

PRESS DEPARTMENT OF STATE



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PRESS COMMENTS OF
PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT
AND
THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER
SECRETARY OF STATE
BEFORE MEETING AT MAMOURA
ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT
AUGUST 28, 1975

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Life is going to be dull when this is over, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SADAT: (Laughter)

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, do you expect this will be your last visit to Egypt in this shuttle?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: No, I am certain I will be back in Egypt because in any event I will be visiting Egypt on my way out of the area.

QUESTION: President Sadat, the story as we understand it now is that there is a very good possibility that the agreement will be initialed either Sunday or Monday, more likely Sunday. Could you share with us please, Sir, your views on when you think the agreement will be initialed?

PRESIDENT SADAT: Well, as you said exactly, there is a great possibility, but as to the date, I cannot say anything before I talk with Dr. Kissinger.

QUESTION: What are the hesitations on your part now, Sir?

PRESIDENT SADAT: From our part?

QUESTION: Yes

PRESIDENT SADAT: There is no hesitation at all.

QUESTION: Mr. President, could you tell us what effect you think this agreement will have on American-Egyptian relations?

PRESIDENT SADAT: The significance of this agreement has many dimensions. It is not only on the relations between Egypt and the United States, but mainly it is paving the way towards peace. Its repercussions on the relations between Egypt and the United States will be very positive. But I assure you that our relations now are in the best shape.

QUESTION: Would you eventually like to get military aid from the United States?

PRESIDENT SADAT: I have told the Congressmen this quite frankly, that I shall be asking America to sell me (arms), yes.



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QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, did you mean to imply in your response to the first question that this was your last negotiating visit to the area?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: No, I expect to be back in Egypt on a negotiation again.

QUESTION: President Sadat, are you getting any word or any vibrations out of Moscow as to how they see the negotiations proceeding?

PRESIDENT SADAT: Not at all.

QUESTION: Mr. President, do you see anything in the remaining details which could halt the completion of the agreement?

PRESIDENT SADAT: From my side?

QUESTION: Yes.

PRESIDENT SADAT: No. I do not see anything at all.

QUESTION: So then it is just a matter of time and detail?

PRESIDENT SADAT: That is right, that is right.

QUESTION: Dr. Kissinger, are you going to Moscow after your trip to the Middle East?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: No, after this trip I am going home to deliver a speech at the Special Session of the General Assembly.

QUESTION: Mr. President, can you envisage in your lifetime a direct meeting between high-level Egyptian and high-level Israeli officials?

PRESIDENT SADAT: Well, let us first reach this agreement, and end the state of belligerency at the end of the next peace process. And then, after that, we can discuss this, but not before that.

QUESTION: Mr. President, what is the next peace process? Is that another interim step or will that be a final step?

PRESIDENT SADAT: I hope it will be Geneva.

QUESTION: Which will mean final?

PRESIDENT SADAT: For the final solution.

QUESTION: Mr. President, do you see any problems for the agreement, if there should be reservations in Congress to go along with the proposal for the one hundred or so civilian technicians to be stationed in the Sinai passes?

PRESIDENT SADAT: Well, it is a purely internal problem for you. It is not my problem. We must wait and see what will happen.

QUESTION: Would you have reservations with going ahead with the agreement if Congress did not approve?

PRESIDENT SADAT: Well, as I told you before, let us wait until we reach the bridge.

QUESTION: Mr. President, can you tell us too whether you will be going to the United States to pay an official visit and when?

PRESIDENT SADAT: If this agreement is completed, sure I shall be planning to visit the United States--soon.

QUESTION: Have you settled on the date?

PRESIDENT SADAT: Not yet.

QUESTION: Mr. President, if there is an accord do you envisage a date for when the Geneva Conference could pursue towards an overall settlement in the region?

PRESIDENT SADAT: Not yet, we have not discussed this yet.

QUESTION: Will there be any American commitment, military commitment to Israel?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: No, there will be no military commitment by the United States as part of this agreement or related to this agreement.

QUESTION: (In Arabic) Mr. President, what are your views about the false news carried in the Arab paid press about the agreement?

PRESIDENT SADAT: (In Arabic) This happened before during the first disengagement agreement, and this is not unexpected from those newspapers.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, there have been hopes in Egypt that this time when you come back you will in fact have brought word from Israel that the agreement is wrapped up. We are not quite at that stage yet. Is that correct?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I will have to have a discussion with the President. It is an agreement. It will have several annexes and we are not yet at that stage where we can say the whole thing is wrapped up.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, the pace has obviously quickened, I understand you are going back to Israel tonight. Does this indicate that you are getting down to the wire on the agreement?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Oh, it definitely indicates we are getting down to the wire.

QUESTION: Who will sign the agreement, Dr. Kissinger?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: My understanding is that it will be signed -- well why don't we wait and see (laughter) who will sign it.

QUESTION: Would the President know who will sign it, Sir?

PRESIDENT SADAT: If Dr. Kissinger cannot tell you, how can I tell you. We did not talk. We did not have any discussions.

QUESTION: Yes, but you are a President and he is a Secretary. (Laughter)

QUESTION: Mr. President, do you believe that Israel has negotiated honestly and in good faith in this process?

PRESIDENT SADAT: I did not negotiate with Israel. I negotiated with Dr. Kissinger. And I can only say that Dr. Kissinger has been like he has always been before; has always been honest and tireless--really.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Mr. President.

