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18 MAY 74 - 21/27Z

Classification

O 182034Z MAY 74  
 FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
 TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE 5772  
 BT  
 UNCLAS STATE 104609

TOSEC 785

E.O. 11652: N/A  
 TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)PFOR  
 SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE: RADIO/TV, MAY 18, 1974

FOR ANDERSON FROM POULAIN

SUMMARY: NONE OF TRAVELERS APPEARED ON TV FRIDAY EVENING. ALL NETS BRIEFLY MENTIONED HAK'S SCHEDULE CHANGE, HIS CONTINUING EFFORTS INCLUDING FACT DISCLOSED BY SPOKESMAN THAZU HAK NOW MAKING HIS OWN PROPOSAL. NETS FEATURED FILM SHOWING DAMAGE INFLICTED BY ISRAELI REPRISAL RAIDS IN SOUTH LEBANAON.END SUMMARY.

1. ONLY KALB MADE SATURDAY RADIO MORNING PROGRAMS.

(A) CBS RADIO FROM DAMASCUS - 8:00 A.M.

" THIS IS KISSINGER'S SIXTH VISIT HERE DURING THE CURRENT ROUND OF SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY. IT MAY BE HIS LAST. HE OPENS THIS MOST CRITICAL EXCHANGE WITH PRESIDENT ASSAD BELIEVING THAT A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT REMAINS OUT OF HIS REACH, BUT HOPING THAT HE CAN STILL PERFORM A MINOR MIRACLE TODAY AND GET ONE. THE KEY ISSUE THAT REMAINS OUTSTANDING IS WHERE TO DRAW THE DISENGAGEMENT LINE. ONLY ONE MILE OR SO SEPARATES THE POSITIONS OF THE TWO SIDES, BUT SO FAR IT HAS BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO BRIDGE THIS SMALL GAP. IF ASSAD ACCEPTS KISSINGER'S NEW IDEAS FOR COMPROMISE THEN THE SECRETARY WILL CHANGE HIS TRAVEL PLANS AND STAY HERE IN THE ME FOR A FEW MORE DAYS TO COMPLETE THE DEAL. IF THE

SYRIAN LEADER DOES NOT ACCEPT HIS IDEA, THEN KISSINGER WILL RETURN TO ISRAEL TONIGHT TO MAKE A BRIEF AIRPORT, STATEMENT PUTTING OFDVHIS NEGOTIATION FOR A FEW WEEKS, AND THEN FLY OFF TO CAIRO AND TOMORROW TO WASHINGTON."

2. MARVIN KALB-----CBS---RADIO FROM JERUSALEM-FIRST LINE REPORT, MAY 18, 1974.

IT IS TIME FOR ANOTHER LETTER HOME. "DEAR EVERYONE, THIS HAS BEEN AN EXTRAORDINARY WEEK. THE SECRETARY OF STATE, A MAN OF REMARKABLE ENERGY, IS BEGINNING TO GET TIRED AND NO WONDER. HE HAS BEEN TRYING TO ARRANGE A DISENGAGEMENT DEAL BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA, WHICH IS A HARD ENOUGH

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JOB GIVEN THE LONG HISTORY OF DISTRUST, HATRED AND SUSPICION ON BOTH SIDES. NOW, ALL OF THESE EMOTIONS HAVE BEEN HEIGHTENED ESPECIALLY ON THE ISRAELI SIDE BY THE TERRIBLE DAY OF TERROR WHICH GRIPPED THIS COUNTRY LAST WEDNESDAY--THE DAY WHEN ARAB TERRORISTS HELD ALMOST NINETY CHILDREN HOSTAGE IN MA'ALOT AND MORE THAN TWENTY OF THEM DIED...IN A COUNTRY OF THIS SIZE THE LOSS OF TWENTY CHILDREN IS A SAVAGRBLOW RIPPING THE WHOLE COUNTRY APART. THE REPRISAL RAIDS AGAINST PALESTINIAN CAMPS IN LEBANON MAY BE DENOUNCED BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS, THE ISRAELIS DON'T REALLY CARE, THE RAIDS HAVE EASED THEIR PAIN. THERE IS LETTLE DOUBT THE 'TOOTH-FOR-A-TOOTH LAW' OPERATES IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. HENRY KISSINGER WAS RUNNING INTO TROUBLE EVEN BEFOR MA'ALOT AND THOUGH NO ONE IN HIS RIGHT MIND CAN EVER DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SECRETARY CAN STILL PULL A RABBIT OUT OF THIS TORTURED HAT THE CHANCES ARE HE WILL NOT GET HIS DISENGAGEMENT AGREE-MENT THIS WEEKEND OR DURING HIS CURRENT ROUND OF SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY. HE WILL GO HOME EMPTY-HANDED BUT HAVING REGISTERED CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS, ENOUGH TO MAKE A RETURN TRIP TO THE ME IN TWO-TO-THREE OR FOUR WEEKS A VERY DIS-TINCT POSSIBILITY, ENOUGH TO MAKE AN AGREEMENT IN EARLY JUNE A FAR BETTER THAN 50-50 PROPOSITION. ONE AMERICAN OFFICIAL CALLED THE IMPASSE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES TRAGIC--EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS AREA SEEMS SO TRAGIC. SYRIAN OFFICIALS SEEM TO WANT T A DEAL, ISRAELI OFFICIALS DO AS WELL. THEY ARE SEPARATED BY A SMALL GAP BUT , THOUGH IT IS SMALL THEY CANNOT BRIDGE IT YET. THE SYRIANS TRY TO BE VERY ACCOMODATING TO THE VISITING AMERICANS, THEY EVEN TOOK TIME TO TAKE THEM TO THE BATTLE FRONT ONE DAY, IN-TRODUCED THEM TO A MAN WHO WAS IDENTIFIED AS A GENERAL WHO SEEMED RIGHT ON MILITARY STRATEGY, HEAVY ON POLITICAL PROPOGANDA.

BUT THE GENERAL DID NOT SEEM PERSUADED OF HIS OWN LINE, HE TALKED AS THOUGH ISRAEL DOES NOT EXIST AT ALL, YET FACES ISRAELI PLANES AND TROOPS EVERY DAY AND THROUGH HIS WORDS ONCE CAN SENSE A DEEP RESPECT. THE ISRAELIS TOOK THE REPORTERS ACCOMPANYING KISSINGER ON A TOUR OF THE FIGHTING FRONT ON THE ISRAELI SIDE. ON BOTH SIDES THE SHELLS IM-PACT AND OCCASIONALLY PEOPLE GET KILLED. THE YOUNG COLONEL ON THE ISRAELI SIDE SOUNDS AS THOUGH HE WILL LEAD A REVOLT AGAINST THE ISRAELI CABINET IF HIS POLITICAL AND MILITARY LEADERS DECIDE TO GIVE UP THE PEAKS OF THREE STATEGIC HILLS GUARDING THE APPROACH TO THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. THAT, HE SAYS, WOULD BE MADNESS. KISSINGER RECOGNIZES ALL OF THESE EMOTIONAL AND HISTORIC PROBLEMS BUT HE SEEMS DE-TERMINED TO GET A DEAL, HE IS A DOGGED TENACIOUS MAN, HE MAY, IN FACT, BE THE ONLY MAN IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHO THINKS HE CAN SUCCEED. HE GOES BACK AND FORTH, TODAY ONCE AGAIN, SEEKING THE COMPROMISE THAT COULD BREAK THE BACK OF THIS DEADLOCK." RUSH

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