

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

President Ford and Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Allon met in the Oval Office for approximately 55 minutes. The meeting was also attended by Secretary of State Kissinger and General Brent Scowcroft on the American side, and Ambassador Dinitz and Minister Bar-On on the Israeli side.

The President expressed his personal pleasure at being able to welcome Mr. Allon once again to the White House. The President and Deputy Prime Minister reviewed the situation in the Middle East, with particular reference to the prospect for continuing the progress toward a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. They noted the success already achieved in reaching the Sinai Agreement between Israel and Egypt just over a year ago. The President restated the American commitment to continuing the peace process in the Middle East.

The President reaffirmed his continuing commitment to the security and survival of Israel, noting that the United States intends to continue its generous policy of economic and military aid to Israel. In the past two fiscal years alone that aid has totalled \$4.4 billion. The President and Deputy Prime Minister reviewed the excellent state of bilateral relations and affirmed the traditional friendship uniting their two nations. They agreed that this friendship forms a solid basis for addressing both bilateral questions and questions involved in the search for a peace settlement in the Middle East.

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