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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR
SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE: MAY 17, 1974

FOR ANDERSON FROM HARE

SUMMARY: FRIDAY MORNING NEWSPAPERS REPORT NO AGREEMENT LIKELY THIS TRIP, THOUGH BERGER STORY QUOTES SENIOR US OFFICIAL TO EFFECT AGREEMENT STILL "GETABLE." AFTERNOON WIRES SET MORE OPTIMISTIC TONE WITH REPORTS OF NEW AMERICAN INITIATIVE TO BREAK DEADLOCK AND HAK DECISION TO RETURN TO JERUSALEM SATURDAY NIGHT.

1. NYT DEVOTES EXTENSIVE FRONT PAGE COVERAGE TO MA^oALOT INCIDENT AND ISRAELI REPRISAL. NOTHING FROM GWERTZMAN. UPI STORY PAGE 1 DATELINE DAMASCUS REPORTS HAK MEETING WITH ASSAD UNDER HEAD "SECRETARY HOLDS DAMASCUS TALKS." CARRIES ISRAELI GOVERNMENT DENIAL OF REPORT MRS. MEIR SUGGESTED TEN-DAY PAUSE IN HAK PEACE MISSION.

2. BERGER HAS REPORT FROM TEL AVIV PAGE 12 POST "KISSINGER CONTINUES PEACE MISSION" SAYING HAK PLAN TO RETURN TO DAMASCUS SATURDAY AN IMPORTANT ACCOMPLISHMENT IN ITSELF IN LIGHT OF TERRORIST ATTACKS. ALL SIDES REPORTEDLY AGREE TERRORISM MAKES SUCCESS EVEN MORE NECESSARY THAN BEFORE. SENIOR US OFFICIAL SAYS ISRAELIS URGE HAK NOT TO SUSPEND EFFORTS. SENIOR US OFFICIAL ON PLANE SAYS AGREEMENT "GETABLE," TWO SIDES AS CLOSE TO ACCORD AS POSSIBLE SHORT OF ACTUAL AGREEMENT. SENIOR OFFICIAL SAYS AGREEMENT NO POSSIBLE THIS WEEKEND, BUT PERHAPS FEASIBLE WITHIN A FEW ADDITIONAL DAYS. SENIOR US OFFICIAL INDICATES HAK NOW SUGGESTS OWN IDEAS IN NEGOTIATIONS, WILL KNOW BY SATURDAY WHETHER NEW APPROACHES MAKE SETTLEMENT POSSIBLE. US OFFICIALS SAY HAK DID NOT KNOW ISRAEL WOULD LAUNCH REPRISAL RAIDS WHEN HE LEFT JERUSALEM THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

3. NOTHING FROM SAIKOWSKI IN CSM. PAGE 2 ARTICLE BY DANA ADAMS SCHMIDT DATELINE WASHINGTON "MIDEAST'S HOUR OF DECISION: PEACE OR WAR AGAIN -- KISSINGER'S SPATTERING

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MISSION, TERRORIST RAID ON SCHOOL LEAVE ARAB, ISRAELI LEADERS ON BRINK."

4. JHABVALA REPORTS FROM JERUSALEM PAGE 10 GLOBE "KISSINGER UNABLE TO BREAK MIDEAST DEADLOCK BY WEEKEND." SENIOR US OFFICIAL SAYS NO ACCORD THIS WEEKEND, HAK MAY RETURN TO WASHINGTON BY MONDAY. OFFICIAL REPORTS STICKING POINT IS LINE OF DEMARCATION, ATTITUDES ON BOTH SIDES NOT DUE TO GEOGRAPHICAL CONSIDERATIONS BUT TO DEEP-SEATED SUSPICIONS AND HOSTILITIES. SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYS TWO SIDES MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS SINCE NEGOTIATIONS STARTED, BUT NO CONCLUSION IN NEXT DAY OR TWO. JHABVALA REPORTS HAK MORE TIRED AND DIFFIDENT THAN EVER BEFORE, INDICATES HE WILL STRIVE TO BRIDGE THE GAP.

5. STAR CARRIES PAGE 1 AP REPORT OF ISRAELI REPRISAL RAIDS UNDER HEAD "ISRAELI TROOPS RAID LEBANON." NOTHING FROM O'LEARY.

6. AP MORNING WIRES HAVE HAK'S AIDES ACKNOWLEDGING TROOP DISENGAGEMENT THIS WEEKEND NOT FEASIBLE. SCHWEID REPORTS HAK TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON SOON. SCHWEID SAYS US CONDEMNATION OF ISRAELI AIR ATTACKS IN LEBANON SOFTER IN TONE THAN ITS CONDEMNATION OF ARAB TERRORIST ASSAULT ON MA'ALOT, THOUGH ANDERSON MAINTAINS "THE ATTITUDE IN BOTH STATEMENTS IS EQUALLY STRONG." AFTERNOON AP WIRES REPORT HAK HOPEFUL OF BREAKTHROUGH, CHANGING SCHEDULE TO ALLOW FOR RETURN TO ISRAEL SATURDAY NIGHT. SPOKESMAN ANDERSON ACKNOWLEDGES HAK TAKING INITIATIVE TO BRIDGE GAP, DECLINES TO SPECIFY PROPOSALS BUT SAYS "THERE WERE SOME AMERICAN IDEAS DISCUSSED ON THE QUESTION OF DISENGAGEMENT BETWEEN SYRIAN AND ISRAELI FORCES."

7. UPI SAYS HAK PROPOSING "NEW AMERICAN IDEAS" TO BREAK DEADLOCK AND US OFFICIALS PUT CHANCES AT NO MORE THAN 50-50 HE WILL SUCCEED. AMERICAN IDEAS BELIEVED TO INVOLVE HOW TO DRAW CEASE-FIRE LINE IN GOLAN AREA. HIGH AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYS BOTH SIDES PLEADED WITH HAK TO MAKE ONE MORE SHUTTLE, BELIEVES HAK WILL DECIDE SATURDAY AFTER RETURN TO JERUSALEM FROM DAMASCUS WHETHER TO STAY ON AND GO FOR AN AGREEMENT OR FLY TO CAIRO ENROUTE HOME. HIGH AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYS ISRAEL AND SYRIA ALREADY AS CLOSE TOGETHER AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT ACTUALLY HAVING AGREEMENT, DESCRIBES REMAINING DIFFERENCES AS MORE EMOTIONAL THAN GEOGRAPHICAL. AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYS NEW VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM IN MIDDLE EAST CANNOT WRECK HAK MISSION.

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