



Department of State

TELEGRAM

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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STATE 96308

10 May 1974 0046

ACTION 0 092119Z MAY 74 ZFF4
 SS-15 FM SECSTATE WASHDC
 CHRON TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE 7094
 16 sjb BT
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Classification

TOSFC 458

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR
 SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE: RADIO/TV

FOR ANDERSON FROM HARE

1. TV - NO RPT NO FILM OR VOICE FEEDS OF ANY TRAVELERS CARRIED ON WEDNESDAY EVENING NETWORK PROGRAMS. (SEE KALB FIRST LINER BELOW FOR HIS EXPLANATION.)
2. RADIO - THURSDAY MORNING RADIO SOMEWHAT BARREN OF TRIP COVERAGE AS WELL. FOLLOWING THREE REPORTS BROADCAST FROM ISRAEL:

A. ANDERSON (GROUP W NEWS): "ALL SIDES AGREE THERE HAS BEEN PROGRESS, BUT IT APPEARS TO BE PAINFUL AND SLOW AND MEASURED IN INCHES AND DEGREES. KISSINGER MET AGAIN WITH THE ISRAELI NEGOTIATING GROUP NEAR TEL AVIV LAST NIGHT. A SPOKESMAN FOR KISSINGER SAID THE ISRAELIS AGREE THERE HAS BEEN SOME PROGRESS ON THE DISENGAGEMENT BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL BUT HE ADDED THAT I CAUTION YOU THAT WE ARE STILL NOT NEAR AN AGREEMENT. KISSINGER IS GOING TO BE SPENDING THIS DAY IN SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT. HE OR HIS REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN IN ALMOST CONSTANT TOUCH WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AND KING FAISAL UNDER THE THEORY THAT IT DOES TWO THINGS -- IT HAS AN ENCOURAGING EFFECT ON SYRIA'S WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE AND MAINTAINS GOOD RELATIONS

BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE MODERATE ARABS. KISSINGER WILL BE BACK HERE IN ISRAEL TOMORROW TO GET THE ISRAELI REPLY TO TAKE BACK TO DAMASCUS HOPEFULLY NARROWING THE GAP A BIT MORE. THIS PROCESS HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR ABOUT A WEEK NOW, HOW MUCH LONGER CAN IT GO -- PERHAPS ANOTHER FOUR OR FIVE DAYS U.S. OFFICIALS FEEL, AND THEN EITHER KISSINGER WILL HAVE AN AGREEMENT OR HE WILL GO BACK HOME AND LET BOTH SIDES THINK IT OVER FOR AWHILE."

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B. KALB (CBS RADIO) FIRST LINE REPORT: "TRAVELING IN THE KISSINGER COCOON. KISSINGER'S BLUE AND WHITE JET ROARED OUT OF THE SKIES LANDING AT BEN GURION AIRPORT OUTSIDE OF TEL AVIV 55 MINUTES AFTER TAKING OFF FROM DAMASCUS, THE ANCIENT CAPITAL OF SYRIA. THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAD SPENT HALF THE DAY TALKING ABOUT A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH ASAD. THE THREE NETWORK CORRESPONDENTS HAD GOOD FILM AND A GOOD STORY. WHILE KISSINGER WAS IN DAMASCUS TRYING TO "WIFE A DEAL BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL, BREZHNEV SENT A SECRET NOTE TO ASAD, PRESUMABLY URGING THE SYRIAN LEADER TO ACCEPT KISSINGER'S MEDIATION. OFFICIAL SYRIAN SOURCES THEN SAID, UNOFFICIALLY OF COURSE, THAT THERE WOULD SOON BE AN ARAB SUMMIT MEETING, AGAIN PRESUMABLY TO RATIFY THE DEAL THAT SYRIA IS NOW CONSIDERING. THE SECRETARY HIMSELF THOUGHT THAT PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE AND HE SAID SO AT THE DAMASCUS AIRPORT.

