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OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

PRESS BRIEFING

OF

HENRY A. KISSINGER
SECRETARY OF STATE
FOLLOWING THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH
JEAN SAUVAGNARGUES
FOREIGN MINISTER OF FRANCE

THE SOUTH LAWN

10:55 A.M. EDT

SECRETARY KISSINGER: We are delighted by the visit of the Foreign Minister who had a very good, very friendly talk with the President.

The relations between France and the United States are symbolized by these frank and very fruitful exchanges in which, keeping in mind, of course, the necessities of each country, nevertheless we exchange ideas in a spirit of friendship and cooperation.

We are pursuing this on a whole range of issues which we discussed -- the dialogue between producers and consumers, the Middle East, European matters, NATO -- and we will continue these exchanges over the months ahead.

Of course, I will see the Foreign Minister again this afternoon. We were very pleased with the visit and we found it very constructive, and the atmosphere was very friendly.

Q May I ask one question? Mr. Secretary, can you give us some comment, sir, on the decision by the OPEC countries in Vienna to raise prices 10 percent?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: We haven't studied it. It seems to be a middle line between those who wanted to do nothing and those who wanted to do very much and apparently it is also a freeze for nearly a year, which is important.

Q Along that line, sir, would you consider this a favorable step?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Not as much as we wanted, but better than it could have been.

I had better stay with the Foreign Minister.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END (AT 10:59 A.M. EDT)