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 TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR
 SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE, MAY 13, 1974

FOR ANDERSON FROM HARE

SUMMARY: MIDEAST SHUTTLE BACK ON PAGE 1 OF MONDAY MORNING NEWSPAPERS WITH OPTIMISTIC REPORTS FROM JERUSALEM. ALL STORIES MENTION THREE HILLS NEAR EL QUNEITRA AS STICKING POINT. WIRES LESS OPTIMISTIC, DESCRIBE DEMONSTRATIONS BY ISRAELI PIONEER SETTLERS FROM GOLAN AREA, IMPLY POSSIBLE HARDENING OF ISRAEL'S BARGAINING POSITION. NEWSWEEK CONCENTRATES ON HAK'S LARGER PERSPECTIVE ON MIDEAST, TIME MENTIONS TRIP ONLY IN PASSING IN LENGTHY STORY ON SADAT'S EGYPT. END SUMMARY.

1. GWERTZMAN STORY APPEARS PAGE 1 ABOVE FOLD IN NYT UNDER HEAD "KISSINGER MEETS SYRIAN PRESIDENT AND NOTES GAIN" WITH PIX OF ASAD INSPECTING GOLAN BATTLEFRONT AND OF HAK AND EBAN AT JERUSALEM MEETING. HAK SAYS IN DAMASCUS THAT HE AND SYRIAN LEADERS HAVE GONE FROM GENERAL TO "A DETAILED AND COMPLETE EXAMINATION" OF ALL ISSUES, BUT THAT ACCORD STILL ELUSIVE. NEWSMEN ARE TOLD HAK STILL UNCERTAIN HE CAN SOON BRIDGE GAP. AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAY HAK HOPES ISRAEL WILL MAKE ADDITIONAL COMPROMISES NEEDED TO ACHIEVE ACCORD WHEN HE RETURNS TO DAMASCUS TUESDAY. AMERICAN

OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGE MAIN PROBLEM REMAINS DEMARCATION LINE IN GOLAN HEIGHTS, SPECIFICALLY THREE HILLS NEAR EL QUNEITRA. GWERTZMAN CALLS MOST IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT IN DAMASCUS TALKS INCLUSION OF TWO MAJOR SYRIAN MILITARY LEADERS, INDICATING ASAD SEEKS BROADER INVOLVEMENT OF SYRIAN LEADERSHIP IN CASE OF AGREEMENT. SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYS OF ASAD "IF WE CAN FIND SOMETHING BEARABLE TO HIM, HE'D TAKE AN AGREEMENT." SAME OFFICIALS SAYS REMAINING DIFFERENCES RELATIVELY SMALL BUT "MAY BE TOO MUCH FOR EVERYBODY," STRESSES UNCERTAINTY IS GENUINE AND NOT A TRICK TO MAKE EVENTUAL AGREEMENT SEEM MORE DRAMATIC.

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2. POST CARRIES BERGER STORY PAGE 1 "KISSINGER INDICATES PROGRESS: ISRAELI CABINET MEETS TODAY ON PROPOSALS". HAK QUOTED IN DAMASCUS : "WE MADE SOME PROGRESS, BUT NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED". SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYS NEXT 24 TO 48 HOURS WILL TELL WHETHER AGREEMENT FEASIBLE THIS TRIP, FEELS ONLY A SHORT DISTANCE TO GO BUT PERHAPS TOO LENGTHY FOR BOTH SIDES. BERGER REPORTS THREE HILLS WEST OF EL QUENEITRA STILL AT ISSUE. SENIOR AMERICAN DOUBTS ISRAEL WILL CEDE HILLS TO THE UN. BERGER POINTS TO CHANGED ATMOSPHERE IN DAMASCUS AS SIGN AGREEMENT NEAR, SAYS NOT SINCE 1948 HAS THERE BEEN SUCH A WARM FEELING TOWARD U.S. REPORTS SYRIAN OFFICIALS SAY THEY FEEL THEY CAN INSIST HAK PRESSURE THE ISRAELIS SINCE HAK NEEDS DISENGAGEMENT TO PROVIDE NIXON WITH FOREIGN POLICY SUCCESS TO COUNTER WATERGATE. SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIALS DECLINE TO DISCUSS U.S. ROLE IN GUARANTEEING ACCORD, BUT CONCEDE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT COULD SERVE AS PROTOTYPE. SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL DENIES REPORT HAK TOLD BY FAISAL OIL EMBARGO REIMPOSED IF NO DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT REACHED.

