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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), TTOP
 SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE: RADIO TV, MAY 8

FOR ANDERSON FROM NARE

1. FOLLOWING TWO WEDNESDAY MORNING RADIO REPORTS STRESS THE CRITICALITY OF THIS PERIOD IN THE NEGOTIATING CONTINUUM.

2A. KALE (CBS RADIO) DAMASCUS: KISSINGER BROUGHT A COMPROMISE ISRAELI PROPOSAL AND MAP TO PRESIDENT ASAD OF SYRIA AND AMERICAN OFFICIALS ARE BEGINNING TO SOUND AS THOUGH THE SECRETARY THINKS HE CAN GET HIS DEAL SEPARATING SYRIAN AND ISRAELI TROOPS DURING HIS CURRENT SWING THROUGH THE M.E. HE IS PUSHING FOR A RETURN TO WASHINGTON BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK. WHETHER HE IS PUTTING OUT THAT WORD TO INCREASE PRESSURE ON SYRIA AND ISRAEL TO GO FOR A DEAL NOW IS NOT KNOWN OF COURSE, BUT IT WOULD SEEM TO FIT INTO HIS GENERAL NEGOTIATING STRATEGY. KISSINGER MET LATE INTO LAST NIGHT AND AGAIN THIS MORNING WITH TOP ISRAELI LEADERS, INCLUDING PM MEIR. HE SEEMED RELAXED ON LEAVING ISRAEL AND ON ARRIVING IN SYRIA ALMOST AS THOUGH HE KNEW HE WERE CARRYING A PROPOSAL TO ASAD THAT ASAD COULD OR WOULD NOT REJECT. THE ESSENCE OF THE PROPOSAL IS THAT AN ISRAELI PULL-BACK FROM ALL OF KUNEIRA TIED TO SPECIFIC SECURITY GUARANTEES FOR ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. KISSINGER RETURNS TO ISRAEL TONIGHT. THIS COULD TURN OUT TO BE HIS MOST CRITICAL DAY OF SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY.

3B. KOPPEL (ABC MORNING NEWS) TEL AVIV: WE ARE NOW IN THE MIDDLE OF WHAT A SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL YESTERDAY DESCRIBED AS THE CRUCIAL 48 HOURS. THIS MORNING KISSINGER HELD A LAST-MINUTE SESSION WITH ISRAELI PM MEIR AND THEN BOARDED HIS AIR FORCE SET FOR DAMASCUS. KISSINGER WILL DISCUSS WITH SYRIAN LEADERS WHAT IS BELIEVED TO BE AN ISRAELI PROPOSAL THAT WOULD INVOLVE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE TERRITORIES CAPTURED IN 1973 AND FROM THE CITY OF KUNEIRA WHICH WAS TAKEN BY ISRAELI FORCES IN 1967.

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2. ALL TUESDAY EVENING NETWORK TV PROGRAMS CARRIED FILM REPORTS OF HAK-GROM CYPRUS MEETING AND HAK RETURN ISRAEL. ALL COMMENTED ON THE SOVIET'S POSSIBLE NON-OBSTRUCTIONIST STANCE; KOPPEL ADDS SECRETARY IS PROTECTING HIS FLANKS BY ENLISTING COOPERATION OF ARAB MODERATES.

(A) KALB (CBS): THE SUPERPOWER GET-TOGETHER BEGAN HERE IN ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS' PALACE. THEY TALKED FOR THREE HOURS. KISSINGER, AS ONE AMERICAN OFFICIAL PUT IT, WAS NOT TRYING TO HIT A HOME RUN TODAY; HE WAS MERELY TRYING TO MAKE SURE THAT THE RUSSIANS WOULD NOT BE OBSTRUCTIONIST. OF THAT HE IS NOW FAIRLY CONFIDENT. THEY REVIEWED THE PROSPECTS FOR DISENGAGEMENT, AND THERE WERE NO SIGNS THAT ANY BIG-POWER DEAL WAS IN THE WORKS TO BE IMPOSED ON ISRAEL AND SYRIA. AFTERWARDS KISSINGER SAID THAT THE NEXT FEW DAYS WOULD BE CRITICAL, AND HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT RUSSIA'S ACTIONS WOULD BE POSITIVE. EARLY THIS EVENING KISSINGER RETURNED TO ISRAEL AND QUICKLY WENT INTO CONFERENCE WITH ISRAELI LEADERS. IT IS NOW HIS HOPE AND BELIEF THAT WHEN HE RETURNS TO SYRIA TOMORROW HE WILL HAVE A REVISED ISRAELI PROPOSAL AND A MAP FOR A SUCCESSFUL DISENGAGEMENT ON THE GOLAN FRONT. THE BIG QUESTION THEN IS WHETHER SYRIA, AFTER GROMYKO'S VISIT, WILL BE READY TO MAKE A DEAL.

