



Department of State

TELEGRAM

S/S - 15

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19 MAY 74 - 20:57Z

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 FM SECSTATE WASHDC
 TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE 5799
 BT
 UNCLAS STATE 104648

Classification

TOSEC 807

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.) PFOR

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE - SUNDAY, MAY 19

FOR ANDERSON FROM POULAIN

SUMMARY: WASH STAR BANNER HEADLINE US PLAN EASES GOLAN
 STANDOFF (SECOND LINE) SYRIA, ISRAEL TENTATIVELY AGREE;
 WASH POST PAGE ONE (2-COLUMN HEAD) SYRIA AND
 ISRAEL NEAR AGREEMENT, KISSINGER SAYS;
 NYTIMES PAGE ONE ABOVE FOLD ONE COLUMN HEAD
 US OFFICIAL SAYS IN ACCORD IS NEAR IN MIDEAST TALKS.
 END SUMMARY

1. WASH STAR DATELINE DAMASCUS MAY 19 BY O'LEARY - HAK
 YESTERDAY WON TENTATIVE SYRIAN APPROVAL OF AN AMERICAN PRO-
 POSAL TO SEPARATE ISRAELI & SYRIAN ARMIES ON GOLAN HEIGHTS.
 QUOTES SECRETARY'S AIRPORT DEPARTURE REMARKS. ON ARRIVAL
 IN JERUSALEM, HAK SPENT TWO HOURS REPORTING TO ISRAELI
 OFFICIALS CHAIRED BY PM MEIR. SPOKESMAN ANDERSON QUOTED:
 ISRAELI SIDE AGREED THAT SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS WAS MADE (END
 QUOTE). ISRAELI MIN PERES TOLD PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTE
 BASICALLY HE GAVE US A REPORT. WE HAVE ALREADY ACCEPTED
 AMERICAN PROPOSALS AND SO HAVE SYRIANS. THERE WERE
 ISRAELI POSITIONS. THERE WERE SYRIAN POSITIONS. NOW THERE
 IS A SUBSTRUCTURE AMERICAN POSITION (END QUOTE).

PERES SAID OFFICIALS WOULD INFORM CABINET AND ANOTHER MEET-

ING WITH HAK WOULD BE HELD. SENIOR US OFFICIALS IN HAK
 PARTY SAID HE WAS VERY OPTIMISTIC THAT FORCES AGREEMENT
 CAN NOW BE REACHED WITHIN NEXT 3-4 DAYS. THIS WILL IN-
 VOLVE SEVERAL MORE SHUTTLE TRIPS BUT OFFICIAL GAVE IN-
 PRESSION FIRST-PHASE AGREEMENT IN SIGHT WITH SIGNING IN
 GENEVA. AMERICAN SOURCES SAID MAJOR ELEMENT IN BREAKING
 DEADLOCK INVOLVED LINE THAT WILL BE DRAWN ALONG GOLAN
 HEIGHTS FRONT. THERE IS NOW A GOOD CHANCE OF GETTING
 AGREEMENT ON THIS LINE. HE SAID LINE NOT YET QUITE SETTLED
 BUT DECLARED BOTH SIDES MADE CONCESSIONS IN PAST 48 HOURS.

UNCLASSIFIED

Classification

PAGE 2 STATE 104648

UNCLASSIFIED

BREAKTHROUGH ACHIEVED BY INTRODUCTION OF AMERICAN PROPOSALS ON WHERE LINE OF SEPARATION OUGHT TO BE...SIGNS HAK USED PSYCHOLOGY TO MOVE IMPASSE. AFTER 5 SHUTTLE FLIGHTS HAK SET OUT YESTERDAY WITH ANNOUNCED INTENTION OF RECESSING NEGOTIATIONS AND RETURNING TO WASHINGTON - EVEN HAD PARTY CHECK OUT OF HOTEL ROOMS AND IT WAS NO SECRET SECRETARY INTENDED TO SPEND NIGHT IN CAIRO. BOTH SIDES ACCORDING TO US OFFICIALS, HAVE PLEADED WITH HAK TO MAKE ONE MORE ATTEMPT WHEN HAK INCREASINGLY BEGAN TO POINT OUT PRESSING BUSINESS IN WASHINGTON.

US SOURCES SAID KISSINGER DID NOT RECEIVE PRESIDENT NIXON MESSAGE ASKING HIM TO STAY ON IN ME TO CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS BEYOND THIS WEEKEND. BUT LAST WEEK, NIXON TOLD KISSINGER TO STAY AS LONG AS HE CONSIDERED NECESSARY.

SENIOR OFFICIAL SAID PROGRESS IN DAMASCUS CAME AS A SURPRISE.

