

**FOR RELEASE AT 12 noon MDT
(2 pm EDT)**

AUGUST 17, 1975

**Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Vail, Colorado)**

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

Secretary Kissinger will travel to the Middle East next week leaving Washington on August 20. The discussions the United States has been conducting with the parties concerned, looking toward an interim agreement, have progressed to the point where the parties and the President believe that it would be useful for the Secretary of State to travel to the area in an effort to bring the talks to a successful conclusion. The Secretary's visit to the Middle East will include several Arab countries and Israel.

#