and the minimum of fanfare -- a reflection of some US irritation with Israel or to downplay the specialness of the US-Israeli relationship?

A. I want to make very, very clear that the whole emphasis of this visit was to discuss the Middle East situation and this accounts for the primarily working aspects of the visit. As you know, Prime Minister Rabin was formally welcomed in Washington last September on a full-fledged visit, including

an arrival ceremony, three meetings with the President and a State dinner -- as this was the Prime Minister's first meeting with the President since the President assumed office. They are friends and this visit was designed mainly to get into the serious problems of the Middle East situation. The fact that they did not spend more time on ceremonial aspects reflects no irritation. Rather, it reflects the intense interest of both leaders in tackling the serious problem of the Middle East -- which is to help bring peace.

- Q. Did the President tell Rabin the US would release the sophisticated weapons it has been holding up or that we will be meeting Israel's new military needs?
- A. I am not going to get into the details of their discussion which focussed, in any event, mainly on the diplomatic front, nor do we usually get into the details of our military supply relationships with other countries. We have already made clear that all issues are being integrated into our policy reassessment which has not yet been completed and I have nothing further to add.

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June 16, 1975

RABIN VISIT AND PROJECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- Q. Now that Premier Rabin's visit has concluded following a number of meetings with President Ford and Secretary Kissinger, what is the likelihood for a resumption of shuttle diplomacy? Will the U.S. be developing a comprehensive plan to resolve the Middle East situation? Is the President optimistic that progress has been made?
- A. I would have nothing to add to the many public statements made during the last few days on the substance of the talks between President Ford, Secretary Kissinger and Premier Rabin. The talks were conducted in a spirit of frankness and cordiality and have been most constructive. We will continue to be in frequent contact with all the parties in the Middle East as we pursue the means for achieving a peaceful resolution of the situation.

UPDATE

1.) CSCE

There has been no change in our position on the probability of a CSCE summit.

2.) Allegations about U. S. Involvement in Zaire Coup Attempt:

The State Department refuted the allegations outright at the briefing yesterday.

3.) Mayaguez Report

The report is in its final stages and will be delivered to the President shortly.

4.) Israeli Cabinet Announcement

Israel announced its intention to resume negotiations with Egypt on an interim peace agreement with Egypt.

use this
You may say that naturally we are pleased with any moves that would advance the opportunity for a peaceful settlement in the area.

would
Welcome any development that is an outgrowth of my meetings with S & P that would lead to progress.

5.) Secret Agreements

The U. S. and Israeli governments have both denied that any secret agreements exist between them.

TOON ON ISRAELI BORDERS

June 26, 1975

Q. Was Ambassador Toon reflecting the President's views when he said that there will have to be rectifications in Israel's borders to help Israel meet its legitimate security needs in any final settlement?

A. There has been no change in US policy. We are making every effort to assist the parties to reach agreement on a Middle East peace settlement based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. We are not going to get into a discussion of the particular substantive issues involved,

since they will have to be worked out during the course of the negotiations. Until such time as the reassessment is

concluded and the President makes known his views, I ~~am~~ *do not* think that ~~not going to~~ comment on day-to-day issues of the negotiations

~~that may arise serves any useful purpose~~

Q. Well, does the President agree or disagree with the statement of Ambassador Toon? Did he discuss this with Toon this morning? What did they discuss?

A. ~~You can draw your own conclusions, although~~ ^Tthe Ambassador himself has noted that he was reflecting his personal views.

The US position is as I have stated it. On completion of the reassessment, the President has said that he would make known his views. But that point has not yet been reached and no definite date has been set.

Press office
has.

As far as the meeting this morning, it was an opportunity for the President to review the Middle East situation prior to the Ambassador's departure and to receive his views, just as the President has done with a wide range of officials and private Americans. But I am not going to get into the specifics of what they discussed.

Q. What is the US position on final borders for Israel?

A. I have stated that the US position is that we are seeking to promote a settlement based on Resolutions 242 and 338. But I am not going to get into the details of the substantive issues involved since these must be worked out in the negotiations.

June 30, 1975

DINITZ MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT

Q: Is it true that the President issued an ultimatum to Ambassador Dinitz to take back to the Israeli Cabinet when they met on Friday?

A: No ultimatums were delivered. As I said Friday, the President and Ambassador Dinitz had a brief meeting to discuss the Middle East situation. They reviewed the course of the negotiagion, and discussed how best to proceed.

Following his meeting with the President, Ambassador Dinitz met with Secretary Kissinger and Under Secretary Sisco.

Q - Any communication to Israel?

A - ~~I did not~~ Presume he'll report on the meeting.

July 2, 1975

U.S. ROLE IN SINAI

A Washington Post story datelined Jerusalem July 1, cites Israeli newspapers predicting that American technicians may be asked to serve in any new Sinai desert buffer zone between Israeli and Egyptian armies.

[A State Department spokesman called the reports "speculative accounts" and said the State Department would not comment on them.]

We should probably follow the above line. It is likely that there will be much speculation on the nature of any peace settlement but as we have said before we will not get into details of the negotiations.