



Department of State

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR  
 SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE, MAY 6, 1974

FOR ANDERSON FROM HARE

SUMMARY: MONDAY EDITIONS OF TIMES, POST, AND GLOBE LEAD FROM AMMAN WITH US OFFICIALS REPORTING "CONSIDERABLE STEP FORWARD" IN SEPARATION OF FORCES. ALL POINT TO POSSIBILITY OF NO AGREEMENT THIS TRIP, NECESSITATING YET ANOTHER MIDDLE EAST SHUTTLE IN SEVERAL WEEKS. LATE AP AND UPI REPORTS CARRY MCCLOSKEY ANNOUNCEMENT OF HAK-GROMYKO MEETING ON CYPRUS TO DISCUSS MIDDLE EAST AND EAST-WEST ISSUES. BOTH WIRES HAVE US OFFICIALS DENYING US-SOVIET MIDEAST DEAL IN OFFING.

1. (NYT) GWERTZMAN ARTICLE PAGE 1 ABOVE FOLD UNDER HEAD "KISSINGER URGES ISRAELIS TO MAP TRUCE LINE" WITH PIX OF HAK AND EBAN AFTER SUNDAY JERUSALEM TALKS, MCCLOSKEY AND DINITZ ALSO PICTURED. REPORTS HAK URGED ISRAELIS TO DRAW UP NEW CEASEFIRE LINE FOR HIM TO PRESENT TO SYRIANS TUESDAY. SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYS NEGOTIATIONS IN CRUCIAL PHASE, "CONSIDERABLE STEP FORWARD" TAKEN, BUT DOUBTFUL THAT DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT CONCLUDED THIS TRIP, MAKING HAK RETURN TO MIDDLE EAST IN THREE WEEKS A LIKELIHOOD. IN CONTRAST TO ISRAELI REPORTS, US OFFICIALS SAY SYRIA "DEFINITELY" DECREASED MILITARY ACTIVITY ON GOLAN HEIGHTS. GWERTZMAN HAS US OFFICIALS PRIVATELY CONFIDENT ISRAEL WILL SOFTEN STAND, BUT PREPARING PUBLIC OPINION FOR HAK RETURN TO US WITHOUT AN ACCORD.

2. BERGER PIECE IN POST PAGE 1 ABOVE FOLD "PROGRESS ON GOLAN SEEN BY KISSINGER" LEADS WITH HAK QUOTE THAT TALKS ON SEPARATION OF FORCES HAVE TAKEN "CONSIDERABLE STEP FORWARD". SENIOR OFFICIAL ON PLANE ATTRIBUTES SLOWDOWN IN GOLAN FIGHTING TO HAK DISCUSSION IN DAMASCUS AND JERUSALEM. YET, SYRIA REPORTS "FIERCE" FIGHTING ON MT. HERMAN, ACCORDING TO AFP, AND ISRAELI INFO MINISTER PERES

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TAKES WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE. SENIOR OFFICIAL SAYS ISSUES DEFINED AND DIFFERENCES NARROWED DURING JERUSALEM TALKS, BUT DETAILS MAY HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT ON ANOTHER TRIP AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS' DELAY FOR TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS. PROGRESS REPORTED ON UN ROLE, BUFFER ZONE, THINNING OUT OF ISRAELI AND SYRIAN FORCES. SENIOR US OFFICIAL SAYS HAK WILL NOT MEET GROMYKO IN DAMASCUS.

3. (GLOBE) REPEATS BERGER STORY PAGE 1 ABOVE FOLD UNDER HEAD "KISSINGER ARRIVES IN JORDAN, BELIEVES PEACE ALKS PROGRESSING" WITH SSOKALL PIX OF HAK AND HUSSEIN AND OF MRS. KISSINGER WITH MRS. HUSSEIN. JHABVALA BACKGROUND PIECE APPEARS PAGE 12 "TIME IS THE VITAL ELEMENT IN KISSINGER'S SEARCH FOR A MIDEAST PEACE" WITH PIX OF MRS. KISSINGER AT GOLDA MEIR'S BIRTHDAY PARTY. SAYS SENIOR US OFFICIAL HAS PERSISTENTLY CAUTIONED AGAINST OVER-OPTIMISM AND PRESENHL TRIP MAY FALL SHORT OF AGREEMENT. NEVERTHELESS, TRIP NOT A FAILURE SINCE EACH SIDE PROMPTED TO MOVE TOWARD SOLUTION. POINTS TO UNEASY DOMESTIC SITUATION IN ISRAEL AND SYRIA WHICH MAKES CONCESSION DIFFICULT. SEES CHANGE IN ARAB THINKING CAUSED BY HAK'S EMPHASIS ON PEACE AS STRUCTURAL PROBLEM NECESSITATING COOPERATIVE EFFORT. REPORTS HAK DEMARCHE 1) TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR HIS INITIATIVES FROM ARAB LEADERS 2) TO DEFINE CONCEPTS AND COMMON OBJECTIVES FOR DISENGAGEMENT 3) WORK OUT DETAILS. COMMON OBJECTIVES INCLUDE LINE OF DEMARCATION, BUFFER ZONE, UN PRESENCE. DETAILS STILL A PROBLEM, COULD HALT PEACE EFFORT.

