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By SP NARA Date 8-16-02



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

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October 24, 1973

TO: The Secretary
FROM: NEA - Joseph J. Sisco *[Signature]*

Talking Points for Your Briefing
of the Leadership

Attached is a suggested Talking Paper for your meeting with the Leadership tomorrow. It is up-to-date through Wednesday evening. For overnight developments, including those in the Security Council, you should review the morning situation reports before your scheduled briefing.

Attachment:
As stated.

NEA:JJSisco/hlk
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Talking Points For Your Briefing of the Leadership

1. Since my last briefing of the leadership, more heavy fighting took place with heavy losses on both sides and inconclusive results. Moreover, the Soviets were pouring arms into the area, while we more than matched them in our assistance to Israel. There was obvious concern, both on the side of the Soviets and on our side, that the situation could get out of hand, and become even more serious and complicated than it already was.

2. On Friday afternoon, General Secretary Brezhnev wrote to the President and asked that he send me to Moscow to discuss the situation. We felt that with the situation becoming increasingly more critical, it was important for us to respond positively to Brezhnev's invitation.

3. It was clear from my talks in Moscow that the Soviets were very anxious to bring about an end to the hostilities. We believe this reflected also the views of the Egyptians and Syrians. This was also the attitude of the Israelis.

4. We agreed to a Security Council resolution which does three things: it calls for a ceasefire in place; it reaffirmed the November 1967 Security Council resolution as the framework for a peace settlement; and it called for negotiations between the parties under appropriate auspices, looking towards a durable peace in the Middle East.

5. The resolution was adopted on Sunday night with 14 affirmative votes and China not participating. For the first time the Security Council called for negotiations between the parties, which we intend to make clear to them means direct negotiations so far as we are concerned. There is no mention of withdrawal in the resolution at all. And, it leaves to the parties themselves what the specific elements of the agreement are, within the framework of the November 1967 resolution. The ceasefire became effective October 22 at 6:50 p.m. in the area. It leaves Israel occupying additional Arab territory and the Egyptians a strip East of the Suez Canal about 10 kilometers or so. At the moment, the practical modalities (UNTSO) on the ground to supervise the ceasefire are being worked out between the relevant UN organization and the governments involved in the fighting. Both Israel and Egypt have accepted the Security Council ceasefire formally, as has Syria. While there will be incidents and perhaps some limited continuation of the fighting, we believe there is a

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reasonable prospect that the ceasefire will eventually hold.

6. We are anxious that from the ashes of this war a new and major effort will be made towards a fundamental settlement. The Russians seemed prepared to lend their auspices to the parties as we are. From my talk with Mrs. Meir, I have the distinct impression that such an approach will be acceptable to the Israelis.

7. I found a sober and somber Israeli leadership, shaken by the fact they almost lost the war and turned it around only after great losses of life and material. I have the impression that the objective conditions in the area -- one of relative balance between the two sides -- are more favorable to a settlement than at any time for years. We have a new opportunity to make progress towards peace.

8. A high priority over the next 48 hours is to try to get the parties to agree to a full exchange of prisoners of war. The Soviets have promised to help.

9. As to the supply efforts that are being made to the area, they are continuing on both sides. I took up this matter with the Soviets over the weekend with a view to seeing whether we could come to an agreement on ending the airlift. They wanted to wait to see whether the ceasefire would be achieved, and I intend to take this matter up with them again soon.

10. The results of the Moscow trip represent a substantial achievement for American diplomacy. We have been able to do this while retaining the full confidence of Israel, keeping any adverse repercussions in the Arab world to a manageable level and maintaining the cooperative relationship we have developed with the Soviet Union over the past few years.

11. On the question of oil, the recent decisions taken are not expected to have a direct impact on the United States in the next couple of weeks. We do have a program which we are planning to launch soon in order to meet the situation. Moreover, I intend to make clear to the Arabs if they expect us to play a major role in helping to bring about a settlement, we cannot at the same time be pilloried and villified and be expected to be helpful under pressure.

12. Finally, the next few days will be devoted to doing everything we can to help make the ceasefire effective. Tuesday, the Security

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