

8:40 pm
sent time 9:01 pm
10/25/73
October 25, 1973

From Secretary Kissinger to Hafiz Ismail:

1398

I very much appreciate your invitation to visit Egypt. Given your preference for November 7, I shall plan to arrive in Cairo on the evening of November 6, and to depart on the afternoon of November 7. I look forward to meeting with you and whomever else you feel appropriate, and to constructive preliminary discussions on the range of issues that are of concern to both our countries. In the period before we meet we must both seek to ~~assure~~ ^{insure} that a constructive atmosphere is maintained in relations between Egypt and the United States.

Permit me to bother you with several technical but important details. First, since I shall be enroute to Peking, I will be accompanied by approximately 17 newsmen. I trust that their presence in Cairo will be acceptable to you and that they will not be excessively burdensome. Further, I should like to request a modest temporary augmentation in the number of personnel in our Interests Section to assure me adequate communications and support during my stay in Cairo. If acceptable to you, other technical details can be

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cc: *Robman*
Espey
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handled by our Interests Section and whomever you may designate as the point of contact in Cairo.

I suggest that we make a joint announcement of my visit at 11:00 a.m. Washington time, October 31. A suggested text for the announcement follows:

"Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has accepted the invitation of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt to visit Cairo on November 7. The purpose of his visit will be to discuss with Egyptian officials ways to achieve a lasting peace in the Middle East."

I look forward to your early reply to this communication, and to meeting with you next month.