(B) VALERIANI (NBC): IT WAS GROMYKO WHO INITIATED THIS MEETING, PRIMARILY TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE RUSSIANS ARE PLAYING A ROLE IN THE M.E. PEACE NEGOTIATION, DESPITE KISSINGER'S SOLO DIPLOMACY. THE SITE OF THE MEETING, CYPRUS, WAS ESSENTIALLY KISSINGER'S IDEA AND IT REQUIRED A COURTESY CALL ON THE PRESIDENT, ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS. THE RUSSIANS HAD ORIGINALLY SUGGESTED SYRIA AS THE LOCALE BUT THE AMERICANS PREFERRED A NON-ARAB STATE, SO THEY FINALLY GOT TOGETHER IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE IN NICOSIA FACING EACH OTHER ACROSS THE TABLE, BOTH FLANKED BY FOUR AIDES, BOTH IN GOOD SPIRITS. . . BUT DURING THE 3-HOUR MEETING THE RUSSIANS APPARENTLY REMAINED NON-COMMITTAL ABOUT THE LINE THEY WILL TAKE IN THE NEGOTIATION. THE RUSSIANS GOT AT LEAST PART OF WHAT THEY WANTED OUT OF THIS MEETING: GREATER VISIBILITY IN THE M.E. PEACE TALKS. WHAT THE AMERICANS GOT OUT OF IT, IF ANYTHING, WE DON'T KNOW YET. EIGHT HOURS AFTER LEAVING ISRAEL, KISSINGER WAS BACK FOR MORE TALKS WITH GOVERNMENT LEADERS FOR PREPARATION FOR HIS RETURN TO DAMASCUS TOMORROW. AMERICAN OFFICIALS INSISTED PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE, BUT IT IS OBVIOUSLY BEING MADE VERY SLOWLY.

(C) KOPPEL (ABC): GROMYKO CAME TO CYPRUS TODAY BECAUSE KISSINGER HAD INSISTED ON A NEUTRAL MEETING PLACE. KISSINGER CAME

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VISIBLE ROLE IN THIS ROUND OF DISENGAGEMENT TALKS, HAD ASKED FOR THE MEETING IN THE FIRST PLACE. IT WAS HELD AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE OF ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS. THE SO-CALLED PHOTO SESSION EVOLVED INTO A DIPLOMATIC ROUND-DE-LAY; SHAKING HANDS BECAME A PRODUCTION NUMBER. GROMYKO TRANSFORMED TWO PENCILS ON THE TABLE INTO THE SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT LINE. THE ROLLYING GOOD TIMES PRESUMABLY ENDED WHEN THE PHOTOGRAPHERS LEFT. SECRETARY KISSINGER DOES NOT EXPECT ACTIVE SOVIET COOPERATION BUT HE DOES THINK AN AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED IF THE RUSSIANS DON'T ACTIVELY OBSTRUCT IT. ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS ESCORTED GROMYKO OUT FIRST.

REPORTER: "DID YOU DISCUSS PRIMARILY THE M.E.?"
 GROMYKO: "YES, USEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE. I WILL NOT GO FURTHER THAN THAT. THANK YOU."

KISSINGER CAME OUT ACTING BOUYANT, WHICH WAS NO REFLECTION ON HOW THE MEETING WENT.

KISSINGER: "IT IS VERY HARD TO SAY SOMETHING HISTORIC."
 REPORTER: "MR. SECRETARY, DO YOU FEEL THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE MADE A CONSTRUCTIVE IMPORT TO THE DISENGAGEMENT PLAN?"

KISSINGER: "WE DIDN'T DISCUSS A CONTRIBUTION TO A PLAN."

REPORTER: "HOW ABOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THOSE?"

KISSINGER: "WE WILL SEE OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS, BUT WE HOPE THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS AS INTERESTED AS WE ARE IN EASING THE TENSIONS IN THE M.E. AND WE HOPE THIS WILL TURN OUT TO BE THE CASE."

HERE AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY WAS THE SENIOR AIDE TO PRESIDENT SADAT. IN EFFECT KISSINGER IS ALREADY PREPARING A FALLBACK POSITION IN THE EVENT THE SOVIET UNION IS NOT HELPFUL IN THE NEGOTIATIONS OF THE DISENGAGEMENT PLAN. THE SECRETARY HAS CREATED HIS OWN NETWORK OF ARAB MODERATES, ENLISTING THEIR COOPERATION, CONSULTING WITH THEM AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY. FAILURE ON THIS TRIP COULD MEAN THE RE-IMPOSITION OF AN ARAB OIL BOYCOTT. BUT THE MORE ARAB LEADERS KISSINGER TAKES INTO HIS CONFIDENCE THE LESS LIKELY THAT BECOMES. THIS EVENING KISSINGER WAS BACK IN ISRAEL AGAIN. ALL DAY LONG TWO OF KISSINGER'S TOP AIDES HAVE BEEN IN JERUSALEM WORKING WITH THE ISRAELIS ON A NEW MAP AND A NEW DISENGAGEMENT PROPOSAL. TOMORROW THE SECRETARY TRIES IT OUT ON THE SYRIANS.

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