2. WASH POST DATELINE JERUSALEM MAY 18 BY BERGER - HAK SAID TONIGHT SYRIA AND ISRAEL ARE ON THRESHOLD OF AGREEMENT. STORY CARRIES SECRETARY'S DAMASCUS DEPARTURE STATEMENT. BERGER SAYS HAK'S UNDERSTATED REMARKS END DIPLOMATIC CLIFFHANGER. IF ASSAD HAD NOT ASSENTED TO SECRETARY'S PROPOSALS, HAK WAS READY TO SUSPEND NEGOTIATIONS. BUT SENIOR US OFFICIAL SAID ASSAD HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT MOMENTUM WOULD BE LOST IF TALKS INTERRUPTED. STORY CONTINUES ON JUMP PAGE ALONG WITH PHOTO SECRETARY AND EBAN AFTER MEETING IN JERUSALEM YESTERDAY.

BERGER SAYS A SENIOR OFFICIAL CONFIRMED TODAY THAT PRESIDENT NIXON SENT KISSINGER A MESSAGE WEDNESDAY NIGHT AGAIN TELLING HIM TO REMAIN IN REGION AS LONG AS NECESSARY TO GET AN AGREEMENT. NIXON ADM EAGER FOR A FOREIGN POLICY SUCCESS. A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO ME LARGELY DEPENDS ON OUTCOME OF TALKS.

BERGER SAYS OFFICIALS WOULD GIVE NO DETAILS ON DIS-ENGAGEMENT LINE. SHE SAYS WHAT IS KNOWN ABOUT AGREEMENT SO FAR: ISRAEL WILL RETURN ALL TERRITORY IT CAPTURED IN OCT 1973 WAR; ISRAEL WILL RETURN ENTIRE TOWN OF KUNEITRA, ISRAEL WILL RETURN SOME ADDITIONAL AREAS TAKEN IN 1967; IT WOULD INVOLVE CREATION OF UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE; A BUFFER ZONE WILL BE CREATED AND CIVIL ADMINISTRATIONS WILL BE ESTABLISHED INSIDE IT; US EXPECTED TO PLAY A SIMILAR ROLE IT UNDERTOOK WITH EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS BY PROVIDING MEMORANDA ON WHAT IT UNDERSTANDS TO BE UNDERTAKINGS ON EACH SIDE. NOT KNOWN IF US HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE GUARANTEES SYRIA HAS BEEN SEEKING TO ASSURE FURTHER ISRAELI WITHDRAWALS; US IS EXPECTED TO, PATROL WITHDRAWAL ZONE WITH ITS OWN PLANS AND RECONNAISSANCE SATELLITES AS IT DOES ON THE EGYPTIAN FRONT.

PAGE 3 STATE 104648

UNCLASSIFIED

3. NYTIMES DATELINE TEL AVIV MAY 18 BY GWERTZMAN

SECRETARY RETURNED TO ISRAEL FROM DAMASCUS TONIGHT AFTER ACHIEVING AN APPARENT BREAKTHROUGH. AS A RESULT OF DRAMATIC LAST-MINUTE DEVELOPMENT, HAK SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY. ON WAY HERE FROM DAMASCUS ABOARD HAK'S PLANE, A SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAID QUOTE I THINK NOW WE CAN GET IT (END QUOTE). GWERTZMAN SAYS MAIN BREAKTHROUGH WAS ACHIEVED ON SENSITIVE QUESTION OF DEMARCATION LINE. NEWSN TRAVELLING WITH KISSINGER PARTY TOLD FOR 10 DAYS THAT ONCE AGREEMENT ON ACTUAL DEMARCATION LINE WAS REACHED, OTHER ISSUES COULD BE NEGOTIATED IN A SHORT TIME. MOOD ON BOARD AIRCRAFT DECIDELY OPTIMISTIC. KISSINGER HAD TOLD SOME AIDES THAT HE THOUGHT CHANCES WERE DECIDELY AGAINST BREAKTHROUGH TODAY AND HE HAD STATEMENT DRAFTED ANNOUNCING HIS RETURN FOR A RECESS OF A FEW WEEKS IN THE TALKS.

DETAILS ON ACTUAL AMERICAN PLAN UNAVAILABLE AND AMERICAN OFFICIALS ARE SENSITIVE ABOUT DISCUSSING FOR FEAR OF JEOPARDIZING TALKS. BUT NEWSN TOLD IT IS NOW CONTEMPLATED ONCE DEMARCATION LINE AND OTHER ISSUES ARE RESOLVED, AN ACTUAL AGREEMENT WILL BE SIGNED IN GENEVA. GENEVA SIGNED AT MILITARY OFFICER LEVEL WOULD PARALLEL EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT. GWERTZMAN WRITES SIMILAR STORY RE PLEASE THAT SECRETARY STAY ON.

S/PR: STAFF FOLLOWING LONG SHUTTLES GRATIFIED RABBIT-OUT-OF-HAT. NICE GOING. RUSH

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