

May 6, 1973

1. Dr. Kissinger has received Mr. Ismail's informal communication of May 5, regarding the possibilities of a STAT meeting in Madrid.

2. There is unfortunately no feasible way in which Dr. Kissinger could interrupt his meetings with the North Vietnamese for two days and disappear to Madrid without arousing intense speculation and, inevitably, compromising the secrecy of his meeting with Mr. Ismail. He therefore believes it would be possible to meet in Madrid on the weekend of May 19-20 only if his projected meetings in Paris with the North Vietnamese do not materialize. In that event, Dr. Kissinger would be prepared to fly directly from the United States to Madrid for private meetings with Mr. Ismail. Alternatively, if Madrid is the only possibility, it might be feasible to find a weekend during the month of June when it would be possible to have such a meeting.

3. Dr. Kissinger would like to point out that if meetings were to be held in Paris, as he suggested in his last communication, it very probably would be possible for him to free an entire day during the weekend of May 19-20 for discussions with Mr. Ismail. Barring the cancellation of his talks with the North Vietnamese, then, Dr. Kissinger continues to regard Paris as the best venue under the circumstances.

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