



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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BT
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Classification

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR
SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE, MAY 24, 1974

FOR ANDERSON FROM KING

SUMMARY: FRIDAY MORNING NEWSPAPERS REPORT PROGRESS MADE BY TWO PARTIES BUT POSSIBLE NO AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED BEFORE HAK DEADLINE DEPARTURE. WIRE SERVICES REPORT HAK PROGRESS IN SEEKING SUPPORT FOR US PLAN TO BREAK DEADLOCK.

1. NY GWERTZMAN STORY, PAGE 1 BELOW FOLD, "KISSINGER NOTES 'MORE PROGRESS'," REPORTS HAK SAYS "GOOD PROGRESS" TOWARD REMOVING PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYS "WE'RE GETTING CLOSER" TO ACCORD. PROGRESS IN THINNING OUT OF FRONT LINES, AGREEMENT ON UN FORCE SIZE TO BE RESOLVED NEXT. GWERTZMAN SAYS NEWSMEN SKEPTICAL OF NEW DEADLINE WHICH SEEMS GEARED TO PRESSURE THE PARTIES. AMERICAN OFFICIALS UNCERTAIN IF ACCORD WILL BE REACHED IN TIME LEFT. ALSO SAY HAK IS CONSIDERING PROPOSAL OF AMERICAN PLAN. GWERTZMAN QUOTES HAK IN LUNCHEON TOAST, "WE WILL CONTINUE TO PERSEVERE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS." HAK STRESSES THINNING-OUT PROBLEM MAY PROVE FORMIDABLE GIVEN ALLOTTED TIME. SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYS HAK QUESTIONED PARTIES ON THINNING OUT OF FORCES TO DETERMINE IF BASIS EXISTS FOR AN AMERICAN PROPOSAL.

2. IN POST ABOVE FOLD PAGE 1 STORY, "US IDEAS SPUR TALK PROGRESS," BERGER LEADS WITH US OFFICIAL'S REPORT AMERICAN IDEAS MOVE PARTIES CLOSER TO AGREEMENT ON LIMITATION OF FORCES BUT TIME MAY RUN OUT BEFORE AGREEMENT REACHED. SAME OFFICIAL SAYS HAK PLANS TALKS WITH ISRAELIS TO DETERMINE IF PARTIES READY FOR FULL AMERICAN PLAN, REPORTS BOTH SIDES WANT AMERICAN PROPOSAL. HAK SAYS 80 PER CENT CHANCE OF ACCEPTANCE. BERGER SEES IN HAK'S LUNCHEON TOAST, "WE WILL CONTINUE TO PERSEVERE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS," INDICATION HE WILL OVER-STAY NEW DEADLINE. BERGER NOTES IRONIC HAK REMARK "IT HAS BEEN A DIFFICULT NEGOTIATION EASED SOMEWHAT BY NATURAL CONCILIATIVENESS OF BOTH SIDES."

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SECOND BERGER STORY PAGE 30, "THE PAWNS OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI STRUGGLE," DISCUSSES REFUGEES AND THEIR SITUATION AS RESULT OF 1967 WAR.

THIRD BERGER STORY PAGE 31, "MA'ALOT LETTER RELEASED," LEADS WITH GUERRILLAS' INTENTION TO TAKE FRENCH AND ROMANIAN AMBASSADORS RATHER THAN YOUTHS AS SAFE PASSAGE GUARANTEE. BERGER DISCUSSES THE DEBATE OVER GUERRILLAS' INTENTIONS AND ISRAELI FOREKNOWLEDGE OF MA'ALOT RAID.