3. SAIKOWSKI ARTICLE APPEARS PAGE 1 CSM UNDER HEAD "WEEK OF DECISION IN THE MIDEAST?" SHE REPORTS THIS MAY BE A WEEK OF "MOMENTOUS" DECISION SINCE HAK BELIEVES THERE IS SLIGHTLY BETTER THAN EVEN CHANG OF AGREEMENT. REPORTS HAK PREPARED TO SUSPEND MEDIATION EFFORTS AND RETURN TO WASHINGTON IF NO BREAKTHROUGH EVIDENT EARLY IN WEEK, FEELS THIS MAY BE A PLOY TO SPUR BOTH SIDES TO EARLY CONCESSIONS TO KEEP HAK ON SCENE. SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS PARTICULARLY HEARTENED BY ALLUSIONS TO PROGRESS IN SYRIAN MEDIA, SUGGEST OFFER TO REBUILD EL QUNEITRA MAY BE ELEMENT OF DISENGAGEMENT SOLUTION. SAIKOWSKI REPORTS HAK MAINTAINS UTMOST SECRECY AS HE JETS BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN CAPITALS AND HIS AIDES CAUTION AGAINST BELIEVING MYRIAD REPORTS OF DISENGAGEMENT PLANS IN ISRAELI MEDIA AND ELSEWHERE.

4. O'LEARY STORY DOMINATES PAGE 1 OF STAR UNDER HEAD "KISSINGER REPORTS MIDEAST PROGRESS". SAYS HAK DISCLOSES NEW INTENSIFICATION OF DISENGAGEMENT AFTER COMPLETING THIRD SHUTTLE FLIGHT BETWEEN JERUSALEM AND DAMASCUS. O'LEARY CHARACTERIZES NEW MOOD OF OPTIMISM AS REFLECTED IN HAK'S BUOYANT Demeanor AND IN COMMENTS BY SENIOR US OFFICIALS. POINTS TO PRESENCE OF SYRIAN MILITARY FIGURES AT DAMASCUS TALKS AND SYRIAN PRESS REPORTS THAT PROGRESS BEING MADE AS INDICATIONS BREAKTHROUGH NEAR. US OFFICIALS SAY HAK NOW IN POSITION TO GET DOWN TO SPECIFICS ON NEW LINE TO BE DRAWN ON GOLAN HEIGHTS. SAME SOURCES IMPLY ISRAEL PREPARED TO GIVE UP EL QUNEITRA WHILE SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYS AMERICAN ASSISTANCE TO REBUILD TOWN A POSSIBILITY. O'LEARY ALSO HAS INTERVIEW

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WITH MRS. KISSINGER PAGE D-2 "COMMUTER LIFE MAY BE FACING KISSINGER" (PIX OF MRS. KISSINGER) CONCENTRATING ON HOUSEHUNTING AND EGYPTIAN CAMERAMEN. MRS. KISSINGER SAYS SHE IS ENJOYING THE TRIP BUT IS ANXIOUS TO GET BACK TO WORK.

5. UPI SOMEWHAT LESS OPTIMISTIC THAN MORNING PAPERS, HAS US OFFICIALS PUT CHANCES OF REACHING AGREEMENT AT 50-50, POINTS OUT ISRAELI SOURCES LESS CONFIDENT, AND HAK TAUNTED BY DEMONSTRATORS IN JERUSALEM. AFTERNOON WIRE REPORTS HIGH AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYS GAP BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL ON DISENGAGEMENT "NARROWED VERY SIGNIFICANTLY". SAME OFFICIAL SAYS CEASE-FIRE LINE IN GOLAN HEIGHT STILL A PROBLEM, MENTIONS THREE POSSIBLE SCENARIOS: 1) THERE WILL BE NO AGREEMENT ON CEASEFIRE LINE AND HAK WILL RETURN TO THE MIDEAST LATER, 2) THERE WILL BE AN AGREEMENT ON LINE BUT MINOR ISSUES OF DISENGAGEMENT WILL NOT BE RESOLVED, NECESSITATING ANOTHER TRIP, AND 3) THERE WILL BE A FULL AGREEMENT THIS TRIP. IN GENERAL, UPI AFTERNOON REPORT MORE OPTIMISTIC, HIGHLIGHTING SIMILARITY BETWEEN POSITIVE REPORTS FROM HAK PARTY AND THOSE EMANATING FROM WHITE HOUSE AND SYRIAN PRESS.

