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14 MAY 74//2028Z

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 FM SECSTATE WASHDC
 TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE 5543
 BT
 UNCLAS STATE 099950

TOSEC 613

E.O. 11652: N/A
 TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR
 SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE: RADIO/TV, MAY 14

FOR ANDERSON FROM HARE

1. VALERIANI AND KALB MADE MONDAY EVENING TV NETWORK NEWS WITH FOLLOWING ACCOUNTS:

(A) VALERIANI (NBC) -- KISSINGER BEGAN THE THIRD WEEK OF HIS MISSION BY GOING BACK TO DAMASCUS FOR THE THIRD TIME. FOR THE FIRST TIME HE CARRIED CONCRETE ISRAELI IDEAS ON TROOP DISENGAGEMENT, RATHER THAN GENERAL PRINCIPLES. KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT ASSAD MET FOR ALMOST FIVE HOURS IN AN ATMOSPHERE DESCRIBED AS VERY FRIENDLY. THE SECRETARY CAME AWAY FROM DAMASCUS FEELING THAT THE NEGOTIATING GAP BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES HAD BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY NARROWED BUT HE WAS STILL NOT SURE THAT THEY WERE READY TO MAKE THE CONCESSIONS NECESSARY TO CLOSE IT ALTOGETHER.

BACK IN JERUSALEM DEMONSTRATORS GATHERED OUTSIDE THE PM'S OFFICE TO PROTEST AGAINST ANY WITHDRAWAL FROM THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. DAYAN CALMED THEM DOWN, BUT THEY SYMBOLIZED TO KISSINGER THE DEEP EMOTIONAL AND POLITICAL PROBLEM THAT WITHDRAWAL REPRESENTS FOR ANY ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. AFTER KISSINGER MET AGAIN WITH ISRAELI LEADERS, A SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL SAID THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT ON THE BASIC ISSUE OF THE NEGOTIATION -- THE LOCATION OF THE LINE OF TROOP SEPARATION. HE INDICATED STRONGLY THAT ANY AGREEMENT WOULD NOT INVOLVE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SETTLEMENTS ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. AT THIS CRITICAL POINT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAY THAT KISSINGER STILL DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER AN AGREEMENT CAN BE ACHIEVED BEFORE HE RETURNS TO WASHINGTON AT THE END OF THIS WEEK, AND THEY SAY HE WON'T KNOW UNTIL HE COMPLETES ANOTHER ROUND TRIP TO DAMASCUS TOMORROW.

(B) KALB (CBS) -- KISSINGER SEEMS CLOSE TO A DEAL. ACCORDING TO INFORMED SOURCES HERE, THE GAP BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES HAS BEEN NARROWED SUBSTANTIALLY THOUGH THERE IS NO

AGREEMENT ON WHERE THE DISENGAGEMENT LINE IS TO BE DRAWN. SO FAR, HOWEVER, THIS MUCH IS KNOWN -- NO ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS - THERE ARE NOW 17 OF THEM THERE - WILL FALL UNDER UN OR SYRIAN CONTROL. KUNEITRA GOES BACK TO SYRIA THOUGH THERE IS NEW PRESSURE HERE AGAINST THAT. A UN FORCE IS TO BE INTERPOSED BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. BOTH ARMIES REDUCE THEIR MANPOWER AND FIREPOWER TO THE SAME DEGREE IN THE ZONE OF DISENGAGEMENT ON EITHER SIDE OF THAT BUFFER. TOMORROW EVENING KISSINGER SHOULD BE IN A POSITION TO KNOW WHETHER HE IS GOING TO GET A DEAL THIS WEEK. IT IS POSSIBLE, THE ODDS STILL BETTER THAN 50-50.

(KALB'S ACCOUNT CONTAINED ADDITIONAL MATERIAL ON CORRESPONDENTS' VISIT TO KUNEITRA, WHICH HE ALSO INCLUDED IN HIS TUESDAY MORNING "FIRST-LINE REPORT."

(C) ABC (REASONER/SMITH) CARRIED BARRY DUNSMORE REPORT ON KUNEITRA VISIT AND SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH ISRAELI LEADERS.

2. FOLLOWING ARE TEXTS KALB'S THUMB-TWIDDLING TUESDAY "FIRST-LINE REPORT" AND JIM ANDERSON RADIO SPOT:

(A) KALB -- A VISIT TO THE GOLAN HEIGHTS, TWILIGHT WAR ZONE. THE HELICOPTER WAS FRENCH-BUILT, PAINTED IN THE CAMOUFLAGE COLORS OF KHAKI GREEN AND BROWN. THE CREW, FIVE ISRAELIS, ALL YOUNG, ALL LONG-HAIRED, WEARING THE OVERALLS OF THE ISRAELI AIRFORCE. MOST THE THE REPORTERS ACCOMPANYING SECRETARY KISSINGER ON THIS M.E. SWING DUCKED AS THEY ENTERED THE REAR OF THE CHOPPER. THE ENGINE KEEPS ROARING. WITHIN SECONDS THE CHOPPER IS AIRBORNE AND IT BANKS OVER THE CITY OF JERUSALEM, THE OLD WALLS OF THAT CITY VERY MUCH IN VIEW, AND THEN IT HEADS NORTHEAST OVER THE OCCUPIED WEST BANK OF JORDAN, HILLY, GREEN AND CULTIVATED. TWENTY MINUTES LATER THE SEA OF GALILEE COMES INTO FOCUS UNDER THE SUN, A SHIMMERING PLATE. THE SHADOW OF THE CHOPPER FALLS AT THAT SEA ONLY TO VANISH WHEN IT CROSSES OVER LAND ONCE AGAIN.

