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U. S. PRESSURE AGAINST ISRAEL SAID TO HAVE PEAKED

TA 172 125 TEL AVIV DAVAR IN HEBREW 17 APR 75 P 7 TA

(YE HOSHUA' TADMOR ARTICLE: "THE PRESSURE HAS PASSED ITS PEAK")

(EXCERPTS) IF ONE CAN JUDGE FROM THE SIGNS FROM WASHINGTON, THE AMERICAN PRESSURE EXERTED IN THE PAST 2 WEEKS IS NO LONGER AT ITS PEAK. HOWEVER, THE DIFFICULTIES STILL EXIST. THE TALKS ON QUESTIONS OF ESSENTIAL ARMS SUPPLIES ARE STILL FROZEN. THE WARNING REGARDING AN EXPECTED CUT IN AID HAS NOT BEEN CANCELLED. ALSO THE ANGER IS STILL SIGNIFICANT. BUT THE GENERAL TREND DOES NOT INDICATE A FURTHER WORSENING IN RELATIONS. THERE ARE ALSO CLEAR SIGNS THAT THE HEADS OF THE ADMINISTRATION, ESPECIALLY PRESIDENT FORD AND OTHER KEY MEN, FEEL THAT THEY WENT A LITTLE TOO FAR, THAT THE VARIOUS PRESSURES EXERTED HAVE RESULTED IN TOO SERIOUS COUNTERREACTIONS, AND THAT IT IS NECESSARY NOW TO CALM FEELINGS, AND TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE.

IN VIEW OF THESE FIRST SIGNS IT IS WORTH TRYING TO SEE WHAT KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT FORD ATTEMPTED TO GAIN FROM THE POLICY "REASSESSMENT" WHICH WAS ENTIRELY DIRECTED AGAINST ISRAEL.

IT IS CLEAR NOW THAT THE INTENTION WAS TO SEE WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO "SOFTEN" ISRAEL IN ORDER TO TRY TO SAVE THE NEW DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WHICH KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT FORD SO ARDENTLY DESIRED IN VIEW OF THE EVENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, PORTUGAL, TURKEY, AND GREECE. THE HEADS OF THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION URGENTLY NEEDED A CONCRETE ACHIEVEMENT, WITHOUT GOING INTO THE QUESTION OF WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FAILURE OF THE TALKS. AS-SADAT WHO FELT THIS, EXERTED PRESSURE, ENGAGED IN BLACKMAIL, AND BROUGHT ABOUT THE BREAKDOWN OF THE TALKS. KISSINGER, WHO HAS NO LEVER OF PRESSURE AND INFLUENCE ON EGYPT, CHOSE TO PUT PRESSURE ONLY ON ISRAEL, WITHOUT REALIZING THAT HE ALMOST WENT BEYOND THE LIMIT.



IN HIS ATTITUDE KISSINGER WAS CONSIDERING PRIMARILY THE MOOD ON CAPITAL HILL. KISSINGER SIMPLY CONCLUDED THAT THE CONGRESS WHICH HAD DISPLAYED INDIFFERENCE TOWARD WHAT WAS TAKING PLACE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND HAD REFUSED TO ASSIST SOUTH VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA OR TO RESUME AID TO TURKEY, WOULD SHOW THE SAME ATTITUDE TOWARD ISRAEL AS WELL. KISSINGER THOUGHT THAT PERHAPS JERUSALEM WOULD SOON FEEL ITSELF DESERTED AND ISOLATED, AND WOULD HASTEN TO MAKE ITS STAND MORE FLEXIBLE AND WOULD RUSH INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT--AN AGREEMENT WHICH KISSINGER CONSIDERS VITAL TO ISRAEL. THE "REASSESSMENT" HAS ONLY SERVED AS A FRAMEWORK, AND WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK PRESSURES WERE EXERTED AND THREATS WERE MADE TO TURN OFF THE TAPS AS PART OF A PSYCHOLOGICAL CAMPAIGN WHICH IS STILL GOING ON. HAD ISRAEL SHOWN ANY SIGN OF WEAKNESS AND READINESS TO "RETREAT," THE NEW U.S. POLICY WOULD HAVE RECEIVED NEW IMPETUS AND WOULD HAVE PROMOTED THE ADMINISTRATION TO DEMAND A HASTY AND INADEQUATE PARTIAL SETTLEMENT FOR WHICH ISRAEL WOULD HAVE HAD TO PAY THE FULL PRICE.

THE MOMENT THAT THE ONE-SIDED PRESSURE ON ISRAEL CEASES THE PROSPECTS FOR A SETTLEMENT WILL IMPROVE IMMEASURABLY. THIS IS ONE FACT WHICH THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS ASKED TO POINT OUT TO KISSINGER. ANOTHER CLARIFICATION, WHICH IS NO LESS IMPORTANT, IS THIS: THE TALKS ARE NOT BEGINNING AT THE POINT AT WHICH THEY WERE SUSPENDED. THIS MEANS THAT ISRAEL SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO MAKE CONCESSIONS SINCE IT HAD MADE MOST OF THE CONCESSIONS. IT IS NOW EGYPT'S TURN TO SHOW READINESS AND FLEXIBILITY.

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