

December 9, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

President Ford and Israeli Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yigal Allon met in the Oval Office for one hour and 15 minutes. Secretary of State Kissinger, Ambassador Kenneth Keating, Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft were also present on the American side, and Ambassador Simcha Dinitz, Mordechai Shalev, Minister, Embassy of Israel on the Israeli side.

The occasion gave President Ford and Minister Allon an opportunity to get better acquainted. The meeting was conducted with the cordiality and friendship usual when Americans and Israelis meet. The President and Prime Minister had a full exchange of views on the situation in the Middle East.

The President stressed the importance of moving ahead on further steps in the negotiations toward a genuine peace settlement. He was assured by Minister Allon that the Israeli government shares this view. The meeting provided the chance for both sides to review possible approaches in this next stage of the negotiations.

As is normal on these occasions, the two sides also reviewed a number of bilateral matters. Both expressed satisfaction at the excellent state of relations between the United States and Israel.

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