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 TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR
 SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE, MAY 14, 1974

FOR ANDERSON FROM HARE

SUMMARY: TUESDAY MORNING PAPERS GIVE DIFFERING ACCOUNTS OF PROSPECTS FOR AGREEMENT. TIMES GIVES IMPRESSION AGREEMENT NEAR, BERGER STORY IN POST EMPHASIZES NO MORE CONCESSIONS FROM ISRAEL. WATERGATE PLAYS MAJOR ROLE IN POST AND CSM PIECES, WITH BERGER QUOTING SENIOR OFFICIAL TO EFFECT HAK RUNNING US FOREIGN POLICY. GWERTZMAN, JHABVALA AND SAIKOWSKI DESCRIBE VISIT TO GOLAN HEIGHTS IN SEPARATE ARTICLES. AFTERNOON WIRES REPORT NEGOTIATIONS "ESSENTIALLY IN HOLDING PATTERN" AFTER HAK FAILS TO REACH AGREEMENT IN DAMASCUS.

1. GWERTZMAN HAS PAGE 2 NYT REPORT OF NEWSMEN'S VISIT TO GOLAN HEIGHTS UNDER HEAD "ISRAELIS SHOW GOLAN SECTOR TO PRESS." DESCRIBES VISIT AS PART OF ISRAELI EFFORT TO EMPRESS ON AMERICANS THE VALUE SHE PLACES ON CONTROL OF THREE HILLS NEAR EL QUNEITRA. ARTICLE BY TERENCE SMITH APPEARS PAGE 1 DATELINE JERUSALEM "KISSINGER'S TALKS AT CRUCIAL STAGE." SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIALS REPORT ISRAELI AND SYRIAN DIFFERENCES OVER DEMARCATION LINE NOW REDUCED TO "A FEW KILOMETERS," CAUTION THAT COMPREHENSIVE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT THIS TRIP STILL AN UNCERTAINTY. COMPLETE BREAK-DOWN OF NEGOTIATIONS REGARDED BY ISRAELI AND AMERICAN OFFICIALS AS MOST UNLIKELY. SENIOR OFFICIAL TELLS NEWSMEN US NEVER PROPOSED TO ISRAEL THAT SHE ABANDON ANY OF 17 CIVILIAN SETTLEMENTS ESTABLISHED ON GOLAN HEIGHTS, SAYS SYRIA TACITLY ACCEPTS THAT IT WOULD BE "POLITICALLY UNTHINKABLE" FOR ISRAELIS TO GIVE UP ANY OF THE SETTLEMENTS. SENIOR OFFICIAL LEAVES STRONG IMPRESSION BOTH SIDES CLOSE TO AGREEMENT ON DEMARCATION LINE DIFFERING ONLY SLIGHTLY FROM 1967 CEASE-FIRE LINE, SAYS ISRAEL HAS AGREED TO "STRAIGHTEN OUT" LINE IN SYRIA'S FAVOR IN SEVERAL SPOTS IN EXCHANGE FOR RIGHT TO RETAIN AT LEAST ONE POSITION ON MT. HERMON.

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AMERICAN OFFICIAL REPORTS "BROAD AREAS" OF UNDERSTANDING INCLUDING DEMILITARIZED ZONE BETWEEN FRONT LINES, UN SUPERVISION, CREATION OF "LIMITED FORCES ZONES" ON EITHER SIDE OF DEMILITARIZED ZONE. SMITH REPORTS THERE HAS BEEN NO SUGGESTION US WILL PLAY MORE DIRECT ROLE IN GUARANTEEING THE AGREEMENT BEYOND SERVING AS CONDUIT BETWEEN TWO SIDES.

2. BERGER PIECE PAGE 21 POST "ISRAEL SAYS NO MORE CONCESSIONS" LEADS WITH REPORT FROM ISRAELI OFFICIALS TO EFFECT GOI TOLD HAK NO FURTHER SIGNIFICANT TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS TO SYRIA IN OFFING. ALTHOUGH AMERICAN AND ISRAELI OFFICIALS REMAIN HOPEFUL, NEGOTIATIONS MAY BE SUSPENDED TEMPORARILY IF ASSAD REJECTS ISRAELI TERMS. BERGER SAYS SYRIANS NO LONGER INSIST UPON RETURN OF THREE HILLS AT UND EL QUNEITRA. HOWEVER, TIME GROWING SHORT AND ANY SINGLE DISAGREEMENT COULD MEAN SUBSTANTIAL DELAY IN NEGOTIATIONS. US OFFICIAL VEHEMENTLY DENIES SYRIAN OFFICIALS CAN USE WATERGATE AS NEGOTIATING TOOL. BERGER WRITES: "A SENIOR OFFICIAL SAID THAT SYRIA COULD GET NOTHING FROM KISSINGER BECAUSE OF THE DOMESTIC PROBLEMS OF THE ADMINISTRATION. KISSINGER, THE OFFICIAL SAID, IS RUNNING THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES AND WATERGATE PLAYS ABSOLUTELY NO ROLE IN IT."

