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4. Continuing reports from the Middle East indicate that the Arabs are angry by the President's speech about oil prices. Did you expect this reaction or are you concerned by it?

9/25/74

Guidance: I spoke to this matter yesterday and have nothing to add today. Pres. proposals NOT made in a spirit of confrontation. All talk of military action is simply irresponsible.



5. Can you confirm the New York Times story today that the President has decided that he would prefer to have no foreign assistance bill this year and would prefer to live with a Continuing Resolution at last year's level even though this would prevent aid in the Middle East?

9/30/74

Guidance: As you know, the President has discussed foreign assistance legislation with the Congressional leadership on several occasions in recent weeks. In these meetings the President has consistently sought Congressional support of increased levels of foreign assistance and he has also discussed with them his concerns of a number of amendments in the foreign assistance act which would severely limit his authority to conduct responsible U.S. foreign policy, and limit his ability to meet unforeseen contingencies. The President will continue to make his concerns known to the Congress as these bills continue through the legislative process.

As you know, the current Continuing Resolution under which our foreign assistance programs are operating expires today and thus a new Continuing Resolution will be needed to continue these programs until acceptable legislation is enacted. There have also been efforts as you know to attach restrictive amendments to these Continuing Resolutions Bills. In last week's meeting with the leadership, the President told them that he prefers to see no restrictive amendments on the Continuing Resolution but he would accept amendment language which would not undercut our efforts to bring about successful negotiations to resolve the Cyprus problem.

FYI: If pushed on whether we would prefer to continue without new legislation or on which language might be acceptable to the President, you should say that these are matters now before the Congress and it would not be appropriate to discuss the subject in greater detail.

Further FYI: If asked about Senator Church's effort to cut off U.S. aid to certain ~~U.S.~~ oil ~~exporting~~ countries, you should refer questions to State for details on those programs which continue in countries now exporting oil. End FYI.

6. Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister Yamani yesterday said that only a solution to the Middle East conflict would bring oil prices down. Does the U.S. share this view of a linkage between peace in the Middle East and the level of oil prices?

10/4/74
Guidance: This Administration's position has been to address the oil price issue as a serious world problem. We have not related that problem to progress toward achieving peace in the Middle East and we hope others do not either. A just settlement in the Middle East is of vital interest to the United States as well as the countries in the region and a settlement must be pursued for its own sake.

11/14/74

in response to a question about the ~~Pro~~ last night, the President ^{imp. interest} repeatedly referred to U.S. efforts to get Israel to negotiate with the other parties. Does this imply that the U.S. is ~~unhappy with~~ Israel's intransigence and see Israel as a roadblock to peace?

Guidance: The President's statement last night implied no unhappiness with any party nor was it an attempt to pressure any party. I have no comment on this detailed subject beyond what the President said last night.



5. For Your Information:

11/18/74

The State Department noon briefing today was almost a total zero. Spokesman Paul Hare was asked if he had anything new to say about the Middle East situation. He replied that both sides have expressed their position on this matter and that he would have nothing more to add, indicating that the "crisis" appears to have passed. In response to a question concerning the presence of Le Duc Tho in Paris for the next ten days, Hare said that he knew of no plans for any meetings of U.S. officials with Le Duc Tho. He also referred to the White House a question of why President Ford was not going to South Vietnam during his current trip to Asia. (If you should be asked this question, I suggest that you simply respond that the President's schedule did not permit a visit to Saigon at this time but that this should in no way be read as a reflection of declining Administration interest in support for President Thieu in South Vietnam.)

- 1/3/75
1. Secretary Kissinger has told Business Week he foresees the possible use of force against the Middle East oil countries. Was the Secretary speaking for the Administration and does the President share his views?

GUIDANCE: Secretary Kissinger, of course, speaks for the Administration. /// I have nothing really to add to his words in the Business Week interview, which speak for themselves; /// However, I think it is important that you read the entire interview in order to place his comments in the appropriate context of the subject matter and the questions to which the Secretary was responding. ///

The President has spoken to this matter himself on various occasions and I have nothing more to give you regarding the President's views on this matter. If and when he has something new to say, he will do so.

See Pres's words.

2. Ron, you have often characterized stories about military action in the Middle East as "irresponsible speculation." Do you consider the Secretary's words yesterday to be "irresponsible speculation?"

