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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR  
 SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE, MAY 12, 1974

FOR ANDERSON FROM PERNICK

1. SUMMARY: NYT AND WASHSTAR FEATURE SISCO/ SAUNDERS JAUNT TO EL QUNEITRA AREA WHILE WASHPOST FOCUSES ON DETAILS ISRAELI PROPOSALS DISCUSSED SATURDAY EVENING FOR PRESENTATION TO ASSAD. UPI CARRIES PARTY INTO MEETING WITH ASSAD. AP UNAVAILABLE. END SUMMARY

2. GWERTZMAN, NYT, P.1, HEADS, "2 KISSINGER AIDES VISIT GOLAN AREA, FOCUS OF DISPUTE," AND SUBHEADS, "SPEND 4 HOURS IN INSPECTION OF HILLS WHOSE RETURN IS OPPOSED BY ISRAELIS." LEADS WITH SISCO/SAUNDERS/GUR TRIP TO GOLAN HEIGHTS TO INSPECT AREA AROUND EL QUNEITRA. WHILE NO OFFICIAL REASON GIVEN FOR TRIP AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAID PRIVATELY, SISCO/SAUNDERS WANTED FIRST-HAND LOOK. STATES WAS FIRST TIME MEMBERS OF HAK'S PARTY HAVE SEEN THIS MUCH DISCUSSED AREA. SAYS AFTER SISCO/SAUNDERS RETURN AND MEETING WITH HAK, HAK AND AIDES MET WITH ISRAELIS HEADED BY DAYAN TO GO OVER ISRAELI PROPOSALS WHICH HAK WILL PRESENT TO ASSAD.

3. GWERTZMAN STATES "TOMORROW'S TALKS IN DAMASCUS LOOM AS DECISIVE," WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAYING HAK "MIGHT KNOW BY THE END OF DAY" WHETHER DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT POSSIBLE THIS WEEK.

4. PROVIDES ACCOUNT OF RUMORED HAK SECRET DEPARTURE FOR US AND MCCLOSKEY'S EFFORTS OVERCOME NEWSMEN SKEPTICISM BY PERSONALLY VISITING HAK AND REPORTING BACK TO NEWSMEN. MENTIONS KEATING'S SURPRISE PARTY FOR BUNKER AND HAK'S ACCOLADE FOR BUNKER, WHICH GWERTZMAN STATES, SOME NEWSMEN READ AS "A COMPARISON WITH MR. NIXON, NOT FAVORABLE TO THE PRESIDENT." ADDS HAK'S AIDES SAID, "HE DID NOT HAVE THAT IN MIND." SAYS HAK HAS COPY WH TRANSCRIPTS WHICH HE READS FROM TIME TO TIME BUT HAS NOT FINISHED. "HE HAS NOT MADE ANY COMMENT TO NEWSMEN." STATES "OFFICIALS

DEALING WITH" HAK SAY HE "HAD NOT DETECTED ANY IMPACT ON HIS ABILITY TO DEAL WITH ISRAELIS AND SYRIANS BECAUSE OF MR. NIXON'S TROUBLES."

5. CONCLUDES WITH BRIEF REVIEW GOLAN CONSIDERATIONS. SAYS GUR OPPOSES TURNOVER THREE HILLS SURROUNDING EL QUNEITRA TO SYRIANS CONTENDING WOULD JEOPARDIZE ISRAELI GOLAN SETTLEMENTS.

6. O'LEARY WASHSTAR, P.5, HEADS "KISSINGER AIDES VISIT GOLAN FRONT ON MAP MISSION." SAYS HAK'S THIRD VISIT TO DAMASCUS THIS TRIP "MAY BE THE LAST EFFORT AT SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY" ON THIS MISSION. STATES HAK ARMED WITH "SOME FIRST HAND OBSERVATIONS" OF SISCO/SAUNDERS WHO VISITED EL QUNEITRA AREA. HAK ALSO HAS LATEST ISRAELI VIEWPOINT "ABOUT HOW FAR THEY ARE PREPARED TO GO TO ACCOMPLISH SEPARATION OF FORCES." SAYS HAK'S MEETING WITH ISRAELIS WAS "EFFORT TO OBTAIN FURTHER REFINEMENTS" THEIR "MINIMUM CONDITIONS." SAYS HAK EXPECTED MEET WITH ISRAELIS TONIGHT AFTER DAMASCUS "TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS ANY POINT IN CONTINUING PRESENT ROUND" TALKS.

