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E.O. 11652: N/A  
 TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR  
 SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE, MAY 11, 1974

FOR ANDERSON FROM PERNICK

1. SUMMARY: THREE DAILIES (NO BOSTGLOBE OR CSM) REPORT FROM JERUSALEM NEXT SHUTTLE ROUNDS SIGNIFICANT AND TUESDAY DAY WHEN HAK DECIDES WHETHER TO RETURN HOME DIRECTLY WITH PARTIAL PROGRESS OR REMAIN TO WORK OUT FULL ACCORD. AP NOTES CHANCE FOR AN AGREEMENT AND UPI CONCENTRATES PERES' RADIO INTERVIEW. END SUMMARY

2. GWERTZMAN, NYT, P. 2, UNDER HEAD "KISSINGER BELIEVES SYRIAN-ISRAELI DECISION IS NEAR," STATES HAK TOLD ISRAELIS MAY 10 EVENING "HE MIGHT KNOW BY NEXT TUESDAY WHETHER HE COULD BRING ABOUT" SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. SAYS BOTH US AND ISRAELI OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGE QUICKENING IN PACE TOWARD AN ACCORD IN LAST FEW DAYS, WITH UNCERTAINTY STILL REMAINING. SAYS HAK TOLD AIDES HE HOPES TO MAKE "A MAJOR PUSH IN THE NEXT DAYS TO SEE WHETHER POSSIBILITIES REALLY EXISTED FOR AN EARLY AGREEMENT." IF HE SEES BY TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY AGREEMENT POSSIBLE, HE PLANS TRY WORK IT OUT BY END OF NEXT WEEK. IF HE CONCLUDES AGREEMENT NOT LIKELY, PLANS RETURN WASHINGTON THURSDAY OR FRIDAY.

SAYS TRAVELING NEWSMEN WERE INFORMED HAK MUST RETURN BY MAY 21. NOTED CAUTION TO NEWSMEN THAT WHILE HAK BELIEVED PROGRESS BEING MADE, HE NOT YET SURE "HOW CLOSE HE WAS TO AN AGREEMENT." MENTIONS IMPROVEMENT OF ODDS FAVORING AGREEMENT FROM 50-50 TO 52-48. STATES THAT LOCATION OF SEPARATION OF FORCES LINE IS THE CRUCIAL ISSUE, QUOTING OFFICIAL'S REMARK: "IF WE GET THE LINE, WE WILL SETTLE THE REST." SAYS SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAID OTHER PROBLEMS -- SIZE OF BUFFER ZONE, UN TRUCE SUPERVISORY ROLE, AND THINNING OUT OF MILITARY FORCES -- WERE NEGOTIABLE

3. GWERTZMAN REPORTS SCHEDULE AS FOLLOWS: FRIDAY DINNER WITH DAYAN AND DINITZ; SATURDAY - SIGHTSEEING AND RELAXATION WITH MRS. KISSINGER; AFTER SUNDOWN SATURDAY MEETING

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WITH ISRAELI LEADERS; RETURN TO DAMASCUS SUNDAY; AND PROBABLE RETURN TO ISRAEL SUNDAY NIGHT. SAYS YOU TOLD NEWSMEN HAK IN MEETING WITH PM MEIR REPORTED ON DISCUSSIONS IN SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT. QUOTES YOU SAYING AMERICANS AND ISRAELIS "CONTINUE TO BELIEVE PROGRESS IS BEING MADE."

4. OVERMAN STATES NEWSMEN NOT PRIVY TO DETAILS OF DISCUSSIONS, THUS "UNABLE TO JUDGE WHETHER THERE WERE GROUNDS FOR OPTIMISM." QUOTES PERES' STATEMENT, "THE MERE FACT THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE GOING ON IS AN OMEN FOR SOME OPTIMISM. REMARKS THAT OPTIMISM IN HAK NEGOTIATIONS OFTEN USED AS NEGOTIATING TOOL -- HAK ON ARRIVAL IN ISRAEL USUALLY MAKES OPTIMISTIC STATEMENT, BELIEVING IT WILL ENCOURAGE MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH ON ISRAELIS' PART. (ARTICLE ACCOMPANIED BY PHOTO ISRAELI AIDES "CARRYING BUNDLES OF MAPS" TO PM MEIR'S OFFICE.)