1/2/75 GUIDANCE: I certainly do not. Again, I encourage you to read the Secretary's remarks in the full context of the questions to which he was responding. My comments in the past have been directed to news stories concerning military action in the present circumstances. If you will read the Business Week interview carefully, you will see that Sec. Kissinger was speaking of a hypothetical situation in the future, and one which would occur under only the gravest kind of emergency ^{INVOLVING THE STRANGULATION} of the whole industrialized world. I think the Secretary has also made it clear on a number of occasions that this country is not seeking confrontation with the oil producers -- that we are seeking cooperation. I would note Sec. Kissinger mentioned in his Newsweek interview that he was convinced that we would not reach the point of confrontation.

FYI: If asked about the Secretary's comments regarding the stance of the Europeans against the United States, you should take the line that it is for the State Department to expand on the Secretary's words. The Secretary was responding to a very specific question about those Europeans who had made charges the U.S. sold out Europe and pointed out that no European Foreign Minister had made such statements. If pushed about the President's feelings on the Europeans, you should point out that the President considers our relations with Europe are going very well and that current cooperation on energy and other matters is excellent.

1/4/75 Q: Do you have anything more to say about the Administration's position with regard to military action in the Middle East?

A: It was made quite clear yesterday that (1) Secretary Kissinger was reflecting the viewpoint of the President and the Administration, and (2) that Secretary Kissinger was speaking about a hypothetical situation which he does not expect to occur. I have nothing more to say on this subject.

1. Can you confirm reports that the U.S. is undertaking significant new arms sales to Lebanon, Jordan and Oman? Why is the U.S. undertaking these arms sales? Is the U.S. planning to develop a base in Oman?

1/17/75

Guidance: I am not going to discuss from here the details of our military supply relationship with other countries. As I have pointed out before, however, the United States has a long standing military supply relationship with a number of Arab countries through which we participate in modernizing and strengthening those countries' defensive capabilities and in assisting certain countries in fulfilling their regional defense responsibilities.

I have no specific comment on the stories which appear in the various newspapers this morning and suggest you check with the Department of ~~State~~ ^{Defense} for any details which maybe available.

FYI: The United States has sold a small number of TOWs to Lebanon. No decision has yet been made regarding the sale of HAWK missiles to Jordan and while it has been agreed to undertake a new program of limited arms sales to Oman, there are no plans for any U.S. military bases in Oman. End FYI.

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5. Can you confirm the New York Times report that Secretary Kissinger told the SFRC that the USSR will be included in any future Middle East negotiations? How does the Administration plan to involve the Soviets?

1/24/75

Guidance: The President addressed this question in his interview with NBC last night and I have nothing to add to what he said on this subject.

1. The President refused to deny last night that the United States is developing three new divisions for possible use in the Middle East. Is the Administration planning such a three-division strike force? Do you have any contingency plan to put such a force into the Middle East?

1/24/75

Guidance: The Administration has no plans to develop or send any Army divisions to the Middle East. These stories appear to arise from misunderstanding of Defense Department plans to develop an additional three divisions above the current 13 division force level*. However, these three new divisions have absolutely nothing to do with the Middle East situation. The President has spoken a number of times to hypothetical questions concerning the use of force in the Middle East and I have nothing to add to what he has said on this matter. *as part of an effort to improve overall force
the capability.

With regard to/question concerning contingency plans, as you know it has been our long standing practice not to discuss, confirm or deny the existence of contingency plans. The President last night was merely reflecting this long standing Administration policy not to discuss the contingency planning process.

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Schlesinger - "BUNKUM" We are NOT creating a Middle East Expeditionary Force.

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- 1/29/75
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?

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.

2. Do you have any comment on the Washington Post report this morning which expresses concern about the ~~massive arms buildup~~ in the Middle East and the Indian Ocean area?

1/30/75 GUIDANCE: I would refer you to Sec. Kissinger's remarks on that subject in his press conference on Tuesday in which he outlined the principles we apply to our arms sales. The Secretary pointed out that our arms sales program attempts to assist recipient countries with ~~their legitimate self-defense concerns~~, and to assist certain countries with their regional defense responsibilities as part of an effort to contribute to regional stability.