7. O'LEARY NOTES SPECULATION THAT HAK FOCUSING ON SEPARATION-OF-FORCES LINE. SAYS ISRAEL REPORTED READY EVACUATE EL QUNEITRA BUT NOT WITHDRAW FROM HILLS SURROUNDING TOWN. SAYS ONE SENIOR US OFFICIAL QUESTIONS STRATEGIC VALUE OF HILLS BUT NOT EMOTIONAL IMPACT ON SYRIA OF EL QUNEITRA IN ISRAELI HANDS- REPORTS HAK'S DESIRE ACHIEVE DISENGAGEMENT THIS WEEK AND EXPECTATION HE WILL INTENSIFY SHUTTLE IF HE PERCEIVES AFTER TODAY "TWO SIDES ARE WITHIN NEGOTIATING RANGE." SAYS, HOWEVER, HAK "IS RUNNING OUT OF TIME" AND IF HE SEES DISENGAGEMENT AS HOPELESS, HE MAY RETURN WASHINGTON BY TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY, ALLOWING MEDIATION CONTINUE "BY REMOTE CONTROL" AND WITH AID OF ARAB MODERATES.

8. BERGER, WASHPOST, P. 12, HEADED BY "KISSINGER, ISRAELIS FOCUS ON SPECIFICS," SAYS HAK MET WITH ISRAELIS "TO WORK OUT SPECIFICS OF THE NUMBERS OF TANKS AND GUNS AND THE SIZE OF THE UN FORCE TO REMAIN ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS" AFTER SEPARATION OF FORCES. SAYS DISCUSSED THINNING OUT OF FORCES, INCLUDING WITHDRAWAL OF TANKS AND GUNS. STATES ISRAEL SAID TO DESIRE RETENTION SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF TANKS TO PROTECT HULEH VALLEY SETTLEMENTS. SAYS NEED FOR UN PRESENCE AGREED TO WITH ISRAEL WANTING "SEVERAL THOUSAND HIGHLY MOBILE TROOPS" AS WELL AS

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ASSURANCES "FORCE CAN BE REMOVED ONLY WITH CONSENT OF BOTH SIDES." SAYS SYRIA NOW EXPECTED ACCEPT LARGER FORCE DESPITE INITIAL DESIRE FOR LIMITED NUMBER OBSERVERS. REPORTS EBAN SAID BEFORE EVENING MEETING WITH HAK THAT HAK "MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS."

9. ARTICLE ALSO REHASHES HAK CALLBACK RUMORS AND SISCO/ SAUNDERS TRIP AND INCLUDES TWO INSERTS: LA TIMES BEIRUT REPORT OF SIGN OF OPTIMISM BEING SYRIAN CALL FOR ARAB SUMMIT MEETING "TO PREPARE FOR THE 'NEXT PHASE' OF NEGOTIATIONS, AFTER THE SEPARATION OF FORCES."; AND AL ANWAR STORY ON HAK MEETING WITH FAISAL AND POSSIBLE REIMPOSITION OIL EMBARGO. NOTES PARTY MAY SPEND MONDAY IN KUWAIT AWAITING ISRAELI REPLY.

10. LANDREY, UPI FROM DAMASCUS, WRITES HAK MET WITH ASSAD "IN A MAKE OR BREAK ATTEMPT" AT DISENGAGEMENT. TERMS MEETING "CRUCIAL" FOR HAK "WHO HAD TO RETURN TO ISRAEL TONIGHT SHOWING PROGRESS IF HE WAS TO SUCCEED IN BRINGING ABOUT AN AGREEMENT ON DISENGAGEMENT THIS WEEK." SAYS HIGH US OFFICIAL STATED IF NO PROGRESS HAK WOULD BE FORCED FLY TO WASHINGTON AND RETURN TO ME LATER TO TRY AGAIN. SAYS OFFICIAL STATED HAK AND ASSAD WOULD DISCUSS MAINLY LOCATION OF CEASEFIRE LINE. WHILE OTHER QUESTIONS AFFECTING DISENGAGEMENT WOULD BE DISCUSSED, OFFICIAL SAID, THEY "WOULD PROBABLY FALL INTO PLACE" ONCE AGREEMENT ON LINE WAS REACHED. QUOTES HIGH OFFICIAL SAYING THERE WAS "GOOD POSSIBILITY" DISENGAGEMENT ACCORD WOULD BE SIGNED IN GENEVA WHEN ME PEACE TALKS RESUMED IF AGREEMENT IS REACHED THIS WEEK. SAYS OFFICIAL STATED THAT "SHADE MORE OPTIMISM IN KISSINGER'S PARTY WAS BASED ON THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE IN BOTH SYRIA AND ISRAEL." ALSO STATES ISRAELIS HAVE SAID "ISRAEL HAS MADE ALL THE CONCESSIONS IT INTENDS TO MAKE AND THE NEXT IS UP TO SYRIA."

11. LANDREY NOTES MRS. KISSINGER, WHO ACCOMPANIED HAK TO SYRIA FOR FIRST TIME, LUNCHEDED WITH WIFE OF FOMMIN KHADDAM AND VISITED NATIONAL MUSEUM. REPORTS ALSO ON PRESENCE EVERYWHERE OF SYRIAN SECURITY MEN, IN SOME PLACES "GROUPED MORE HEAVILY" THAN DURING HAK'S TWO PREVIOUS VISITS. RUSH

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