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THE WHITE HOUSE

PRESS CONFERENCE  
OF  
HENRY KISSINGER  
SECRETARY OF STATE

HOTEL OKURA

AT 3:53 P.M. JAPAN TIME

MR. NESSEN: For a briefing on today's meeting between the President and the Prime Minister, we have Secretary Kissinger. He has another appointment this afternoon and we would like to limit the briefing to 20 minutes. And when the Secretary leaves, I will attempt to answer your other more general questions.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Ladies and gentlemen: I will confine myself to the meeting between the President and the Prime Minister this morning which was attended by the two Foreign Ministers and two other individuals on each side.

We concentrated in this initial meeting first on stressing the great importance that the United States attaches to its relationship with Japan for peace in the Pacific, peace in the world, and for the economic progress of our two countries as well as of all other countries.

This led to a discussion of two related questions -- the problem of food and the problem of energy. With respect to the problem of food, the President pointed out the interest that the United States has in an orderly, long-term evolution of world agricultural policy as we have presented it at the World Food Conference, and in this context he assured the Prime Minister that Japan could count on a stable level of supplies of agricultural supplies from the United States.

There were further discussions on agricultural issues, and it was agreed that they would be continued tomorrow when the President and the Prime Minister met again.

With respect to the problem of energy, the President stressed to the Prime Minister the importance the United States attaches to the program that we outlined last week of solidarity among the consumers.

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He made very clear that this is not intended in any sense to lead to any confrontation with the producers but rather to pave the way for a constructive dialogue between consumers and producers for the common benefit of both.

The Japanese side explained the special problems of Japan in terms of its heavy dependence on imported oil and the difference in the proportion of the consumption of energy between the United States and Japan in that Japan consumes about 70 percent of its oil for industrial consumption and only 30 percent for personal use, while in the United States the opposite percentage obtains, so that the margin for reductions in consumption in Japan is more limited than in the United States. But within that framework the Japanese point of view was one that seemed to us sympathetic to our general approach, and we pointed out that we would put more emphasis on the development of alternative sources and that we would share the results of research and development and technological innovation with Japan with respect to the new sources of energy.

There was a general recognition that Japan and the United States should cooperate on the usual matters of bilateral relations, but also on the whole area of stability of international affairs and progress towards peace.

The discussions on all of these items as well as others will be continued tomorrow morning when the President, the Prime Minister, and their advisers will meet again.

I will be glad to take questions.

Q Mr. Secretary, were the Japanese sympathetic to your specific proposal in Chicago about the reduction of importing oil, or did their situation preclude that?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, we did not have a chance this morning to go into every aspect of my proposal. I think that first of all my specific proposal was that the importation of oil should be kept level through a combination of measures of conservation and the development of new sources of energy.

It may be that the mix in Japan between conservation and development of new sources has to be different than in the United States. And as far as the United States is concerned, we do not feel that exactly the same formula or exactly the same percentage has to be applied to every country, but that rather there must be understanding for the particular situation of each country.

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I would say that there was sympathy to the general approach and that we will have to work out in subsequent discussions the particular manner in which it can be implemented for each country.

Q Mr. Secretary, did your statement to the Japanese indicating they could count on a stable level of agricultural products indicate that Japan is going to have a special position in America's agricultural export market?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: As we attempted to make clear at the World Food Conference, we believe that the whole problem of world agriculture has to be approached on a more systematic and planned basis, and the various proposals we make there, some of which got lost in the debate about food aid -- the various proposals that we made there were all designed to assure a stable level of expectations and a more careful systematic approach on an overall basis.

Now on the one hand we, of course, have a free market for agricultural products. On the other hand, we have set up a system which amounts to some voluntary allocations by the contacts between our major companies and the Department of Agriculture.

So without using the word "preferred", I think one can say that the President indicated that the United States insofar as it is within our power of the Government--and the Government will have a considerable voice in it--will see to it that Japan can count on a stable level of imports.

Q Dr. Kissinger, will the Japanese agree to import American beef -- or was that discussed?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: That question was discussed, yes.

Q What was the conclusion? Were there any indications they might agree to let American meat enter their country?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, I don't want to speak for the Japanese Government, but my impression was that the President's point will be taken very seriously.

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Q Dr. Kissinger, does not the promise of a stable supply of U.S. agricultural products mean that we will not resort to putting off imports in order to curb rising food prices as we did with soybeans in 1973 and wheat?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, as you know, we have asked major importers from the United States to give us some indication of their requirements over a period towards which we can plan. It does mean that under foreseeable circumstances we will not impose export control.

But we would like to have an informal arrangement with the key importers in which we can have some idea of their requirements over a period of time. This is not a major problem with Japan with which we have a very satisfactory relationship in this respect.

Q Was Korea (Inaudible)

SECRETARY KISSINGER: We have not yet had a chance to discuss the problem of Korea except in the context of our general desire to maintain peace and stability in the area. This is a subject which, if it comes up, will be discussed in greater detail tomorrow.

Q Mr. Secretary, have you had a chance to discuss China and/or the Soviet Union?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: There has been a discussion by the President of his meeting with the General Secretary in Vladivostok, and his general approach towards detente and also the connection between our friendship with Japan and the general approach to the Soviet Union.