Continuing review



2/13/75

6. FYI ~~SECRET~~: Situation in Mauritius: Cyclone Gervaise struck Mauritius February 6 killing nine, injuring 59, and causing widespread property damage. Technicians from the USS Enterprise began work yesterday clearing highways and repairing water lines, the police radio antenna, and airport navigational equipment. In addition, 400 crew members are at work on short-range relief projects. AID has budgeted \$300,000 for relief operations. A military aircraft will soon be leaving Guam for Mauritius with a full load of water containers, tents, generators, medical equipment, and other supplies from the AID-owned stock pile on Guam. Additionally, our ambassador has donated \$25,000 in disaster relief funds to assist in the reconstruction of homes. An AID disaster relief expert was also sent to Mauritius to assist in the operation. END FYI.

1. Where is Sec. Kissinger and how is he doing on his Middle East peace negotiations?

2/14/75
GUIDANCE: As you know from news reports, Dr. Kissinger spent last evening in Tel Aviv in discussions with the Israeli leadership. He left Israel this morning for Jordan to meet with King Hussein. Tomorrow he will fly to Saudi Arabia for a meeting with King Faisal. Sec. Kissinger has been reporting to the President by cable on his discussions, keeping the President fully informed on the progress of his talks. The President has been following these reports carefully and providing, in turn, his thoughts and guidance to the Secretary as the meetings progress.

As the Secretary stated in Israel last evening, he did not bring to Israel or Cairo any concrete proposals, plans or lines, but rather a continuation of the considerations that were part of his exploratory mission, and he described his talks as fruitful and positive. Sec. Kissinger noted that he plans to return to the Middle East in the middle of March.

1. In light of Sec. Kissinger's meetings with leaders throughout Europe and the Middle East, does the President see hope for real progress in settling the Middle East problem peacefully?

2/19/75 **GUIDANCE:** As you know, Sec. Kissinger returns to Washington this afternoon and at 4:00 p.m. he will brief the President fully on his trip. I would not be able to comment before the President has had an opportunity to hear and assess Sec. Kissinger's report. As you know, the Secretary will also brief the Bipartisan Leadership tomorrow morning, and I may have something to give you after that.

RW

Suggested Statement for Ron Nessen on Meeting With
Congressional Bipartisan Leadership

February 20, 1975

The President has on several occasions expressed publicly both his concern over the gravity of the situation in the Middle East and his determination to continue doing all we can to help bring about progress toward peace in the Middle East rather than risking a slide backwards into renewed conflict. It is in this context that Secretary Kissinger undertook his latest trip to the Middle East. And it is in this context that the President and the Secretary of State wished to share with the Congressional leadership the results of the trip.

I am not going to talk about the substance of the discussion with the Congressional leadership, nor about the substance of Secretary Kissinger's trip, except to say that the trip was an exploratory one; not one designed to conduct or conclude a negotiation or agreement; and not one during which the Secretary made any specific suggestions or proposals. It was essential after all that has happened in recent months that we obtain a clearer perception of what the different parties have in mind concerning negotiations: What are the prospects, what are the problems, and what we can do to help. Secretary Kissinger was able to do this, and he shared his findings with the leadership. They also discussed his next trip to the area scheduled for next month which, it is expected, will include concrete negotiations.

7. What is your reaction to Sen. Kennedy's proposal for a six month delay in arms shipments to the Middle East while U. S. arms policy is studied?

3/24/75 GUIDANCE: As we have said before, U. S. arms sales policy to the Middle East is ^{the result of very considerable deliberation and} kept under continuing review. We, therefore, ~~see no need to delay shipping arms to our friends in the region for the sake of another study.~~

Therefore, there seems to be no reason to suspend ongoing activities in implementation of that policy.



FEB 25 1975

Dear Pete:

I share the concern which you expressed in your February 14 letter over reports that some Middle Eastern financial institutions have attempted to extend to the United States their efforts to exclude certain banking houses from underwriting syndicates.

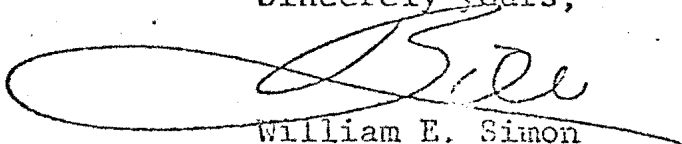
I also agree with you that the United States should stand ready to welcome into the U. S. those foreign investors, businessmen and bankers whose behavior conforms to the standards of our society. Their activities benefit our economy. Aside from those limited safeguards necessary to protect our national security, there should be no discrimination against the legitimate economic activities of foreigners in our country.

