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REMARKS TO PRESS
BY
THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER
SECRETARY OF STATE
KING DAVID HOTEL
JERUSALEM, ISRAEL
FOLLOWING MEETING AT PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
AUGUST 29, 1975



QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, is the agreement as of now ready for initialing?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: No, not completely. We are in the final phases of the negotiations, which means we were spending most of our time working on documents, the basic agreement, the various annexes. We are making good progress on all.

QUESTION: Would you care to speculate, sir, on what day the agreement might be initialed now--Sunday, Monday?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I do not want to speculate on the day. We are aiming for the early part of next week.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, was the bulk of your work today dedicated to the U. S.-Israeli papers that will be involved in this agreement?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: No. The bulk of our work was dedicated to the agreement and its annexes, and the various associated papers. But we did have a very useful discussion on U.S.-Israel bilateral relations.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, would it be fair to say at this point that since the President obviously has to make an announcement in Washington, are you really not in a position to tell even when you have reached an agreement until such time as the announcement is made in Washington?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: From what I have seen since I came to this area, with even the tightest security precautions occasionally things leak. I think if we approach that point you would hear it.

QUESTION: I mean a certain amount of surprise still has to remain?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: No. This is not done for effect. This is not done to maintain surprise. When we are concluded, it will be obvious, and the announcement will be made whenever it is appropriate to make it.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, are you certain that it is going to be concluded?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I am very optimistic now that it will be concluded.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, has the U. S. aid level to Israel been determined yet?

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SECRETARY KISSINGER: There is no final figure yet.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, just for clearing up a couple of things, do you expect as of now that Congress will approve the proposal for an American presence in the Sinai passes?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Yes.

QUESTION: Number two, what would happen if Congress does not approve such a proposal? Do you expect that Israel and Egypt would both proceed to sign that agreement?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, they will have to sign the agreement before the Congress can act. But then there are a number of associated protocols which will bring it into effect.

QUESTION: The Israelis, sir, are saying they will not sign the agreement until Congress does act.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I am under the impression that they will sign the agreement. Then there is a question of protocols. But I expect the Congress to act, and we will face that issue when it arises.

QUESTION: What is your schedule for the next two days?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: My schedule is that I will go to Alexandria tomorrow, and return tomorrow night. Then we will see what remains to be done.

QUESTION: When do you now expect to make your UN speech?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Tuesday or Wednesday.

QUESTION: And will you then come back and complete the agreement?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Unless I complete it before then.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, did you mean initial or sign when you said you were under the impression that they will sign the agreement?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Look, if there is an agreement -- which does not yet exist -- but if there is an agreement, it will be initialed and then signed shortly thereafter.

QUESTION: My understanding of it till now was that in the interim period between initialling and signing that that was the time you were going to try to get Congressional approval.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: My understanding is that initialing and signing will take place fairly close to each other. Let us see whose understanding is correct.

QUESTION: Where do you expect the signing in that case, Mr. Secretary? Would it be after the talks in Jerusalem?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: If you remember the previous agreements, they go through a phase: first, of negotiation with American mediation, after which there are direct negotiations to implement the agreement. After the agreement is signed, there would have to be technical talks before the agreement could be implemented. These technical talks would describe the specific manner in which the agreement would be carried out and

the timing in relation to it. So, the implementation of the agreement cannot start until the protocol is completed.

QUESTION: When you talk about those talks, Mr. Secretary, you are referring only to the military, physical moves or also to political moves?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: No. This will deal primarily with the technical implementation of the military matters that have been agreed to, or that will have been agreed to.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

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