THERE WAS COLOR IN THE STORY TOO BECAUSE SECURITY WAS EXTRAORDINARILY TIGHT. KISSINGER'S SECRET SERVICE AGENTS CARRIED ISRAELI-MADE MACHINE GUNS ON ALERT IN CASE OF TROUBLE. THE AGENT DANGLING FROM A CAR DOOR HOLDING ON TO HIS GUN MADE A VERY GOOD PICTURE. THE MOTORCADE HAD TO PASS BY A PALESTINIAN CAMP, OVER-CROWDED AND DIRTY, A SYMBOL OF THE MOST INTRACTABLE PROBLEM IN THE MIDDLE EAST. ANYWAY, THE THREE CORRESPONDENTS GOT QUICKLY OFF THE KISSINGER PLANE, RUSHED TO WAITING CARS AND THEY WERE DRIVEN AT TOP SPEED TO THE SATELLITE STATION OUTSIDE OF TEL AVIV EACH OF THEM WANTED TO BE FIRST IN THE LAB WITH HIS FILMS, FIRST TO REPORT HIS STORY, FIRST TO BE ABLE TO SEE HIS STORY BEAMED BY SATELLITE TO THE U.S. . . EACH WAS CONVINCED HE HAD A GOOD STORY, ONE WORTHY OF THE ATTENTION OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. EXCEPT AT THAT MOMENT WATERGATE INTRUDED BURSTING INTO THE KISSINGER COCOON. A TELEPHONE CALL FROM NEW YORK, A TELEVISION PRODUCER'S EXCITED VOICE RELAYING AN EXCITED MESSAGE -- THE BIRD, HE SAID, IS DOWN, MEANING SATELLITE TIME WOULD NOT BE PURCHASED BY ANY OF THE NETWORKS TO TRANSMIT THE KISSINGER STORY BY FILM, AT LEAST THAT NIGHT. WHY, THE LOGICAL QUESTION? THE ANSWER SOMETHING ABOUT JOHN MITCHELL, THE FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL KNOWING ABOUT THE WATERGATE BREAK-IN ALL

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ALONG. THE MITCHELL STORY APPARENTLY SO CRIPPING THAT THE KISSINGER STORY FALLS VICTIM TO THE PRESSURES OF TIME.

THE BIRD IS DOWN, AND WHEN THE THREE CORRESPONDENTS IN VARYING DEGREES OF DEJECTION MAKE THEIR WAY TO THEIR CARS AND CABS FOR THE HOUR AND FIFTEEN MINUTE RIDE BACK TO JERUSALEM THEY WONDER IF THEIR WORLD IS REAL AT ALL, THEIR WORLD HAS BEEN A PLANE AND A SERIES OF AIRPORTS AND MANY DIFFERENT PRESIDENTIAL PALACES AND DOZENS OF NEWS CONFERENCES, ARABS AND ISRAELI LEADERS AND A WANDERING SECRETARY OF STATE HOPPING FROM ONE ME CAPITAL TO ANOTHER SEARCHING FOR THE RIGHT MIX, THE FORMULA WHICH CAN PUT AN END TO THE HOSTILITIES ALONG THE GOLAN FRONT. THE SEARCH FOR THE RIGHT MIX BECOMES AN ALL CONSUMING THING. THE SECRETARY WORKING HIS DIPLOMATIC CHARM ON THE TOUGH PROBLEM, THE REPORTERS TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT HE IS DOING, CONSCIOUS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF A STORY TO THE PEACE OF THE WORLD. AND YET THIS WORLD OF HENRY KISSINGER AND THE ARABS AND THE JEWS SEEMS TERRIBLY UNREAL WHEN THE PRODUCER SAYS THERE HAS BEEN ANOTHER WATERGATE REVELATION, ANOTHER BREAK IN THE STORY THAT MAY YET BREAK THE PRESIDENT."

C. KALB (CBS RADIO): "KISSINGER IS NOT TALKING TO EITHER THE ISRAELIS OR THE SYRIANS TODAY; HE IS OFF TALKING TO FRIENDS OF THE SYRIANS INSTEAD. FIRST, KING FAISAL OF SAUDI ARABIA -- THE SECRETARY IS FLYING TO RIYADH TO BRIEF THE CONSERVATIVE KING ABOUT HIS EFFORTS TO DISENGAGE SYRIAN AND ISRAELI FORCES ON THE GOLAN FRONT. LUNCH THERE AND THEN AIRBORNE ONCE AGAIN TO CAIRO FOR TALKS AND DINNER WITH PRESIDENT SADAT WHO WAS THE FIRST ARAB LEADER TO BREAK THE ICE WITH ISRAEL SIGNING A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT ON THE SUEZ FRONT LAST JANUARY. TOMORROW KISSINGER RETURNS TO ISRAEL, THE ISRAELI LEADERS HAVING THEN MORE THAN TWENTY FOUR HOURS TO CONSIDER A SYRIAN COUNTER PROPOSAL TO THEIR ORIGINAL PROPOSAL WHICH KISSINGER DELIVERED TO PRESIDENT ASAD YESTERDAY IN DAMASCUS. ALTHOUGH THERE IS STILL NO AGREEMENT ON PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE AND KISSINGER HOPES THAT FAISAL AND SADAT CAN NOW INFLUENCE ASAD IN A POSITIVE DIRECTION. THE SECRETARY WILL RETURN TO DAMASCUS OVER THE WEEKEND TO CONTINUE HIS EXTRAORDINARY DIPLOMATIC EFFORT NOW SPREADING ACROSS THE MAP OF THE M.E." RUSH

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