

V. 4 Mar 74

S Y R I A

Damascus
Press Coverage
March 1

REPORTAGE ON VISIT OF SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER

Kissinger Arrives, Meets Al-Asad

Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 1 Mar 74 M

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State Dr Henry Kissinger at 1930 today. Dr Kissinger arrived in Damascus at 1800 today. He was received at Damascus international airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Assistant Foreign Minister Muhammad Zakariya Isma'il and senior officials of the Foreign Ministry.

Al-Asad Rejects Israeli Proposals

Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2315 GMT 1 Mar 74 M

[Text] The meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. Secretary of State Dr Henry Kissinger ended at 2330 today. During the meeting Dr Kissinger submitted the ideas he brought with him from Israel on the disengagement of forces on the Syrian front. These ideas were not accepted. The president submitted Syrian Arab ideas. Dr Kissinger will study them prior to continuing the discussion on the subject of disengagement of forces.

MENA Report

Cairo MENA in Arabic 0933 GMT 2 Mar 74 M

[Text] During this visit, Kissinger held only one meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, which lasted 4 hours. The MENA correspondent in Damascus says that the U.S. secretary might return to Damascus within 1 month after studying the Syrian ideas submitted to him by President al-Asad on the disengagement of forces after the Israeli ideas which Kissinger carried with him were not accepted by the Syrian side.

Contacts on the disengagement of forces are expected to continue at more than a political and diplomatic level. It is probable that Syria's rejection of the ideas carried from Israel by Kissinger will not be an obstacle to continuing attempts by various elements to achieve a disengagement of forces on the Syrian front. The Syrian statement on yesterday's meeting referred to "continuing discussions on the subject of disengagement of forces." In their evaluation of the success or failure of Kissinger's third visit to Damascus, sources within the delegation accompanying the U.S. secretary noted that he did not expect his mission in Damascus to be easy for several reasons, the complicated nature of the Golan front being among them. They also noted that Syria's rejection of the ideas which Kissinger carried from Israel cannot be described as a failure for Kissinger or for his attempts because they are not his ideas in the first place.

Kissinger Leaves Damascus

Damascus MENA in Arabic to MENA Cairo 0728 GMT 2 Mar 74 M

[Text] Damascus--U.S. Secretary of State Dr Henry Kissinger left Damascus at 0900 today at the end of a visit which lasted 15 hours. He was seen off at the Damascus airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials.

V. 4 Mar 74

E G Y P T

G 1

REPORTAGE ON VISIT OF SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO

Gromyko Arrives in Cairo

Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 1 Mar 74 M

[Text] Cairo--Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko and his delegation arrived in Cairo from Damascus at 1400 today for a 5-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

[Foreign Minister] Isma'il Fahmi and senior Foreign Ministry officials met the Soviet minister at the airport.

After his arrival, Gromyko said: I am happy to come to Cairo, the capital of the friendly Arab Republic of Egypt, on an official visit at the invitation of the Egyptian Government. He added: We have come to hold useful and constructive discussions with another friendly Arab state--the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Gromyko further said: I have previously visited Cairo more than once and have met with the senior officials. Every time I visit Cairo, our meetings are characterized by amity, friendship and frankness and usually produce useful and important results. He added: The periodic meetings and exchange of views on persisting matters which concern the Soviet Union and Egypt are held on principled bases and the framework of the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. His excellency went on: We believe that these contacts and exchanges of views on world problems and the bilateral Soviet-Egyptian relations are useful, particularly at this time which marks the beginning of the march toward a political settlement aimed at establishing just peace in the area on the basis of the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, and on the basis of securing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Gromyko then said: I hope my greetings and discussions with the Egyptians leaders during this visit will lead to finding ways for making progress on this important question. We will also continue to work during this visit for strengthening the amicable Soviet-Egyptian relations.

In conclusion, Gromyko said: I take this opportunity to convey my warmest greetings and best wishes for the happiness and success of the friendly Egyptian people.

Gromyko-Fahmi Talks Begin

Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Mar 74 M

[Text] The official discussions between Foreign Minister Isma'il Fahmi and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko began at the Foreign Ministry at 1945 today. The discussions center on the recent developments in the Middle East crisis, the results of the contacts held in this regard, and ways of strengthening the relations between the two countries. These discussions were preceded by a 45-minute closed meeting between the foreign ministers.

The Egyptian side to the talks included Foreign Ministry Under Secretaries Ambassadors Muhammad Shukri and Muhammad Riyad and a number of assistants at the Soviet Union Department at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.