5. BERGER, WASHPOST, P. 1, UNDER FOLD, IS HEADED "MIDEAST ACCORD NOW HELD LIKELY." LEADS HAK RETURNED TO JERUSALEM "WITH INCREASED OPTIMISM" THAT DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT "CAN BE REACHED DURING THE NEXT WEEK." ALSO MENTIONS IMPROVED ODDS. INSERT PARA FROM WIRE REPORTS QUOTES HAK: "THERE IS PROGRESS. WE ARE NOW GOING THROUGH A DETAILED EXAMINATION OF THE ELEMENTS OF THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT." SAYS THIS WAS HAK'S FIRST STATEMENT ABOUT THE TALKS FOR DIRECT ATTRIBUTION.

6. BERGER TAKES ITINERARY THROUGH FURTHER JERUSALEM-DAMASCUS SHUTTLE MONDAY AND TUESDAY, BY WHICH TIME, SAID SENIOR US OFFICIAL, IT WOULD BECOME CLEARER WHETHER HAK RETURNS HOME "REGISTERING PARTIAL PROGRESS" OR REMAINS TO WORK OUT WHOLE DEAL. BERGER QUOTES PERES' OPTIMISM AND ALLOAN'S PRE-DEPARTURE FOR LONDON STATEMENT THAT CHANCES HAD "DEFINITELY IMPROVED." SAYS "REPORTS CIRCULATING" IN ISRAEL STATE PRES NIXON "REGISTERED HIS EAGERNESS FOR AN AGREEMENT IN ONE OR MORE PERSONAL LETTERS TO PM MEIR. BERGER RELATES THIS TO NEED FOR A "FOREIGN POLICY SUCCESS" IN "DEEPENING WATERGATE CRISIS."

7. BERGER SAYS HAK LEFT RIYADH WITH "WHAT AMOUNTED TO A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE" FROM FAISAL, AND WON ANOTHER VOTE FROM SADAT IN CAIRO. SAYS ON PLACE SENIOR OFFICIAL AGREED "PROGRESS IS BEING MADE" AND THINKS THERE IS POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER PROGRESS. OFFICIAL TERMED SADAT "VERY, VERY CONSTRUCTIVE." BERGER REMARKS AS "DEPARTURE FROM WHAT HAS BECOME CUSTOM" FACT THAT SADAT AND HAK DID NOT HOLD JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE ON DEPARTURE, CITING AS REASON HAK'S DESIRE TO ARRIVE IN JERUSALEM PRIOR TO SABBATH.

8. SHE SEES INCREASING SIGNS FROM DAMASCUS THAT SYRIA "IS  
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PREPARING TO STRIKE A DEAL." CITES FULLER PRESS AND RADIO COVERAGE OF HAK VISITS; ALSO MENTIONS REPORTED ORDER FROM ASSAD TO RADICAL PALESTINIAN GUERRILLA LEADERS NEAR BORDER TO MOVE BACK; FINALLY NOTES REPORTS THAT ASSAD HAS CALLED FOR AN ARAB SUMMIT, AND BELIEF THAT "ASSAD MAY NOT WANT TO GO AHEAD WITH AN AGREEMENT WITHOUT ARAB ENDORSEMENT." ALSO SAYS CREDENCE LENT TO THIS VIEW BY FACT ASSAD DURING HAK WEDNESDAY DAMASCUS VISIT MADE PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT PROGRESS WAS ACHIEVED.

9. O'LEARY (WASHSTAR), OP-ED PAGE, HEADS "KISSINGER AWAITS ISRAELI REPLY." STATES HAK MEETS TONIGHT WITH ISRAELI LEADERS BEFORE THIRD AND "POSSIBLY FINAL TRIP TO SYRIA TOMORROW." SAYS "MEETING COULD BE CRUCIAL BECAUSE KISSINGER IS RUNNING OUT OF TIME HE COULD REMAIN AWAY FROM WASHINGTON," AND MENTIONS CENTO MEETING AND SPANISH AND SALDE TALKS. SAYS OFFICIAL RAISED POSSIBILITY THAT "AGREEMENT ON WHICH NO DETAILS ARE MADE PUBLIC" COULD RESULT BECAUSE OF ISRAELI AND SYRIAN DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATIONS. SAYS OFFICIAL "AVOIDED THE TERM 'SECRET' BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT" ONLY HAK AND TWO GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE PRIVY TO CONTENTS SUCH AN AGREEMENT.

10. O'LEARY STATES MOST SENIOR US OFFICIALS INTERPRET SYRIA'S REQUEST FOR ARAB SUMMIT AS ASSAD NEEDING SUPPORT OF ARAB MODERATES "TO HELP HIM ACKNOWLEDGE AN AGREEMENT" WHICH WOULD GIVE SYRIA LESS THAN ITS "EARLIER URGENT DEMANDS," RATHER THAN SYRIA SEEKING SUPPORT FOR INTENTION TO HOLD HARD LINE. SAYS OFFICIALS NOT EXPLAINING WHY ALL CONCUR THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, BUT O'LEARY SEES SIGNS THAT HAK HAS FOUND ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS TO SECONDARY ISSUES. KEY PROBLEM IS THAT OF SEPARATION LINE.

