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SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE, MAY 10, 1974

FOR ANDERSON FROM HARE

SUMMARY: WATERGATE DEVELOPMENTS UPSTAGE INCREASINGLY OPTIMISTIC REPORTS ON DISENGAGEMENT IN FRIDAY NEWSPAPERS. AFTERNOON WIRES CONTINUE IN OPTIMISTIC VEIN, REPORT SADAT IN TOUCH WITH SYRIANS, NOTE POSSIBILITY TRIP WILL BE EXTENDED. AP MENTIONS MAARIV REPORT OF NIXON MESSAGES TO MEIR; UPI CARRIES DENIALS FROM HIGH AMERICAN OFFICIAL THAT WATERGATE TRANSCRIPT CRISIS HAS AFFECTED NEGOTIATIONS.

1. GWERTZMAN PIECE FROM CAIRO PAGE 9 NYT UNDER HEAD "KISSINGER WINS GOAL OF SAUDI BACKING TOWARD A PACT ENDING SYRIA FIGHTING" REPORTS HAK RECEIVED STRONG ENDORSEMENT FROM SAQQAF IN DISENGAGEMENT EFFORT AND EXPECTS SIMILAR PUBLIC ENDORSEMENT FROM SADAT TODAY. GPERTCY IN ARAB AK LD WILL BE SURE RECENT INROADS AMERICAN POLICY IN ARAB WORLD WILL NOT BE DISSIPATED EVEN IF EFFORTS FAIL TO PRODUCE IMMEDIATE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. US OFFICIALS STILL HOPEFUL FOR ACCORD THIS WEEK, BUT LEAVE OPEN POSSIBILITY OF RETURN TO WASHINGTON WITHOUT ONE. SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL REPORTS SYRIA COMMENTED ON NEW ISRAELI MAP DRAWN DURING DAMASCUS VISIT. PAGE 1 GWERTZMAN BACKGROUND PIECE "A REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK: ON KISSINGER'S SHUTTLE" SENT SEPTEL.

2. BERGER SINGLE COLUMN PAGE 20 POST, UNDER HEAD "SAUDI VISIT HEARTENS KISSINGER," HAS AMERICAN OFFICIALS CHARACTERIZING SAQQAF SUPPORT AS "HELPFUL" AS SYRIA CONSIDERS ITS NEXT MOVES. BERGER DESCRIBES TENTATIVE PLAN NOW BEING WORKED OUT: UN WOULD OCCUPY THREE HILLS NEAR KUNEITRA THAT ISRAEL HAS SOUGHT TO RETAIN; MT. HERMON WOULD ALSO BE UNDER UN CONTROL. REPORTS GROWING FEELING THAT DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT POSSIBLE, THOUGH US OFFICIALS STILL CAUTIOUS. SAYS HAK MAY LEAVE THE AREA SOON AND RETURN IN A FEW WEEKS TO COMPLETE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT THE LONGER HE WAITS, THE MORE LIKELY BOTH SIDES WILL HARDEN THEIR POSI-

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TIONS. MENTIONS CONSENSUS IN ARAB COUNTRIES THAT RUSSIANS NOT OPPOSED TO SETTLEMENT BEARING LARGELY US IMPRINT.

3. SAIKOWSKI STORY PAGE 1 CSM, "TALKS TURN FAVORABLY IN MIDEAST," SAYS HAK PURSUING STRATEGY OF WOOING ARAB GOVERNMENTS AND INVOLVING THEM IN EFFORT TO END HOSTILITIES ON GOLAN HEIGHTS. SEES GOOD MOVEMENT FORWARD ON ALL ELEMENTS OF AN AGREEMENT, INCLUDING DEMARCATION LINE. US OFFICIALS SAY BOTH SIDES HAVE BUDGED FROM ORIGINAL POSITIONS ALTHOUGH HAK STILL FAR FROM ACHIEVING AGREEMENT. HIGH US OFFICIAL REPORTS EACH SIDE BEGINNING TO GET A "GLIMMER" OF WHAT THE OTHER IS TALKING ABOUT. AT THIS STAGE, HAK TRYING TO GET ISRAEL AND SYRIA TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER'S POSITIONS BEFORE HE INJECTS HIS OWN IDEAS. US OFFICIALS SAY NEGOTIATIONS MOVING INTO CRITICAL PHASE THAT DOES NOT PERMIT THEM TO DISCLOSE DETAILS. NO INDICATION OF CONCERN AMONG US OFFICIALS LEST ARABS REIMPOSE OIL EMBARGO, ALTHOUGH THEY ADMIT ISSUE MAY BE REVIEWED AT JUNE 1 ARAB SUMMIT IF TROOP SEPARATION NOT IN SIGHT. BUT US OFFICIALS FEEL ARAB NATIONS REALIZE EMBARGO HURT WESTERN EUROPE MORE THAN US, THUS UNLIKELY IT WILL BE INTRODUCED AGAIN.