4. SAIKOWSKI IN CSM HAD PAGE 1 STORY "HOW MIDEAST SCORECARD LOOKS: KISSINGER MAKING HEADWAY TOWARD TROOP SEPARATION PACT" INCLUDING PIX OF HAK EMBRACING SADAT. HAS HAK DETERMINED TO GET TROOP SEPARATION, BUT REPORTS NO AGREEMENT IN SIGHT. SENIOR OFFICIAL SAYS PROGRESS MADE IN DEFINING ISSUES AND NARROWING DIFFERENCES, BUT NOT IN CLOSING THEM. SAIKOWSKI REPORTS HAK IN RELAXED MOOD ON AMMAN ARRIVAL. US OFFICIAL "VERY HOPEFUL" BUT CAUTIONS AGAINST EXPECTING EARLY RESULTS. ACCORDING TO SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIALS, SCORECARD AS FOLLOWS: DISENGAGEMENT LINE PRINCIPAL DIFFICULTY, ON ALL OTHER ISSUES PARTIES "WITHIN NEGOTIATING RANGE" IN TERMS OF BROAD CONCEPTS BUT NOT DETAILS, SYRIANS PUSHING LINKAGE ISSUE "TO SOME EXTENT" IN SEEKING ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM LANDS TAKEN IN 1967, DISCUSSIONS ON UN PRESENCE MOVING IN "A GOOD DIRECTION".

5. (STAR) CARRIES AP REPORT UNDER HEAD "ISRAEL UNYIELDING TO SYRIA TERMS", NOTHING FROM O'LEARY.

6. AP CARRIES MCCLOSKEY ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HAK AND GROMYKO WILL MEET ON CYPRUS TUESDAY. SCHWEID REPORTS TALKS WILL COVER MIDDLE EAST AND EAST-WEST TOPICS, INCLUDING TREATY TO LIMIT OFFENSIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

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US OFFICIALS REPORT HAK OPTIMISTIC ABOUT EVENTUAL DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, BUT ISRAELI PRESS SAYS NEGOTIATIONS HAVE "LOST THEIR IMPETUS" AND MIGHT STALL IN DEADLOCK. US OFFICIALS SEEN DISMISSING SUGGESTION US AND USSR MIGHT WORK OUT PACT TO IMPOSE ON ISRAEL AND SYRIA. MCCLOSKEY QUOTED TO EFFECT CYPRUS MEETING HAS "FULL UNDERSTANDING AND APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL."

7. UPI ALSO REPORTS ANNOUNCEMENT OF CYPRUS MEETING. LANDRY SAYS DATE FOR MEETING JELLED ONLY IN LAST 24 HOURS. EGYPTIAN DIPLOMATS REPORT NIXON MAY VISIT MIDDLE EAST IN LATE MAY OR EARLY JUNE IF TROOP DISENGAGEMENT SUCCESSFUL. US OFFICIALS DENY HAK GOING TO CYPRUS TO MAKE DEAL WITH SOVIETS ON MIDDLE EAST. HIGH AMERICAN SOURCES SAY HAK "VERY CONFIDENT" ON DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. US OFFICIAL REPORTS HAK HOPES TO GET ISRAELI CABINET TO AGREE TO PROPOSAL "NOT IDENTICAL" WITH INITIAL ISRAELI POSIITON. SAME OFFICIAL SAYS HAK MIGHT RETURN TO MIDDLE EAST IN TWO WEEKS IF NO TROOP DISENGAGEMENT THIS TRIP.

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