I feel strongly, however, that foreign firms which come to the U. S. must not attempt to use their economic power to force U. S. firms to take actions relating to policy matters which have no relation to their appropriate business activities. I agree with you that collaboration by any American firm in such discriminatory action would be contrary to U. S. policy and traditions.

Fortunately, so far as I have been able to learn, there have not been any occasions in which firms have been excluded from underwriting ventures in the U. S. as a result of such pressure. I do not believe that any responsible U. S. firm will bow to such pressure.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,



William E. Simon

The Honorable
Harrison A. Williams, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

EMBARGOED FOR *Wife Movement*
RELEASE UNTIL ~~6~~ P.M. EDT

March 22, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The President regrets the suspension of the talks that have been taking place over the past two weeks in the Middle East. While the parties were unable to reach sufficient agreement to permit a further step toward an overall settlement, the President appreciates the sincere efforts of all concerned. He reaffirms the commitment of the United States to continue its efforts to assist the parties in reaching a just and lasting peace.

The President also wishes to express his deep gratitude and personal admiration for Secretary Kissinger's skill and tireless dedication in these latest negotiations. He looks forward to meeting with him upon his return to review the situation.

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*off The Record
Announcement*

Announcement made by Secretary Henry A. Kissinger at 2300
March 22, 1975 in Jerusalem:

"We have been seeking, in response to the desire of the parties, to help them achieve a further step toward a peace settlement. We believe both sides have made a serious effort to reach a successful outcome. Unfortunately, the differences on a number of key issues have proved irreconcilable. We, therefore, believe a period of reassessment is needed so that all concerned can consider how best to proceed toward a just and lasting peace. Secretary Kissinger has accordingly informed the parties that he is suspending his present efforts and returning to Washington to report to the President and the Congress on the negotiations. He will remain in close touch with the parties and the co-chairman of the Geneva Conference during the period ahead."

MIDDLE EAST

For many details of the nature of the reassessment study, you may refer to the press conference Sec. Kissinger will give tomorrow at 11:00 am at the State Department.

Yesterday, outside the Capitol meeting room of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the Secretary said that reassessment means that we are facing "a new situation of some peril" and that it was inevitable in such a situation that "the President order a review to see what is the best policy for the United States to follow." He stressed that the United States' pbjective was not "punitive" action, saying "it is not a question of cutting off any aid. Aid will be determined in relation to the overall policy."

3/25/75

4/14/75

MIDDLE EAST

FIGHTING IN LEBANON

If asked about the fighting in Lebanon between the Palestinians and the _____, you can say that the problem appears to be an internal matter.

CAIRO CABINET CHANGE:

FYI ONLY: The Sadat Cabinet shake-up appears to be a domestic issue based on desired changes in Egyptian social welfare and other programs.

KISSINGER: - ALLON VISIT - FOLLOW-UP

It has been mutually agreed that Secretary of State Kissinger will meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Allon when he visits the United States for a fund raising tour. A date for the meeting has not yet been announced.



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 19, 1975

*NOT
ANNOUNCED*

MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN
FROM: MARGIE VANDERHYE *mv*
SUBJECT: President's Meeting with Lewis Wasserman

For posting or announcement:

The President will meet today with Lewis R. Wasserman, Chairman of the Music Corporation of America. The meeting will provide the President and opportunity for a personal discussion with Mr. Wasserman on a variety of subjects, among them the situation in the Middle East. Secretary Kissinger will also attend the meeting.

There will be a White House photo at the beginning of the meeting.

BACKGROUND

F.Y.I. Mr. Wasserman is a member of the US Industrial Payroll Savings Committee, with which the President met on January 16, 1975. As Chairman of the Music Corporation of America (MCA) and a respected member of the business sector, Mr. Wasserman is one of California's more prominent citizens. While his professional life has been exclusively devoted to MCA, his interests have been given more broadly to the arts: he is Chairman of the Association of Motion Picture and Television Producers, a Trustee of the John F. Kennedy Library, and a Trustee of California Institute of Technology's John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Who's Who lists Mr. Wasserman as a Democrat.

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APRIL 21 4/21/75

STEPS IN MIDDLE EAST POLICY REASSESSMENT

Q: What are you doing with respect to your announced reassessment of our Middle East policy?

A: A number of actions are underway, designed to obtain the widest possible range of advice.

