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TOSEC 912

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22 MAY 1974

TOSEC 912

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.) PFOR  
SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE: RADIO/TV, MAY 22,  
--- 1974

FOR ANDERSON FROM KING

1. NONE OF TUESDAY EVENING NETWORK TV PROGRAMS CARRIED DIRECT REPORTS FROM THE PARTY AND ONLY CRONKITE MADE REFERENCE TO THE NEGOTIATING EFFORTS.

2. FOLLOWING ARE KALB AND ANDERSON SPOTS MONITORED WEDNESDAY MORNING:

A. KALB (CBS RADIO): KISSINGER IS HUMAN AFTER ALL, HE IS BEGINNING TO LOOK TIRED AND HIS VOICE IS GETTING HOARSE AND HE IS FINDING OUT THAT THERE ARE ONLY TWENTY FOUR HOURS IN A DAY. BUT THE SHUTTLE GOES ON AS THE SECRETARY SEEMS TO BE STRUGGLING TO COMPLETE THIS NEGOTIATION BY THIS WEEKEND, A DISENGAGEMENT OF SYRIAN AND ISRAELI FORCES ON THE GOLAN FRONT. LAST WEEKEND'S OPTIMISM HAS FADED AS KISSINGER FINDS NEGOTIATING WITH ASAD A PARTICULARLY TOUGH CHORE. THERE IS NOW A POSSIBILITY THAT KISSINGER WILL NOT BE ABLE TO COMPLETE THE AGREEMENT BY THIS WEEKEND, HIS PERSONAL DEADLINE FOR GOING HOME. FOR EXAMPLE, LAST SATURDAY HE THOUGHT HE HAD ASAD'S AGREEMENT TO THE LINE OF DISENGAGEMENT, ON MONDAY ASAD SHIFTED GROUND, KISSINGER

HAD TO SPEND MOST OF HIS FIVE HOURS WITH ASAD YESTERDAY GETTING BACK TO WHERE HE WAS LAST SATURDAY, THAT DELAYED EVERYTHING ELSE -- THE SIZE OF A UN FORCE AMONG OTHER THINGS. ISRAEL WANTS A SUBSTANTIAL FORCE OF ABOUT THREE THOUSAND UN TROOPS, SYRIA WANTS ONLY SEVERAL HUNDRED. THIS MUST BE RESOLVED. SAME FOR THE NATURE OF A THINNED OUT ZONE, HOW MUCH FIREPOWER AND MANPOWER WILL BE ALLOWED IN IT. EACH ISSUE TAKES TIME AND KISSINGER IS FIGHTING THE CLOCK AND TRYING TO ADJUST THE HISTORY OF SUSPICION BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL TO THE IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF DISENGAGEMENT.

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B. ANDERSON (GROUP W NEWS - RADIO) FROM JERUSALEM:  
AFTER FIVE MORE HOURS OF TALKS WITH PRESIDENT ASAD OF SYRIA KISSINGER SAID THAT SOME PROGRESS WAS MADE BUT MORE NEGOTIATING IS REQUIRED.

--- KISSINGER -- THE PRESIDENT AND I CONTINUED OUR DETAILED EXAMINATION OF ALL THE ELEMENTS OF THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. PROGRESS WAS MADE IN TWO AREAS. I AM GOING TO RETURN TO DAMASCUS TOMORROW FOR FURTHER TALKS.

--- ANDERSON: KISSINGER SOUNDED AND LOOKED TIRED AFTER HIS SUCCESSION OF EIGHTEEN HOUR DAYS AND THE DEAL IS OBVIOUSLY NOT IN THE BAG YET, AND GIVEN THE BACKGROUND OF BITTERNESS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA NOTHING CAN BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED. HOWEVER, A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAYS THAT THE MOST DIFFICULT SUBJECT, THE CEASEFIRE LINE, IS VIRTUALLY SETTLED.

3. IN SEVERAL OTHER RADIO ACCOUNTS AND ONE TV SPOT WEDNESDAY MORNING, KALB EMPLOYS SIMILAR LANGUAGE TO CONVEY SAME SPIRIT-DAMPENING TONE. RUSH

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