3. JHABVALA PAGE 1 STORY IN GLOBE UNDER HEAD "GAP REPORTED NARROWING IN MIDEAST TALKS" LEADS WITH SENIOR OFFICIAL SAYING HAK HAS "VERY SIGNIFICANTLY" NARROWED GAP ON DIS-ENGAGEMENT. OFFICIAL SAYS HAK'S PEACEMAKING MISSION WILL NOT FAIL NOW, THOUGH IT MAY NOT BE COMPLETED THIS TRIP. PROGRESS HAS TRIGGERED OPTIMISM IN ISRAEL AND SYRIA, EVEN IF TALKS SUSPENDED DUE TO MINOR HANGUPS AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED WITHIN WEEKS. SENIOR OFFICIAL SAYS BOTH SIDES AGREE ON KEY CONCEPTS INCLUDING DEMILITARIZED ZONE, UN PRESENCE, THINNING OUT OF FORCES. JHABVALA DESCRIBES VISIT TO GOLAN HEIGHTS IN PAGE 6 ARTICLE "A QUIET, FERTILE KIBBUTZ THRIVES ON BATTLE-SCARRED GOLAN HEIGHTS."

4. SAIKOWSKI COVERS GOLAN HEIGHTS VISIT IN PAGE 1 CSM PIECE "WHY ISRAEL HOLDS ON AT BORDER: TACTICS, POLITICS MIXED IN STAND AT GOLAN HEIGHTS." SUBSTANTIVE PIECE BY JOHN K. COOLEY APPEARS PAGE 1 UNDER HEAD "ARABS CONCERNED AT US PROBLEMS: WATERGATE SEEN AS GROWING THREAT TO KISSINGER MIDEAST PEACE MISSION." REPORTS ARABS SHOW CONCERN OVER ADVERSE EFFECTS OF WATERGATE ON HAK'S "SLOWLY PROGRESSING" PEACE MISSION. ARAB PRESS SAYS US IN HURRY TO ACHIEVE FOREIGN POLICY SUCCESS TO SHORE UP RN POSITION AT HOME, WHILE SYRIA WILLING TO BIDE TIME. COOLEY REPORTS

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SAUDIS AND OTHER ARABS BELIEVE US ZIONISTS ANXIOUS TO END RN TENURE IN OFFICE BEFORE ISRAEL PRESSURED INTO CONCESSIONS. US SPOKESMAN IN HAK PARTY SAYS HAK NEVER SAW DEPARTMENT LETTER CALLING SYRIAN TREATMENT OF JEWS "A DOMESTIC SYRIAN MATTER" WHICH ADDED NEW FUEL TO CRITICISM OF HAK IN ISRAEL.

5. STAR CARRIES UPI AFTERNOON REPORTS PAGE 1 IN PESSIMISTIC VEIN UNDER HEAD "KISSINGER: TALKS ARE SNAGGED." LEADS WITH HAK STATEMENT AT DAMASCUS AIRPORT, "NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED," INCORPORATING O'LEARY'S EARLIER OPTIMISTIC REPORTS INTO BODY OF STORY. O'LEARY SAYS LARGE AREAS OF AGREEMENT ALREADY REACHED, SENIOR US OFFICIAL REPORTS "FINE TUNING" OF ISSUES REMAINS WITH EMPHASIS ON LINE OF DEMARCATION. SENIOR US SOURCE SAYS SYRIANS DEMONSTRATE MORE MOVEMENT ON TERRITORIAL ADJUSTMENTS BUT ISRAELIS ALSO HAVE MOVED SIGNIFICANTLY.

6. AP AFTERNOON WIRES CARRY SCHWEID PIECE WITH LEAD FROM SENIOR US OFFICIAL TO EFFECT DISENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS "ESSENTIALLY IN A HOLDING PATTERN" WITH BOTH SIDES "GIVING A LITTLE." OFFICIAL SAYS NO AGREEMENT REACHED IN DAMASCUS AND HAK BRINGING "FURTHER SYRIAN THOUGHTS" TO ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYS HAK SHOULD KNOW WITHIN NEXT 36 HOURS WHETHER TO CONTINUE SHUTTLE OR RETURN TO WASHINGTON LEAVING SYRIANS AND ISRAELIS A FEW WEEKS TO "SIFT THINGS OUT." AMERICAN OFFICIALS REPORT NEGOTIATIONS SO FAR ALONG THAT TEMPORARY SUSPENSION WILL NOT RUIN CHANCES OF PACT. KEY PROBLEM REMAINS DISENGAGEMENT LINE AND THREE STRATEGIC HILLS NEAR EL QUNEITRA.

7. UPI REPORTS HAK FAILS TO REACH DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH ASSAD BUT SHUTTLE WILL CONTINUE. QUOTES FROM HAK DEPARTURE STATEMENT IN DAMASCUS "WE MADE FURTHER PROGRESS IN REFINING THE ISSUES." HIGH AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYS DIFFERENCES REMAINING OVER WHERE TO PLACE CEASE-FIRE LINE ARE SMALL IN TERMS OF KILOMETERS, HUGE IN TERMS OF EMOTION. SAME OFFICIAL SAYS HAK NEEDS "RECONSIDERATION" BY ISRAELI, SYRIA OR BOTH BEFORE HE CAN BRIDGE GAP. OFFICIAL REPORTS TALKS ARE "IN A HOLDING PATTERN" BUT HAK MUST DECIDE BY THURSDAY OR FRIDAY WHEN TO RETURN HOME. EVEN IF HAK RETURNS WITHOUT AN AGREEMENT, OFFICIAL SAYS, THE TALKS WILL NOT BLOW UP. RUSH

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