(1) Within the Government, I have directed a National Security Council study under the chairmanship of Under Secretary Sisco. This study will be submitted to the National Security Council within the next few weeks.

(2) I asked our Ambassadors from Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Syria to return to the U. S. for consultation in order that we can have the benefit of their advice, and I met personally with them at the White House. They have now returned to their posts.

(3) I have met with the Congressional leadership, and both Secretary Kissinger and Under Secretary Sisco have been meeting with Members of Congress.

(4) I have met, and Secretary Kissinger has met, with a wide variety of individuals and groups outside the Government. We intend to continue this policy by inviting other groups for consultation in the days ahead.

In sum, I intend to get the widest possible input to this reassessment, but I want to assure you that the policy which



emerges will not reflect just one particular viewpoint
but will be in the overall U. S. national interest.

APR 21

4/21/75

MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS

Q: What is your strategy in the wake of the failure of Secretary Kissinger's trip to the Middle East. Whom do you feel was to blame for the breakdown in talks and is there any chance for the step-by-step process to be revived?

A: Our objective is to prevent war and keep negotiations going in the interest of achieving an overall settlement. Our strategy in the negotiations has been to pursue a pragmatic process which separates the highly complex Middle East problem into manageable segments. That strategy has now suffered a setback.

Levying blame for the suspension of Secretary Kissinger's negotiations does not help us achieve our objective--further progress on the road to a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. We want to concentrate on where we go from here.

However, it is my view that Israel, which had the most to gain from a process of negotiation with the US as the mediator, should have shown greater flexibility in the interests of peace. It was my disappointment with the demonstrated lack of flexibility that I was expressing in my interview.



4/21/75

We are still examining our Middle East policy. But one thing is clear: the consequences in the Middle East and for the United States and the rest of the world could be very serious, if peace efforts fail and war resumes. Therefore, as I emphasized in my April 10 foreign policy address, the United States is determined to maintain its effort to see an end to this perpetual crisis. We will not allow the stalemate to continue.



4/21/75

MIDDLE EAST SITUATION

Q: In view of the current situation in the Middle East, do you see the chances of war increasing and a general rise in instability in the area?

A: History has shown that in the absence of progress in negotiations the chances of war increase in the Middle East. In this period of potentially great danger, we need a calm appraisal of the situation and a reassessment of our policy. During the uneasy days ahead we look forward to working with all the parties in the Middle East in the search for a durable peace settlement.

4/21/75

INDOCHINA AND THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION

Q: What effect do you think the recent situation in Indochina will have on the Middle East situation and particularly on Israel's willingness to make an agreement if it believes that the US cannot follow through on its commitments to its allies?

A: The Indochina situation will not affect our continuing pursuit of peace in the Middle East -- which is in the long term interest of the United States and the countries of the area. It would be a mistake for any nation -- on either side in the Middle East -- to draw conclusions from Indochina for the Middle East, where the conditions and issues are quite different.

No nation should imagine it can pressure us. No nation should assume we will tolerate a stalemate. The United States is determined to maintain its constructive role and efforts to promote a peace settlement.

MIDDLE EAST REASSESSMENT

FYI: If asked specifically about Israel, your guidance on U.S./Israeli relationship is still current.

Q. Where do we stand now on the Middle East reassessment? Is it likely to result in any dramatic change or is this simply an exercise to review the situation there without developing new policies?

A. The President has stated that the purpose of the reassessment is to review our policies to determine how we might best proceed to assist all parties in securing a lasting peace in the Middle East. As far as our policies toward particular countries are concerned, we will not have any specific comments to make as long as the reassessment is ongoing.

June 18, 1975

MIDDLE EAST

Diego Garcia

Q. What is the President's reaction to the favorable vote in the Senate Armed Services Committee on creating a facility at Diego Garcia?

A. The President welcomes the Senate Committee's action and hopes the full Senate will follow suit. { As the President has stated, it is our belief that such facilities will contribute to ~~the maintenance of healthy balance essential to~~ the preservation of regional security and stability. (Refer to your guidance of June 11, 1975). }

FYI:

We do not expect a full Senate vote on the Diego Garcia facility until late July.

CLERK

June 22, 1975

MIDDLE EAST -- CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATION

Q: The fact that 76 Senators wrote you just prior to your meeting with Sadat suggests strong Congressional interest in the outcome of the reassessment to reflect strong US support for Israel. Will you be briefing the Hill on your talks with Sadat, Rabin and Khaddam, and will you be consulting closely with Congress before any final decisions are made as a result of the reassessment?