TWENTY MINUTES AFTER THAT, OVER TERRAIN CRISSCROSSED WITH TANK TRACKS, THE SIGNS OF BITTER STRUGGLE, THE CHOPPER SUDDENLY SHIVERS AND STOPS AND FINALLY SETTLES DOWN ON A SMALL RUNWAY OUTSIDE OF KUNEITRA, ONCE THE SYRIAN DISTRICT CAPITAL OF THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. FROM JERUSALEM TO KUNEITRA 40 MINUTES IN A HELICOPTER, SMALL COUNTRY ISRAEL EVEN TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALL OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. AN ISRAELI COLONEL IN HIS MID-30S, HIS NAME ORI OR, MEANING LIGHT, GREET'S EVERYONE. WELCOME TO KUNEITRA, HE SAYS, AS WE BOARD AN ARMY BUS AND FOLLOW THE COLONEL'S JEEP FOR A BUMPY RIDE INTO KUNEITRA. IT IS A GHOST TOWN THESE DAYS, THE WRECK OF THE WAR OF 1967 HAS NEVER BEEN REBUILT.

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BATTERED, DESTROYED BUILDINGS, A SIGN THE ISRAELIS NEVER INTENDED TO KEEP KUNEITRA.

THE BUS SLOWLY WINDS ITS WAY UP THE FACE OF ONE OF THE THREE MOUNTAINS TO THE WEST OF THE CITY, THIS MOUNTAIN ABOUT 3600 FEET HIGH HAS RADAR EQUIPMENT AT THE VERY TOP, A LARGE PILLBOX DOWN BELOW. THE REPORTERS HEAR INCOMING SHELLS, YELLOW PUFFS OF SMOKE IMPACTING ABOUT ONE KILO-METER AWAY, DOWN IN THE VALLEY NEAR KUNEITRA. THE COLONEL SAYS THEY ARE SYRIAN SHELLS, EVERY DAY, ALL DAY. FROM THE HILL TOP YOU CAN SEE FAR INTO SYRIA, IF YOU TURN AROUND FAR INTO ISRAEL. DOWN IN ANOTHER VALLEY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS MOUNTAIN IS ONE OF 17 ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS BUILT SINCE THE 1967 WAR. IT IS CALLED MOROM GOLAN, 300 ISRAELIS LIVE THERE IN THE SHADOW OF WAR. 100 CHILDREN PLAYING IN HUMBLE BACKYARDS ENJOYING THEMSELVES HUGELY. THEY PAY NO ATTENTION AT ALL TO THE SOUNDS OF THE SHELLING IN THE DISTANCE. YOUNG WOMEN CARRY GROCERIES FROM THE STORE, YOUNG MEN BUILDING HOUSES, MAKING CEMENT TOTALLY IGNORING THE REPORTERS. THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER REPORTERS BEFORE ASKING ALL OF THE SAME QUESTIONS. "WHY LIVE SO CLOSE TO DANGER" IS THE MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION, AND THEY ANSWER BECAUSE THEY HAVE COME TO TILL THE SOIL AND TO MAKE IT BLOOM -- AND ACCORDING TO THE ZIONIST CREDO, ONCE AN ISRAELI SETTLER TILLS THE SOIL THE SOIL ITSELF BECOMES A PART OF ISRAEL; IT BECOMES AN OUTPOST OF ZION.

ISRAEL IS AS MUCH A NATION AS A SOCIAL RELIGION. AFTER THREE HOURS OF POLITICAL TOURING KUNEITRA, THE HILLS AND THE SETTLEMENTS, REPORTERS CLIMB BACK IN THEIR BUS AND THEN INTO THEIR WAITING CHOPPER WHICH LIFTS THEM UP FOR THE RIDE BACK TO JERUSALEM. ONE MINUTE LATER WE ARE TOLD THE SYRIANS FIRED 30 SHELLS INTO THE AREA WHERE THE HELICOPTER HAD PAUSED.

(B) ANDERSON -- THE GAP HAS NARROWED BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL ACCORDING TO AMERICAN OFFICIALS, BUT THE NARROWER THE GAP THE MORE VITAL EACH YARD OF GROUND BECOMES AND THE MORE DIFFICULT TO FIND A COMPROMISE. THUS, THOUGH THERE HAS BEEN STEADY PROGRESS SINCE KISSINGER BEGAN THE SHUTTLE NEARLY TWO WEEKS AGO, THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE ON THE BRINK OF A DEADLOCK.

KISSINGER IS MAKING ONE MORE TRIP TO DAMASCUS, HIS FOURTH, AND THEN HE WILL RETURN TO JERUSALEM TONIGHT TO BRING THE SYRIAN IDEAS TO THE ISRAELI CABINET. IF THERE IS NO BREAKTHROUGH ON THE CRUCIAL QUESTION OF WHERE THE CEASEFIRE SHALL BE ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS, KISSINGER WOULD PROBABLY GO BACK TO WASHINGTON AND RESUME THE SHUTTLE IN SEVERAL WEEKS TIME, AFTER BOTH SIDES HAVE TIME TO SORT OUT

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THEIR OWN DOMESTIC PROBLEMS AND THINK OVER THE CONSEQUENCES OF A BREAKDOWN IN NEGOTIATIONS.

AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAY THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS, SO FAR, HAVE BEEN BASED ON THE ISRAELI IDEAS. KISSINGER DID NOT WANT TWO OPPOSING PLANS ON THE TABLE AT THE SAME TIME; BUT NOW WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS STUCK OVER WHO WILL CONTROL SOME STRATEGIC HIGHPOINTS IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO INTRODUCE SOME NEW IDEAS INTO THE MIX, PERHAPS EVEN AN AMERICAN PLAN.

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