

PRESS DEPARTMENT OF STATE



August 31, 1975

NO. 455

REMARKS OF
THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER
SECRETARY OF STATE
AND
ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER YIGAL ALLON
FOLLOWING THEIR MEETING AT
PRIME MINISTER RABIN'S OFFICE
JERUSALEM
August 31, 1975



FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON: Good morning, gentlemen. I am sorry you did not sleep the whole night. We were preparing for the Cabinet session which is going to take place in a very short while and then we shall see what the Government will decide. Anyway, the decision, the ground, is ready for such a decision.

QUESTION: What is your recommendation to the Cabinet?

FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON: I am not permitted to say a few hours ahead of time. Thank you.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, as you can gather, there were a few minor technical problems (laughter) that required attention. We have been meeting for, well, a few hours attempting to iron out the remaining technical problems and I think we have substantially done so. So now the Israeli Cabinet is going to meet and we will know later during the day what their views are.

QUESTION: Do you think you have an agreement also?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I think we are substantially there.

QUESTION: Special progress? (Laughter)

QUESTION: Can I get back to the Israeli Foreign Minister, Mr. Allon? Can you tell us whether in fact there is an agreement, sir?

FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON: The negotiating team is going to report to the Cabinet, present the documents and explain what it is all about. I think we made very substantial progress. This is the first time I am going to use a word which I have avoided throughout the shuttle: we had a very constructive session last night (laughter). Seriously, this is a day where an important decision may take place.

QUESTION: Mr. Allon, will you recommend to the Government that they accept this draft?

FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON: Out of loyalty to my colleagues, I am not going to

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say what I am going to recommend. But if we bring the papers and the reports before the Ministers, of course, we shall tell them what we think about it.

QUESTION: Mr. Allon, if I may be permitted a personal judgment, all of you seem to exuding nothing but good will this morning. You are certainly not going to recommend that it be turned down, are you?

FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON: Well, let us keep you waiting a little bit and find out later -- late afternoon.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: The keepers are going to come for us any moment anyway.

QUESTION: Will the initialing for both sides take place today?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: We will make an effort to do that, yes. Depending on how long the deliberations are here.

QUESTION: And the signing, Dr. Kissinger?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: That will be a few days afterwards, after the Knesset has met.

QUESTION: Where will that be, sir, that signing?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I think it will be in Geneva.

QUESTION: Will it be separately, or will it be together?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Together.

QUESTION: Are you just talking a giant leap, now, Dr. Kissinger? Are you talking about initialing?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: What are you talking about?

QUESTION: I mean because it is now six o'clock in the morning that you are talking about a giant leap? I get the impression you are talking about initialing?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: You are right.

QUESTION: Then it will happen today on both sides?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: No. We have to wait now for the deliberations of the Israeli Cabinet.

FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON: My guess is that the Cabinet will sit until the late hours of the afternoon. There is a lot of material to ready and I am sure that each one of the Ministers would like to express himself.

QUESTION: Just in terms of the technicalities, now, what does the Cabinet have to do? Go through every point?

FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON: Well, it depends on the desire of the Ministers to go into details more or less. Some are more interested, some a little less. But they will meet at 8:30. We will give them a little time to read some of the papers. Then by ten we shall begin our deliberations. Usually, it will take a good six to eight hours, and if the Cabinet decides to approve the agreement, then it can be initialed today, I mean in the late afternoon or early evening. And when the Egyptians will do this, this is for the Secretary to say. I have not met them yet.

QUESTION: Dr. Kissinger, while the Israeli Cabinet is meeting, will you remain here or will you go to Egypt?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: No, I will be here.

QUESTION: Will you go to bed? (Laughter)

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I am thinking of going to bed now. (Laughter)

QUESTION: Are you getting a quick round of tennis or something today? You are still burning with enthusiasm and vigor?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well --

FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON: He was well treated tonight, you see. (Laughter)

SECRETARY KISSINGER: We have a lot of documents to prepare. We have to make a lot of contacts with various people. So I will be here and I will be fairly busy.

QUESTION: You do not regard your task as complete yet?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I think the negotiating task is substantially completed.

QUESTION: What is remaining then?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: What remains? Well, there is a lot of technical work to be done -- contacts with various people and groups.

QUESTION: Are all details settled -- how many people are going to be there and how many stations ...

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I would think so.

QUESTION: Are you referring to contact with Congress and the Senate?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: In Washington and with other countries.

QUESTION: Have you been in touch with the President yet?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I was in touch with him before I began this meeting, and I will be in touch with him now.

QUESTION: Are you satisfied with the agreement the way it stands?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Yes, I am. * * * *