A: Following the suspension of the negotiations in March, I, Secretary Kissinger and other high-level officials have regularly briefed Congress and have sought their views. Similarly, I briefed the Congressional leadership on my European trip, including the talks with President Sadat, shortly after I returned from my trip. Secretary Kissinger plans more meetings with Congress. These exchanges of views with Congress are very important and they will continue.

Throughout the reassessment, I have welcomed suggestions from a wide range of private and official Americans with informed views on the Middle East including, of course, Members of Congress. We have also discussed the matter with officials from other nations. We are giving due consideration to all available information as our reassessment proceeds.

June 22, 1975

MIDDLE EAST -- INTERIM AGREEMENT

Q: How close are Egypt and Israel to an interim agreement on the Sinai front?

A: I would not want to speculate on the details of our consultative process or what may emerge. We are continuing diplomatic exchanges with the parties to determine more precisely the prospects for agreement.

June 24, 1975

RABIN ON U. S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE MIDDLE EAST

In Marquis Childs interview with Prime Minister Rabin (Post, 6/24/75), Rabin reportedly speaks sadly that arms commitments to Israel have been delayed during the course of the reassessment while sales to other states, such as Jordan, have proceeded. (See attached article).

The attached Q & A on Military Assistance to Israel; Sales to Jordan is still relevant, and you may refer to that.

UPDATE

There has been no change in our Middle East reassessment timetable. The conclusion date has yet to be fixed; as the President has said often, we will make our decisions known in due course.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

HAK PRESS CONEERENCE ON THE MIDDLE EAST:
June 24, 1975

In response to questions on assurances to Israel, Kissinger said that he was speaking of a final settlement encompassing such issues as boundaries, refugees, Palestinians, Jerusalem, and Arab peace commitments. He said this whole package will undoubtedly require some international and in my view some American guarantees. It is going to need Congressional support but we cannot assess whether Congress would support anything at this point when the outline of the settlement is not clear.

He said that the importance of peace is so great the Congress ^{will} look very seriously at the recommendations of an Administration that ~~thought~~ thought that its guarantees might be the necessary elements to bring about peace.

He emphasized that we were nowhere ~~a~~ near that point yet.



July 10, 1975

KISSINGER ON THE MIDDLE EAST , TURKEY

Departure Remarks Andrews Air Force Base

The following exchange with reporters took place July 9 at Andrews Air Force Base as Secretary Kissinger was preparing to depart for his trip to Paris, Geneva, Bonn and London. In response to speculative questions on the likely outcome of Kissinger's discussions with Rabin, Gromyko, et al, you can say simply that you are not going to get into the details of the negotiations and/or meetings nor will you speculate on their possible results. As always, the Secretary is keeping the President fully informed of his progress during the course of this trip.

The exchange of questions and answers follows:

Sec. Kissinger: I am leaving for consultations with our European allies and also to meet with the Soviet Foreign Minister to review Soviet-American relations, and particularly to discuss the situation in the Middle East. And, of course, we attach great importance to the meeting with Prime Minister Rabin, all of which is part of our effort to encourage the process of peace in the Middle East.

Question: Mr. Secretary, there's been some talk of additional U.S. assurances, commitments, guarantees for Israel. Are there any additional assurances?

Sec. Kissinger: Any progress towards peace in the Middle East has two elements -- the negotiations between the parties in the Middle East and what the United States can contribute in the way of assurances, or acting as a transmitter of assurances of the two sides to each other, and whatever it is humanly possible to do, the United States will do to promote progress.

Question: Mr. Secretary, there are reports that an agreement is already wrapped up between Israel and Egypt.

Sec. Kissinger: Totally wrong.

Question: But is it approaching the point?

Sec. Kissinger: No. We are not anywhere near that point. But all sides, Israel and Egypt, are working seriously. And, of course, the United States has repeatedly expressed its interest in promoting peace on a basis just to all.

Question: Mr. Secretary, there's been a report that the President and some leaders in the House have worked out a tentative compromise on resuming aid to Turkey.

Sec. Kissinger: Well, they discussed this morning possible ways by which aid to Turkey can be resumed. Hearings will be held in the Foreign Affairs Committee or the International Relations Committee tomorrow, and we are hopeful that something can be done.

Thank you.

