

PRESS BRIEFING BY
THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER
SECRETARY OF STATE
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS
NEW YORK , NEW YORK
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Secretary Kissinger: The Secretary General and I had a very cordial and very useful talk. We placed great stress on coordinating our actions as much as possible with the United Nations, and we value greatly the efforts of the Secretary General to promote peace in various parts of the world.

We had an extensive talk about the Middle East and we strongly encouraged the mission that the Secretary General is about to undertake to the Middle East. We hope that UNDOF will be extended. We told the Secretary General some of our ideas as to how peace might be promoted in the Middle East, and assured him that the United States would spare no effort either for an agreement between Israel and Syria or a more comprehensive approach within the framework of the Geneva Conference, whatever may work out.

We also had an opportunity to review the Cyprus situation and we hope that the Secretary General will invite the parties again to resume the intercommunal talks. The United States is greatly interested in the success of these talks. We will give the Secretary General any support that may promote a solution based on justice, equity, and the dignity of all of the population on the Island of Cyprus.

The Secretary General also informed me about the progress that is being made in the Sahara question and we are glad that this issue seems to be settled peacefully.

Altogether, it was a very useful and very fruitful discussion, and I want to wish the Secretary General well on the trip that he is undertaking starting tomorrow night.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, did you discuss Angola?

Secretary Kissinger: No, we did not have an opportunity to go into it; no.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, are you prepared to move on to Geneva, in accordance with the Soviet note?

Secretary Kissinger: Not in accordance with the Soviet note, but we are prepared to move on to Geneva and we will be replying to the Soviet note soon with our proposals as to how the conference can be reconstituted.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, there have been reports that the United States is reconsidering its policy towards the PLO. Can you tell us anything on that?

Secretary Kissinger: There are more people who won't take no for an answer. [Laughter]

We have stated our policy with respect to the PLO repeatedly. That policy has not changed, and we announce changes in the policy of our government, not foreign governments. There is no change.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, do you have any doubts about the renewal of the mandate?

Secretary Kissinger: That is a decision that Syria has to make and we hope they will make it, keeping in mind that conditions of peace in the Middle East will be conducive also to the achievement of their own goal.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, it is being widely discussed throughout Europe that French President Giscard refused to allow the Italian Premier to give his presentation on East-West trade at the Paris summit because the Italian Premier was planning on presenting a policy strongly in favor of East-West trade.

Secretary Kissinger: I think that is --

QUESTION: I wonder if you could tell us what your role in President Giscard's decision was?

Secretary Kissinger: Well, first of all, I have great admiration for President Giscard, but he does not usually consult me before he makes decisions as French President. [Laughter]

Secondly, what you tell me is great news to me, because the Italian Premier made his presentation on East-West trade. Therefore, with all due respect, I do not know exactly what you are talking about.



QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, what are the chances for a second Golan agreement?

Secretary Kissinger: Well, until the parties begin to negotiate, I can't assess the chances, but we will never know unless the parties are prepared to negotiate.

QUESTION: Did you discuss the anti-Zionist resolution?

Secretary Kissinger: Well, I expressed my view that the anti-Zionist resolution made the position of several of the member states that supported it more difficult, vis-a-vis the Congress, and raised certain doubts in our minds. And, of course, you know our views which are violently opposed to this resolution.

QUESTION: Do you have any indication, Mr. Secretary, that the Russians are urging the Syrians to extend the mandate?

Secretary Kissinger: We think Syria is an independent state that makes its own decisions on the basis of its assessment of its national interest.

QUESTION: Has there been any movement toward the multi-lateral, informal contacts that you proposed in your speech in the Assembly in September?

Secretary Kissinger: Not yet, but we will renew these ideas in our reply to the Geneva Conference proposal of the Soviets.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, is your idea for nuclear recycling regionally now out of the business, or are you --

Secretary Kissinger: No, we are still discussing it together with the other nuclear suppliers, and we still think it is the most effective way of dealing with this problem.

QUESTION: Are you getting any support from Japan, let's say?

Secretary Kissinger: We are getting some unenthusiastic support. [Laughter]

The Press: Thank you.

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