There has only been a general reference to the relationships with the People's Republic of China. It was agreed, however, that I would stop in Tokyo on my return from Peking to brief the Japanese Government about my meetings in Peking.

Q Can you tell us what is on your agenda with your meeting tonight with the Finance Minister?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: The Finance Minister was an old friend with whom I worked closely in his previous portfolio. He requested the meeting and it does not have any fixed agenda, but I would assume that we will discuss some of the problems of energy and food and any other subject that he may wish to raise.

But I would expect those two to be the principal items.

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Q Mr. Secretary, on the matter of the ratio of consumption for industrial versus private use of fuel, did Prime Minister Tanaka make any suggestions to President Ford of the possibility of reducing U.S. consumption in its proportion or ratio?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, the goals of consumption restraint in the United States were publicly stated by the President in October. They were reaffirmed by me at the request of the President in my speech last Thursday. They state both the restraint on consumption for the next year and the overall restraints on imports and the development of new sources of energy over the next ten years.

The President has made clear that these consumption restraints will be met either by voluntary action or by other action. There was no discussion of how this relates at this time to any measures that other countries would take.

We will, however, have technical discussions with Japan within the next month to go into the details of the implications of our proposal and how it could be put on a multilateral basis.

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Q Mr. Secretary, was there any discussion of the nuclear controversy or security treaty in general?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: There was a discussion of the nuclear problem. The President expressed his understanding for the special sensitivities of Japan with regard to this matter. It was agreed that the nuclear issue would be handled as it has been handled throughout within the framework of the Mutual Security Treaty and that any special problems in connection with it would be handled on the basis of bilateral discussions between Foreign Minister Kimura and myself, and within the framework of American understanding for the special sensitivities of Japan with respect to this issue.

Q Mr. Secretary, did you discuss resumed fighting in the Middle East and did you discuss with the Japanese your plan for a step-by-step negotiation?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: We have not, first of all, as I pointed out in Washington before we left, we do not expect renewed fighting in the Middle East in the immediate future. We did not yet have an opportunity to go into detail on the evolution of the negotiations in the Middle East. There will be a meeting, of course, again between the Prime Minister and the President tomorrow morning and my associates and I will be meeting with the Foreign Minister for several hours in the afternoon and I am certain that by the end of the day these issues will have been discussed.

Q Mr. Secretary, even though you did not go into detail, has Japan begun to make any form of a request for the way that the diplomacy in the Middle East is to be conducted?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I am having trouble hearing you, Barry.

Q I am sorry. With regard to Japan's need for oil and their interest in the Middle East, have they begun to lodge a special appeal with you as to how that diplomacy should be conducted?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: No.

Q Mr. Secretary, did the President invite the Emperor to the United States in the near future?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: The President extended an invitation to His Majesty to visit the United States for 1975 and we are pleased to report that this invitation has been accepted. We look forward to this visit.

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Q Mr. Secretary, I did not quite understand. On the nuclear issue, you mean it has been brought up by the Japanese as a problem?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I think I made clear that the issue has been, as I explained, the special sensitivities of Japan with respect to nuclear weapons and then I have explained our reaction.

Q Mr. Secretary, what did the President say about Vladivostok and China?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: The President and the Prime Minister discussed the role of detente in current diplomacy and how we believe that our relations with the Soviet Union, as well as the People's Republic of China, can contribute to stability in the Pacific area. We also stressed, however, that the close friendship between Japan and the United States was one of the prerequisites for the effectiveness of this policy and he gave the Prime Minister a brief preview of the subjects likely to be discussed in Vladivostok.

Q Mr. Secretary, you said that the President had told the Prime Minister about our own program for restricting our own oil consumption through voluntary and other means. Did the President indicate that we would be going to involuntary means shortly?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Excuse me, Mr. Elfin. I did not say that the President explained our program. The question to which I replied was whether we would allocate consumption restraints on the basis of the relative personal users and I said that our overall program of consumption restraints, of import restraints involved both restraint on consumption as well as the development of new sources, that with respect to that, the American goal for consumption restraint had been publicly stated. It was not, as a matter of fact, repeated to the Prime Minister because it is well known. And I pointed out that the President is committed to achieving these restraints on consumption for next year, and on imports over a 10-year period through a combination of consumption restraints and new sources and that he will achieve it either through voluntary restraints or through other measures that have not yet been decided upon.

I am afraid I can take only one more question because I have to meet Ex-Prime Minister Sato.

Q Mr. Secretary, I have a question.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, I will take two, then. This gentleman and you.

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Q Dr. Kissinger, in connection with the sources of energy for Japan and the United States, was there any discussion of the Siberian oil fields and possible development? Was that reviewed in any way?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: This is one of the issues which we expect to discuss before we leave here. It has not, as yet, come out but we are prepared to discuss it.

Q What are we prepared to say?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: We will discuss it at the briefing after our meeting.

Q Mr. Secretary, in connection with the nuclear question, and your sensitivity to the Japanese sensitivity since their introduction of nuclear weapons, did you assure the Japanese that we have never, and would never, introduce nuclear weapons even in a transit situation?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, I will not go beyond what I have said. The question of nuclear weapons will be discussed within the context of the Mutual Security Treaty and it will be handled as it has been handled within that framework.

I am afraid I must turn it over to Ron Nessen. Thank you very much.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

END (AT 4:08 P.M. Japan Time)