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O 131723Z MAY 74 ZFF4 UNCLASSIFIED 13 MAY 74 - 18:45Z  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC *Classification*  
TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE 5490  
BT  
UNCLAS STATE 098552

TOSEC 574

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR  
SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE: RADIO/TV, MAY 13

FOR ANDERSON FROM HARE

1. NO FILM COVERAGE FROM ANY TRAVELLER OVER WEEK-END. ADDITIONALLY, RADIO COVERAGE, EXCEPT FOR ANCHORMEN COMMENTS, WAS SPARCE. FOLLOWING KALB REPORT CARRIED MONDAY MORNING, CBS RADIO FROM JERUSALEM:

"KISSINGER MET WITH PM GOLDA MEIR AND OTHER TOP ISRAELI LEADERS FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF THIS MORNING. THEN THE ISRAELI CABINET WENT INTO SPECIAL SESSION TO CONSIDER THE LATEST PROPOSALS FOR A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT -- PROPOSALS OR IDEAS THAT PRESIDENT ASSAD OF SYRIA GAVE THE SECRETARY YESTERDAY. CENTRAL TO ANY POSSIBLE COMPROMISE IS CONTROL OF KUNEITRA, THE FORMER SYRIAN DISTRICT CAPITAL ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS, AND THREE HILLS FLANKING THE CITY AND THREE ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN-THE VALLEYS BELOW THE HILLS.

"MOST OF THE REPORTERS ACCOMPANYING KISSINGER WERE HELICOP-TERED TO THE GOLAN HEIGHTS TODAY TO EXAMINE FIRST-HAND THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE THAT ISRAEL ATTACHES TO THE THREE HILLS AROUND KUNEITRA. THE REPORTERS WERE DRIVEN THROUGH THE WRECKED BOMBED OUT HULL OF THAT CITY, THEN TO THE TALL-EST OF THE THREE HILLS. SYRIAN ARTILLERY SHELLS KEPT COM-ING IN, ONE TO TWO KILOMETERS AWAY. THEN FINALLY TO A KIBBUTZ -- THREE HUNDRED ISRAELIS BUILDING THEIR HOMES, CHILDREN PLAYING IN GARDENS, APPARENTLY OBLIVIOUS TO THE INCOMING SHELLS EXPLODING IN YELLOW PUFFS OF SMOKE ON THE HILL JUST ABOVE US. THE ISRAELI ARMY COLONEL, OUR GUIDE, SIMPLY LAUGHED WHEN A REPORTER ASKED WHETHER THE ISRAELIS MIGHT ABANDON THE KIBBUTZ OR THE HILLS. HE DID NOT SEEM TO BE ESPECIALLY ATTACHED TO KUNEITRA."

2. IN OTHER REPORTING OUT OF YOUR AREA, ANDREW MERSELS ABC RADIO FROM JERUSALEM, REPORTS ISRAELI UNWILLINGNESS TO

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GIVE UP HILLS SURROUNDING KUNEITRA, AND DEAN BRALIS, CBS RADIO FROM DAMASCUS, STATES THERE ARE HINTS FROM SYRIAN OFFICIALS THAT HAK MIGHT BE ON THRESHOLD OF DIS-ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. BRALIS CITES SYRIAN NEWSPAPER QUOTING HAK DAMASCUS STATEMENT "FOR FIRST TIME"; SYRIAN GOVERNMENT ISSUING STATEMENT IN "WARM AND CONFIDENT" LANGUAGE WITHOUT DEMANDS; AND SYRIAN TV DEVOTING FIVE O NUTES TO HAK-ASSAD MEETING SHOWING FILM OF BOTH "LAUGHING AND FRIENDLY."

RUSH  
BT

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