

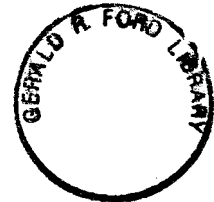
PRESS DEPARTMENT OF STATE



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PRESS CONFERENCE BY
THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER
SECRETARY OF STATE
AT THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT BUILDING
FOLLOWING HIS MEETINGS WITH
UN SECRETARY GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM
AND
PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ABDELAZIZ BOUTEFLIKA
DECEMBER 21, 1974

QUESTION: Could you tell us the important subjects of your discussions with the Secretary General and the present President of the Assembly?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, it seems to us important that as the General Assembly reached its end to meet both with the Secretary General and the President of the Assembly to review the votes of the General Assembly. With the Secretary General, we discussed particularly developments in the Middle East. I briefed him about the status of our step-by-step approach and he, of course, informed me of his recent trip to the Middle East.

We paid particular attention to the negotiations on Cyprus which started a few days ago and in which you know the United Nations is playing an important role and we agreed that we would do our utmost to bring about a rapid movement in these negotiations and on the basis of reports available to both of us we were encouraged that progress may be possible. We also reviewed the problem of economic development on a local basis and exchanged some ideas about the future of the United Nations in the light of some of the concerns that the United States has expressed.

With the President of the Assembly, we reviewed some of the work of the Assembly but also the status of Algerian-United States relations which since the resumption of diplomatic relations can be described as excellent. We paid considerable attention to the problem of Cambodia to see how the United Nations resolution calling for negotiations to settle this problem could be put in effect, and, of course, we also reviewed the situation in the Middle East. Those were the major topics in those discussions.

QUESTION: Dr. Kissinger, are there any new developments in the Middle East which were discussed today?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, there was a discussion of the situation as it exists, and, as has been generally reported. There is no dramatic new development that was discussed today.

QUESTION: Mr. Kissinger, do you envisage a trip to the Mideast in the near future?

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SECRETARY KISSINGER: I don't envisage an immediate trip to the Mideast but it has been my destiny sooner or later to...

QUESTION: When do you expect the next step of the negotiations?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, whenever the parties are sufficiently close to bring it about. We are actively engaged in exploring those possibilities.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, could we have your assessment of the work of the UN?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, I, of course, I subscribe to the observations made by Ambassador Scali. I think there were some very positive decisions at the UN, but we are also concerned about some of the trends that have developed. I expressed my views with respect to that both to the Secretary General and the President of the Assembly. It is our view that the interdependence of the world requires that problems be solved cooperatively and not through confrontation between automatic blocs that may be created. It is in this spirit that the United States will approach all the political issues as well as the special session of the General Assembly next September which can make, if it is approached in the right spirit, a significant contribution to the economic development of the world.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, Ambassador Scali was rather forthright the other day on colonialism and our attitude toward Rhodesia and South Africa, in regard to sanctions and so forth. Does this mean, are we going to take a stronger line against colonialism?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, Ambassador Scali obviously reflected the view of the Administration. I don't want to go into all the tactics as it may be pursued but we indicated our basic policies.

QUESTION: Do you talk with Mr. Bouteflika about getting the Arabs back in the negotiations?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: The Arabs are involved in step-by-step talks in the Middle East. I don't have to get them back. I mentioned to you the topics that were covered with Mr. Bouteflika, of which the Middle East was one, Cambodia was another, and the general relationships of the Arab world to the United States independent of the Arab-Israeli relationship.

QUESTION: Mr. Kissinger, is Geneva still on the agenda, as far as the Middle East is concerned?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: It has always been on the agenda. The problem is to pick the right moment.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, was there any specific discussion of the Palestine Liberation Organization with Mr. Bouteflika?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Mr. Bouteflika, as you would expect, expressed his view of the subject, and our views on the subject are well known.

QUESTION: Do you have any remarks on Moshe Dayan's declarations yesterday on the Golan Heights?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I frankly have seen only a three-line summary. I haven't seen the entire text. I'd rather study the text before I make a comment.

I want to call attention, in addition to the problems you keep asking me about, of the importance the United States attaches to the progress, and rapid progress, on negotiations on Cyprus, which are carried out under the auspices of the UN and which were the subject of considerable discussion between the Secretary General and myself.

QUESTION: (Inaudible)

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Algeria is one of the leading countries of the Arab world with a considerable moral influence with many other countries and we have always pursued the policy in our diplomacy in the Middle East of keeping the President of Algeria and the Foreign Minister closely informed of our measures and at various stages in the past Algeria has played a very constructive role.

QUESTION: Dr. Kissinger, this week President Sadat spoke of recognizing Israeli borders and of enforcing the boundaries and prospects for peace. Rabin, as you know, has followed by saying if you really want peace you have a partner in us. Does this represent any sort of a developing break over there? Would you comment on that?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, as you all know, we are trying to bring about further progress in negotiations and we welcome any conciliatory statement that is made by either side that will move these negotiations along. But I don't want to comment on every statement that may be made in the Middle East. We are still hopeful that progress can be made and we believe that it will be made.

Thank you, Dr. Kissinger.

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