July 14, 1975

MIDDLE EAST - UPDATE

ISREAL - LEBANON

On the attacks and counterattacks between Israel and Lebanon over the weekend, the State Department is advised to condemn the cycle of violence which begets violence in this particularly troubled area of the world. Your previous remarks to this effect can be reiterated and you may wish to point up the President's determination to seek progress for peace in the Middle East and avoid stalemate or stagnation on negotiations.

Kissinger - Rabin Visit

FYI: Sec. Kissinger will have a luncheon press conference in Minneapolis Tuesday and a morning press conference in Milwaukee Wednesday. He is likely to be asked about his meeting with Rabin.

IF ASKED: any questions about the outcome of the talks, the probable result, the likelihood of an interim agreement, the positioning of the new lines, buffer zones, corridors, etc., you should stay within your remarks of previous occasions:

I do not believe it would serve any useful purpose to get into the details of the negotiating positions of the particular parties.

We are continuing diplomatic exchanges with the parties to determine the prospects for agreement. The President, as you know, has stated repeatedly his determination to prevent a stalemate or stagnation in this troubled area.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY: It is not yet public knowledge that Ambassador Eilts will be returning from Cairo for consultations with Kissinger and other officials. Following a trip to Milwaukee and Minneapolis the Secretary will also be seeing Dinitz on the progress of the talks. Because Eilts and Dinitz will be making assessments and reports based on these consultative discussions, this information should be closely held.

July 18, 1975

NEW PROPOSALS FOR A SINAI ACCORD

Secretary of State Kissinger met with Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz yesterday and again this morning over breakfast. Following these meetings, Dinitz refuted the assertion that Israel was stalling on the negotiations or that Israel was being pressured; there is no need for pressure because we want peace as much as anyone, he commented. He emphasized that progress is being made.

IF ASKED: any questions about the existence of a new Sinai agreement, the likelihood of the U. S. manning early warning stations, the possible reaction of Egypt or any details of the negotiations you should stay within the remarks of previous occasions:

I do not believe it would serve any useful purpose to get into the details of the negotiating positions of the particular parties. We are continuing diplomatic exchanges with the parties to determine the prospects of an agreement.

Q. Is Ambassador Eilts returning to Egypt in the near future?

A. I suggest you check with the State Department.

FYI ONLY: The State Department has said that he may be returning Friday or Saturday. It is possible that his departure schedule will not be firm by 11:30 a.m. when your briefing begins today.

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MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONSUPDATEBackground:

Intelligence reports suggest that there has been a recent increase in military activity and mobilization in Egypt and Israel as negotiations reach a critical stage on a Sinai disengagement. These moves to increase preparedness may be attributed to the feeling that the UNEF mandate might not be renewed or that a negotiated settlement in the Sinai may fall through. Neither side wants to posture for war, yet neither side wants to be caught unprepared.

As far as public statements are concerned, we should not go beyond our frequently repeated pronouncements on (1) the delicacy of the negotiations; (2) the continuing diplomatic exchanges with the parties to determine the prospects for an agreement; and (3) the fact that we are not endorsing the position of either side.

IF ASKED: about the appeal by the President of the UN Security Council (PLAJA) to the Egyptians to renew the UNEF mandate, you may say that, of course, we welcome the appeal and hope that it contributes to prospects for a peaceful settlement.

renewal of UNEF and ultimately to a

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4.

MR 94-83, #34 NSC letter 7/6/94

By: let, NARA, Date 8/15/94

July 21, 1975

MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL -
SALES TO JORDAN

Q. Why is the U. S. selling HAWK missiles and other arms to Jordan while withholding arms from Israel? Is this going to change the balance in the Middle East?

A. Our military supply relationship with Israel continues including routine deliveries of significant quantities of arms and ammunition since the reassessment began. However, decisions of major new programs or advanced technology weapons new to the area will be made only as part of the reassessment.

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 visit in April, 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 the course, decisions will be made with respect to other countries as well.

July 21, 1975

SINAI ACCORD

Secretary Kissinger has now met with Israeli Ambassador Dinitz and U. S. Ambassador Hermann Eilts. Eilts has returned to Egypt for consultations with Egyptian officials on the progress made on the Sinai accord and the latest Israeli proposals.