11. STATES US OFFICIALS HINT UN ROLE MAY BE KEPT "PURPOSELY VAGUE" BECAUSE OF ISRAELI-US COMMITMENT TO A UNEF WHILE SYRIA DESIRES ONLY UN OBSERVER TEAMS. ANTICIPATES SOLUTION WOULD BE A UN FORCE WITHOUT US OR SOVIET PARTICIPATING.

12. FINALLY, O'LEARY MENTIONS MAARIV REPORT ON THREE MESSAGES SENT BY PRES NIXON TO PM MEIR ASKING FOR ISRAELI COOPERATION AND FLEXIBILITY AND IMPLYING A THREAT TO WITHHOLD WEAPONRY. MENTIONS ISRAELI TONOFF'S WITHHOLDING OF COMMENT AND US OFFICIALS' ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MESSAGES BUT REFUSAL TO CONFIRM CONTENTS.

13. SCHWEID (AP) STATES "AMERICAN AND ISRAELI OFFICIALS APPEARED APPREHENSIVE BUT HOPEFUL THAT PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE AND THAT THERE REMAINED A CHANCE" FOR AGREEMENT. QUOTES HAK "SOME PROGRESS IS BEING MADE", AND THAT BOTH SIDES MAKING "A DETAILED EXAMINATION" OF THEIR RESPECTIVE PROPOSALS "BUT WE CANNOT TALK ABOUT AN

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AGREEMENT." ALSO MENTIONS SIGNS OF SOME POSITIONS "BENT ENOUGH TO PERMIT SOME SORT OF AN ACCORD" PRIOR HAK RETURN WASHINGTON. SAYS US OFFICIALS STATED SADAT HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SYRIAN GOVERNMENT AND MENTIONS "LEADING EGYPTIAN COMMENTATOR" URGING SYRIANS "ACCEPT A DISENGAGEMENT PACT QUICKLY BEFORE ISRAEL COULD OVERCOME WEAKNESSES IN THE LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL SPHERES." ALSO REPORTS MAARIV ACCOUNT OF MESSAGES TO PM MEIR INCLUDING LAST MESSAGE WITH ALLEGED IMPLIED THREAT.

14. LATER UNBYLINED AP JERUSALEM REPORT DISCUSSES RUMOR OF HAK'S RECALL AND MCCLOSKEY'S DENIAL.

15. UPI (NO BYLINE) LEADS WITH ACCUNT ISRAELI MININFO PERES IN NATIONAL RADIO INTERVIEW SAYING SYRIANS FOR FIRST TIME APPEAR TO BE DISCUSSING DISENGAGEMENT ALONG SAME LINES AS ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN ACCORD. MENTIONS PERES' IMPRESSION THAT HAK "CONTINUES IN FACT TO BE OPTIMISTIC." STATES PERES SAID ISRAEL'S 18 GOLAN SETTLEMENTS WILL NOT BE GIVEN UP IN ANY AGREEMENT. UPI SAYS HAK ON SUNDAY BEGINS WEEKS "THAT WILL DETERMINE WHETHER THERE WILL BE A DISENGAGEMENT DURING HIS CURRENT MISSION OR IF HE MUST RETURN TO REGION LATER." ALSO MENTIONS AL ANWAR REPORT THAT SAUDIS TOLD HAK THAT "ARABS MAY RECONSIDER SUPPLYING OIL TO THE US IF DISENGAGEMENT IS NOT AGREED UPON."

16. LATER AND LENGTHIER UPI REPORT REPLAYS ENTIRE TRIP WITH EMPHASIS ON NON-SHUTTLE STOPOVERS. CONCLUDES: "WHATEVER (HAK) WAS DOING WAS NOT ONLY TO WIN MORE ARAB SUPPORT FOR HIS EFFORTS. HE WAS ALSO KEEPING THE ARAB LEADERS FULLY INFORMED SO THAT IF THE EFFORT SHOULD FAIL, THE US COULD BE SEEN TO HAVE DONE EVERYTHING IT COULD. IN THE MEANTIME, THE OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES MIGHT USE THEIR INFLUENCE WITH SYRIA. BUT WHATEVER HAPPENS, IT WOULD PRESERVE POSITIONS AND FRIENDS IN THE ARAB WORLD." RUSH

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