4. GLOBE REPEATS BERGER STORY PAGE 2 UNDER HEAD "KISSINGER IN EGYPT FOR THIRD SET OF TALKS." NOTHING FROM JHABVALA.

5. O'LEARY LEADS FROM CAIRO WITH HAK DISCUSSION WITH SADAT IN PAGE 9 STORY "KISSINGER ON THIRD SHUTTLE TO EGYPT." REPORTS SYRIANS HAVE GIVEN HAK REFLECTIONS ON MODIFIED ISRAELI PROPOSAL, ALTHOUGH US OFFICIALS AVOID USING WORD "PROPOSAL" DUE TO HEATED DOMESTIC SITUATION IN SYRIA AND ISRAEL, SPEAK EUPHEMISTICALLY OF "CONSIDERATIONS" INSTEAD. O'LEARY SAYS HAK BELIEVES DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT POSSIBLE NEXT WEEK, BUT OFFICIALS CLOSE TO SITUATION FEEL LIKELIHOOD LESS THAN 50-50.

6. MORNING AP REPORT FROM JERUSALEM QUOTES HAK ON TALKS WITH SADAT: "WE HAVE HAD VERY EXTENSIVE AND DETAILED TALKS AND AS ALWAYS I LEAVE SATISFIED WITH OUR DISCUSSIONS." REFERS TO MAARIV REPORT NIXON SENT THREE MESSAGES TO MEIR DURING CURRENT MIDEAST SWING, THE FIRST ASKING FOR ISRAEL'S COOPERATION, THE SECOND REQUESTING ISRAEL SHOW FLEXIBILITY, THE THIRD IMPLYING A THREAT IF IT DIDN'T. NIXON QUOTED IN LAST MESSAGE SAYING "HISTORY DOES NOT REPEAT ITSELF," APPARENTLY REFERRING TO US ARMS LIFT TO ISRAEL. AFTERNOON REPORT LEADS WITH US OFFICIALS REPORT SADAT HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SYRIANS AND BELIEVES PROGRESS BEING MADE. US OFFICIALS SAY OUTCOME OF HAK MISSION

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SHOULD BECOME CLEAR BY TUESDAY. ONE OFFICIAL STATES, "WE ARE GOING HOME NEXT WEEKEND," NO MATTER WHAT RESULTS ARE OBTAINED. HAK TELLS NEWSMEN IN JERUSALEM, "WE ARE NOW GOING THROUGH A DETAILED EXAMINATION" OF ISRAELI AND SYRIAN PROPOSALS, "BUT WE CANNOT TALK ABOUT AN AGREEMENT," SAYS HE CONTINUES "TO BELIEVE SOME PROGRESS IS BEING MADE" ON DISENGAGEMENT.

7. MORNING UPI DISPATCHES IN PESSIMISTIC VEIN OF YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, HAVE HIGH AMERICAN OFFICIAL DESCRIBING DISENGAGEMENT AS NOT EVEN AT HALFWAY POINT. LATER REPORTS NOTE INCREASED OPTIMISM, CITE EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS WHO EXPECT HAK TO ENGAGE IN "VERY INTENSIFIED DISCUSSIONS" OVER NEXT FOUR DAYS. HIGH AMERICAN OFFICIAL IN HAK PARTY POINTS OUT ODDS CHANGE DAILY, PLACES HAK CHANCES OF SUCCESS AT 52-48 IN FAVOR. SAME OFFICIAL SAYS HE MUST BE IN WASHINGTON BY MAY 21 TO ATTEND CENTO MEETING. CAUTIONS THERE WILL BE NO FORMAL CEASE-FIRE IN GOLAN FIGHTING, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS A REDUCTION, WITHOUT FINAL AGREEMENT. HIGH AMERICAN OFFICIAL DENIES WATERGATE TRANSCRIPT CRISIS HAS HAD ANY EFFECT ON MIDEAST NEGOTIATIONS, SAYS ARABS CONFUSED ABOUT WHAT THE AMERICAN CRISIS IS ALL ABOUT, REPEATS THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE BUT DECLINES TO SAY WHY MORE OPTIMISTIC IN PAST 24 HOURS.

8. FYI: ROBERT ANDERSON PLEASE PASS ALONG TO JACK REEDY OF SECRET SERVICE: POST STORY "CAPITAL CENTRE AIDE GAVE CAR TOW ORDER" COVERS POLICE REPORT PLACING BLAME FOR LAST MONTH'S CAR-TOWING INCIDENT AT SINATRA CONCERT ON CHIEF OF OPERATION AT LARGO ARENA, THEREBY EXONERATING SECRET SERVICE.

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