6. AP LEADS WITH REPORT OF ISRAELI DEMONSTRATIONS AND INDICATIONS THAT ISRAELIS REFUSING TO BUDGE BEYOND UNDISCLOSED TRUCE OFFER OF THREE DAYS AGO. SAYS ISRAEL REPORTEDLY HAS OFFERED TO TURN OVER HALF OF EL QUNEITRA TO UN FORCES AS BUFFER ZONE, BUT OFFICIAL TERMS STILL SECRET. AFTERNOON WIRES CARRY REPORTS OF DEMONSTRATION BY ISRAELI PIONEER SETTLERS AGAINST HAK, POINT OUT THAT VOICE OF PIONEERS IS POWERFUL IN ISRAELI POLITICS. DEMONSTRATORS QUOTED AT LENGTH IN CONFRONTATION WITH LT. GEN. MORDECHAI GUR, ISRAELI CHIEF OF STAFF.

7. NEWSWEEK STORY BRIEFLY RECAPITULATES EVENTS OF PAST WEEK, HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF DISENGAGEMENT LINE WITH QUOTE FROM A TOP SOURCE ON HAK'S PLANE: "IF WE GET THAT LINE, WE'VE GOT EVERYTHING". STORY REPORTS ISRAEL HAS ALREADY AGREED TO GIVE UP EL QUNEITRA IN EXCHANGE FOR 65 PRISONERS OF WAR, ALSO SAYS AGREEMENT NEAR ON BUFFER ZONE, UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE, THINNING OUT OF FORCES BEHIND ZONE AT LEAST 12 MILES ON EACH SIDE. EMPHASIZES WARINESS ON BOTH SIDES: "KISSINGER'S AGONY IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS IS THAT HE DEEPLY UNDERSTANDS THESE

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FEARS...HE IS ATTEMPTING IN HIS MIDEAST TRAVELS NOT JUST TO NEGOTIATE A MILITARY DISENGAGEMENT, BUT TO GET THE ISRAELIS AND ARABS TO SEE--AS HE DOES--THE MERITS OF EACH OTHER'S ARGUMENTS AND UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER'S FEARS." GOES ON TO QUOTE STATE DEPARTMENT AIDE "KISSINGER IS THREE JUMPS AHEAD OF EVERYBODY. WHILE MOST OF THE WORLD IS FOCUSING ON WHERE THE DISENGAGEMENT LINE IS TO BE, HE'S MOST CONCERNED WITH CREATING A CLIMATE FOR FUTURE PEACE."

8. TIME SUBSUMES SCATTERED REFERENCES TO CURRENT SHUTTLE UNDER RUBRIC OF LENGTHY ARTICLE ON "SADAT OPENS THE DOOR" (PIX OF HAK SHAKING HANDS WITH SADAT). REPORTS HAK MAKING PROGRESS BUT AT WEEK'S END DISENGAGEMENT DEAL STILL UNCERTAIN. SHORT VIGNETTE ON MRS. KISSINGER IN "PEOPLE" SECTION WITH PIX OF HER WITH MRS. ZAID RIFAI. DESCRIBES HER SIGHTSEEING ACTIVITIES, REPORTS FOLLOWING INCIDENT: "AT ONE POINT IN THE HECTIC TRIP, A REPORTER OFFERED TO ACCOMPANY NANCY ON A TOUR OF AN ARAB MARKET. "DON'T DO IT," SAID HENRY WITH CONJUGAL RESIGNATION, "YOU CAN'T AFFORD HER"." RUSH

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