



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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 TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR
 SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE, MAY 22, 1974

FOR ANDERSON FROM KING

SUMMARY: WEDNESDAY MORNING NEWSPAPERS CARRY REPORTS THAT SEPARATION LINE IS VIRTUALLY SET BUT OFFICIALS CAUTION THAT SEPARATION AGREEMENT IS NOT IN THE BAG. AFTERNOON WIRES REPORT HAK RETURNS TO WASHINGTON THIS WEEKEND REGARDLESS OF AGREEMENT STATUS.

1. NYT PAGE 15, GWERTZMAN STORY, "ISRAEL-SYRIA PACT IS BROUGHT CLOSER," REPORTS KISSINGER VIRTUALLY WRAPS UP NEGOTIATIONS FOR CEASE-FIRE LINE ON TROOP SEPARATION AND OTHER AREAS FOR DISENGAGEMENT ACCORD PROGRESS. ANDERSON, AUTHORIZED BY HAK, SAYS "THE LINE IS VIRTUALLY SET." SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL WARNS NEWSMEN ON OPTIMISTIC REPORTS THAT AGREEMENT COULD BE ACHIEVED BY WEEK'S END SAYING "IT'S NOT IN THE BAG," BUT ACKNOWLEDGES VIEW IS AMERICAN AND OTHERS MAY WORK OUT LAST DETAILS AFTER KISSINGER'S DEPARTURE. GWERTZMAN COMMENTS ON ISRAELI AND SYRIAN MOOD ON THE AGREEMENT PROSPECTS.

2. POST, PAGE 37, "KISSINGER SAYS GOLAN LINE IS ALMOST SET" BY BERGER LEADS WITH REPORT HAK AUTHORIZES SPOKESMAN TO SAY LINE FOR DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES "VIRTUALLY SET." SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIALS CAUTION SEPARATION AGREEMENT BY SATURDAY "NOT IN BAG." BERGER COMMENTS HAK TOLD ISRAELI AND SYRIANS HE PLANS TO LEAVE AREA FRIDAY OR SATURDAY, BUT WH SAYS HE WILL REMAIN UNTIL AGREEMENT REACHED. SENIOR OFFICIAL NOTES ISSUES INVOLVED TOUGH NEGOTIATIONS THAT "DO NOT SPECIALIZE IN CONCESSIONS."

3. O'LEARY ARTICLE PAGE 11, "GOLAN LINE 'VIRTUALLY SETTLED", LEADS WITH SAME INFO AS GWERTZMAN AND BERGER ARTICLES. HE COMMENTS FURTHER DISCLOSURE INDICATED HAK MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS. O'LEARY REPORTS SYRIAN NEWS AGENCY CITES UNNAMED SENIOR US OFFICIAL TO EFFECT HAK WILL LEAVE

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WITHOUT AGREEMENT THIS WEEK. REST OF ARTICLE DISCUSSES REMAINING ISSUES AND HAK AREAS OF PRESENT FOCUS; O'LEARY POINTS OUT FEW OFFICIALS KNOW HOW FAR ISRAELIS HAVE AGREED TO WITHDRAW AND EXACTLY WHERE SEPARATION LINE WILL BE. SECOND O'LEARY ARTICLE PAGE 10, "MASSACRES SPARK ISRAELI RUSH TO FIREARMS," DISCUSSES MASSACRES AT MA'ALOT AND KIRYAT SHOMONA AND SUBSEQUENT INCREASE IN FIREARMS SALE TO ISRAELI CITIZENS, REPORTS AUTHORITIES SEE NO EFFICIENT WAY TO KEEP PALESTINIANS FROM CROSSING BORDER, SAYS CIVILIAN VOLUNTEERS ONLY ANSWER FOR ISRAEL.

4. GLOBE REPEATS BERGER ARTICLE ON PAGE 22. INCLUDES PIX (AP) OF HAK AND SISCO LEAVING JERUSALEM MEETING.

5. MONITOR HEAD PAGE 1, "KISSINGER A LITTLE MORE TIME," SAIKOWSKI REPORTS HAK FINDS SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT MORE TIME-CONSUMING THAN EXPECTED. SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL CAUTIONS NEWSMEN "ACCORD IS NOT IN BAG," SAYS TALKS MIGHT BE RECESSED AT WEEK'S END. OFFICIAL STATES HAK IS HOPEFUL FOR COMPLETION OF BASIC AGREEMENT THIS WEEK, BUT WILL LEAVE FOR WASHINGTON FRIDAY OR SATURDAY, STOPPING POSSIBLY IN BONN AND LONDON. SAIKOWSKI COMMENTS ON SYRIAN AND ISRAELI MOODS AND ON PALESTINIAN ROLE IN DISENGAGEMENT ACCORD. SECOND SAIKOWSKI ARTICLE, PAGE 3 WITH PIX OF HAK DESCENDING AIRPLANE, "HOME. WHERE'S HOME? NEWSMEN ASK ON THE KISSINGER AIR SHUTTLE," SAYS HAK SHUTTLE HAS BECOME WAY OF LIFE FOR NEWSMEN.

