SECRETARY KISSINGER'S COMMENTS AT CABINET MEETING

Wednesday - April 14, 1976

Kissinger: There are basically three interlocking issues in Lebanon: the relationship of the Christian and Moslem community; the relationship between moderates and radicals; and the role of outside powers. All these are important factors in the current dispute.

The first point is at issue because the religious division is no longer 50-50. The Moslems are insisting that the political power reflect reality. The radicals want to go further and make Lebanon a secular state -- Jumblatt is one of these.

The outside power line up is like this:

-- Syria supports the Christians and the moderates,
-- Iraq and Libya support the radicals,
-- Egypt supports the radicals against Syria,
-- The Soviet Union supports Syria but also the radicals,
-- Israel is opposed to Syrian intervention so objectively is supporting the PLO,
-- We have been supporting the Syrian political solution but not the military solution.

[Describes the political situation.]

What could happen? It could blow up and Syria might intervene. Then Israel would intervene and we would have a Middle East war and a probable oil embargo. The best outcome would be a political settlement, but with a weakened PLO. This could leave an opening for a comprehensive settlement next year.
Scranton: If any of the people attacking Secretary Kissinger in the paper today were in charge, we would not be in the condition we are nor have the opportunities we have through a masterful handling of this incredibly complex situation by Secretary Kissinger.

[Some President and Kissinger discussions of the threat of Syrian intervention in March and the predictions by King Hussein.]

President: What is the meaning of the West Bank election?

Kissinger: That should be a warning to the Israelis that we need to move.

One other word. I am going to Africa next week. I will...
No. There are currently 31 active major issues in Lebanon: relations of Christian & Muslim entity, oil, water & electricity. Oil & electricity powers. All these are
important factors in current dispute.

The real point in Syria's case is religious division.

The religious entities function as separate

The real issue is Syria's intervention as an outside power line up.

- Syrian, supports Christian & moderate
- Iraq, against, supports Arab
- US, supports, against Syria
- UK, supports, supports US & Arab
- I opposed to Syrian intervention as objection
- My party, INC

We have been suggesting to make political state

(Can only do it)

What would happen? If would become prog. Syria

intervene. Then I would & we would have a

war, Palestine & Embassy.

The best outcome would be a political settlement,

world & Arab. This would have been for a comprehensive settlement next year.

Another if any of the parties attempt & since recent

years are in charge, we would have

Arab

We are now have an opportunity we have them

a masterful handling of this situation strongly

Serie of parties for discussion of the thrust of Syrian

intervention in Lebanon, patriotism by pressed.
What is meaning of a Bank?
It should be a warming to me that we need
more.
On the other side, I plan to again meet
relative. I will...