IF ASKED any questions on the next step, the nature of the proposals, probable Egyptian reaction or any details of the negotiations, you should stay within our public statements of previous occasions:

I do not believe it would serve any useful purpose to get into the details of the negotiating positions of the particular parties. We are continuing diplomatic exchanges with the parties to determine the prospects of an agreement.

Dinitz outside WhiteHouse
July 23, 1975

All that I can say at this stage is that I had a meeting with the Secretary in which I was presented with the Egyptian counterproposal which I will now be transferring to my government in Jerusalem.

Q. Do you think your government will accept it?

A. How can I make this judgment?....And I don't think that any comment at this stage of negotiations will be helpful.

Q. Are you encouraged by this counterproposal?

A. I would not be able to make any comment except to say that I will transfer it to my government.

Q. Mr. Ambassador, there has just been word that Egypt has agreed to extend the U.N. emergency force.

A. I haven't heard it yet officially, but if this is the case, then it is a good sign.

Q. Mr. Ambassador, how would you characterize the Egyptian reaction to Israel's last negotiating proposal?

A. By presenting a counterproposal which I will be transferring to Jerusalem now.

Q. Favorable?

A. I cannot say whether it's favorable or unfavorable or comment on it in any way.

Q. Did you meet with the President?

A. Is it partly favorable and partly.....

A. This is exactly what I would not comment on.

Q. How many more exchanges do you expect will be necessary?

A. Well, that would depend on the reaction of the government to this proposal and according to this...the timetable would have to be worked out.

Q. Are you going back to Jerusalem?

A. No, I am not....

Q. When would you expect a response from your government?

A. Well, I don't know. It would probably take a couple of days at least, but I cannot

Q. Is it a matter also of going through the Cabinet again on Sunday?

A. Well, we are working in the democratic system in which every decision is made by the Cabinet...

Q. Mr. Ambassador, the White House Press Office has twice stated that the Hawk missile is a defensive missile. Does your government believe it is a offensive missile, with a reported range of 22 miles?

A. The distinction between defensive and offensive missile is not so much in the equipment but in how you use it. If you use it in order to cover your skies to allow yourself to have offensive operations, then it becomes an offensive weapon. The weapon itself doesn't tell you that it's offensive or defensive. Thank you very much.

MIDDLE EAST

President's Remarks:

Q. Yesterday the President said that although we are working "night and day to find an answer with the Arab nations and the Israelis it might not work." He stated that if war resulted we could have another embargo. Is the President pessimistic about the possibilities of an interim agreement on the Sinai? Does he expect we'll have another oil embargo?

A. I think if you read the President's remarks in the context in which he made them you will see that he was addressing the issue of foreign oil dependency and our need to stimulate domestic production of oil on the one hand, and our need to conserve on the other.

On the Middle East, the President has you know, expressed himself repeatedly on the seriousness of the situation there, on the fact that we cannot accept stalemate or stagnation and that we are making a concerted effort to work with the parties to negotiate a peaceful settlement.

Hawk Sales to Jordan:

Q. Will the Administration seek a compromise on the arms sales to Jordan?

A. We have been in touch with the Jordanians and we have been in consultation with the Congress. As you know, Secretary Kissinger is testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations

Committee today on a number of issues, and this subject may be among those discussed.

(FYI: In the midst of conversations with key members of Congress on the one hand, and with Hussein on the other, you want to avoid getting into a discussion of a possible compromise since negotiations are still proceeding.)

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BENTSEN'S TELEGRAM ON CSCE AND PORTUGAL

Q. Has Senator Bentsen's telegram been received at the White House? Has the President seen it? What does he intend to do about it?

A. Senator Bentsen's telegram has been received at the White House (afternoon of July 23).

He has been sent a letter stating that his telegram would be brought to the immediate attention of the President. A reply to Senator Bentsen will be forthcoming.

Q. Has the telegram been brought to the President's attention?

A. Yes, it has, and as I said, he will be replying to it.

MRS. SMITH'S TELEGRAM TO THE WHITE HOUSE

- Q. On Wednesday, Mrs. Mittie Smith sent a telegram to the White House asking President Ford to call her so she can talk to him about her son, Steven, a student detained in Zaire by guerillas since May 9.

Has the telegram been received at the White House? Does the President intend to call Mrs. Smith?

- A. The telegram has been received at the White House and ~~the~~ *circumstances* ~~has~~ *been* brought to the President's attention. *The President is of course very concerned and the United States government is doing everything possible to secure Smith's release.*