6. SCHWEID (AP). SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYS HAK HAS WORKED OUT BASICS FOR SEPARATION BUT COULD BE "HUNG UP FOR AWHILE ON THE DETAILS." SAME OFFICIAL SAYS ISRAELI AND SYRIAN TECHNICAL EXPERTS WILL COME TO WASHINGTON OR AMERICAN SPECIALISTS GO TO MIDEAST IF HAK RETURNS WITHOUT SETTLEMENT. DECISION TO LEAVE REGION HAK'S NOW. SCHWEID COMMENTS PART OF DISENGAGEMENT SUCCESS RESTS ON UNDERSTANDINGS CONVEYED THROUGH KISSINGER.

7. UPI REPORTS HAK SEEKS BREAKTHROUGH TO COMPLETE AGREEMENT BUT INDICATES HE WILL RETURN TO WASHINGTON THIS WEEKEND EVEN WITHOUT IT. HIGH AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYS HAK SEEKS BREAKTHROUGH ON SEVERAL ISSUES BUT DECLINES TO IDENTIFY STICKING POINT. UPI REPORTS THINNING OUT OF TROOPS ON BOTH SIDES OF DEMARCATION LINE MOST DIFFICULT ISSUE. SAME OFFICIAL REPORTS HAK FEARS NO CEASE-FIRE UNLESS COMPLETE AGREEMENT THIS TRIP, SAYS HAK WILL STAY ANOTHER DAY IF COMPLETE AGREEMENT DEPENDS UPON IT.

8. MAY 27 TIME HAS SEVEN-AGE ARTICLE ON MIDEAST EMPHASIZING TERRORIST RAIDS UNDER HEAD "BULLETS, BOMBS AND A SIGN OF HOPE." SAYS TERRORISM UNDERSCORES NEED FOR PEACE, MAY MOVE TWO SIDES TOWARD AGREEMENT. AT WEEK'S END HIS DIPLOMATS SAY SYRIA TE

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DISENGAGEMENT AND IS PREPARED TO SIGN AGREEMENT IN GENEVA. US DIPLOMATS SAY SYRIAN REFUSAL TO CONDONE ARAB RAIDS IN PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS CLEAR SIGN ASSAD DOES NOT WANT TERRORISM TO INTERFERE WITH NEGOTIATIONS. TIME REPORTS MUCH PUBLIC ANGER DIRECTED AGAINST HAK FOR PRESSURING ISRAEL INTO CONCESSIONS. ALTHOUGH HAK REPORTEDLY INFORMED SYRIA INTENDS TO KEEP FIGHTING AROUND MT. HERMON, ANNOUNCEMENT OF TENTATIVE AGREEMENT A HOPEFUL SIGN FOR OVERALL AGREEMENT. US DIPLOMATIC SPOKESMAN SAYS, "ALL OF THE PARTIES HAVE GONE TOO FAR DOWN THE ROAD TO BREAK OFF NOW."

9. NEWSWEEK RUNS 5-PAGE MIDEAST STORY LEADING WITH TERRORIST ATTACKS UNDER HEAD "MIDEAST: BLOOD AND HOPE" (PIX OF HAK AND ASSAD). VAN VOORST SAYS MEIR TOLD HAK SHE FEARED GUERRILLA ATTACK AGAINST SCHOOL CHILDREN MAY 15. ARTICLE SAYS TERRORIST ATTACKS UNDERSCORE "BITTER TRUTH" THAT NO ENDURING PEACE LIKELY IN MIDEAST WHILE PALESTINE CLAIMED BY TWO IMPLACABLE FOES. YET HAK NOT TO BE STOPPED, EXTENDS PEACE MISSION WITH EXTRAORDINARY RESULTS, GREATEST BOOST COMING FROM FEELING AMONG ISRAELIS THAT NEGOTIATIONS MUST GO ON. INSET ARTICLE PAGE 40 "KISSINGER'S LATEST 'MIRACLE'" DESCRIBES DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS IN GREATER DETAIL. REPORTS ODDS STACKED HEAVILY AGAINST HAK, YET HE APPEARS TO SCORE EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT IN GETTING SYRIAN AND ISRAELI APPROVAL OF TENTATIVE AGREEMENT. VAN VOORST REPORTS ISRAEL WILL RETAIN SETTLEMENTS ON GOLAN AND CRESTS OF THREE STRATEGIC HILLS WHILE SURRENDERING QUNEITRA AND ALLOWING SYRIAN TROOPS TO TAKE UP FRONTAL POSITIONS ALONG CITY LIMITS. ISRAELIS TO ESTABLISH LINE ALONG SLOPES OF HILLS AND UN TROOPS TO OCCUPY BUFFER ZONE SEVERAL KILOMETERS WIDE IN BETWEEN. US DIPLOMATS HOPEFUL HAK WILL WIN FINAL ACCORD WITH ONE MORE SHUTTLE TO DAMASCUS THIS WEEK. QUOTE FROM SYRIAN IN DAMASCUS: "PULLING THIS OFF MAKES THE TERM 'MIRACLE WORKER' A VAST UNDERSTATEMENT."

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