3. STAR ARTICLE BELOW FOLD, PAGE 1, BY O'LEARY, "MIDEAST TALKS GAPS CLOSING," REPORTS HAK PREPARES NON-NEGOTIABLE AMERICAN PROPOSAL TO BREAK LAST DEADLOCK IN DISENGAGEMENT. O'LEARY SAYS HAK OPTIMISTIC OVER GETTING INITIALED FRAMEWORK BEFORE DEPARTURE. SENIOR US OFFICIAL SAYS TWO SIDES CLOSER ON STRENGTH OF UN FORCE AND THINKS SYRIANS CONCLUDE THINNING-OUT FORMULA NOT INCONSISTENT WITH DAMASCUS DEFENSE. OFFICIAL ALSO SAYS NO DISENGAGEMENT COLLAPSE. SENIOR OFFICIAL SAYS HAK WILL DECIDE AFTER MEETING WITH ISRAELIS WHETHER US PROPOSAL WILL BREAK DEADLOCK. AT LUNCHEON HAK SAYS "IT IS MY JUDGMENT THAT WE MADE GREAT PROGRESS AND EVEN IF WE CANNOT COMPLETE (DISENGAGEMENT) ON THIS TRIP WE WILL CERTAINLY ACCOMPLISH IT IN THE NEAR FUTURE. BUT WE WILL CONTINUE TO PERSEVERE FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS."

4. NY GLOBE ARTICLE PAGE 20, "KISSINGER-ASSAD TALKS MOVE MIDEAST CLOSER TO PEACE," JHABVALA WRITES HAK MOVES PARTIES CLOSER TO DISENGAGEMENT. SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYS MAJOR REMAINING DIFFERENCES SUBSTANTIALLY NARROWED. JHABVALA REPORTS LATEST PROGRESS SPURS HOPES HAK MAY TIE UP PEACE PACKAGE BY SUNDAY AS PLANNED.

5. MONITOR ARTICLE BELOW FOLD PAGE 1, "ELEVENTH HOUR FOR KISSINGER," BY SAIKOWSKI REPORTS HIGH US OFFICIAL SAYS US WILL SUBMIT AMERICAN PROPOSAL ON FRIDAY IF PROBLEMS CAN BE RESOLVED SUFFICIENTLY FOR ITS ACCEPTANCE. ARTICLE INCLUDES JOHN COOLEY ANALYSIS OF DISENGAGEMENT FROM BEIRUT. COOLEY

REPORTS HAK DIFFICULTIES SEEN IN LOCAL ISSUES (ISRAELI AND SYRIAN GOVERNMENT PROBLEMS) AND EXTERNAL ISSUES (FUTURE OF NIXON ADMINISTRATION, SOVIET ROLE, UNCERTAINTY OF EUROPE-ARAB RELATIONS). PAGE 5 INCLUDES HAK AND SISCO HEADSHOT PIX.

6. AP (MORNING BYLINE SCHWEID) REPORTS NEW LIFE PUMPED INTO HAK PEACE MISSION. SENIOR OFFICIAL FRQBGAH RETURNS TO SYRIA HOPING TO WRAP UP AGREEMENT AND RETURNS TO WASHINGTON WITH OR WITHOUT AGREEMENT SUNDAY. AP REPORTS US NEGOTIATORS MIGHT REMAIN AFTER HAK DEPARTURE. SCHWEID QUOTES

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PERES TO EFFECT HAK CONTEMPLATES "MIDDLE OF ROAD" PROPOSAL WHICH TAKES SHARP SENSIBILITIES OF BOTH SIDES INTO CONSIDERATION.

7. UPI AFTERNOON GENERAL GOLAN HEIGHTS ROUNDUP INCLUDES REPORT OF "GOOD PROGRESS" TOWARD SUPPORT OF HAK PLAN TO RESOLVE REMAINING OBSTACLES. HIGH AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYS HAK BELIEVES FULL AGREEMENT SOON EVEN IF HE GOES HOME WITHOUT IT.

FYI: ALL WIRES RUNNING SPEC OF RUSH APPOINTMENT AS ECONOMIC CZAR TO BE ANNOUNCED PRESIDENT'S NATIONWIDE RADIO ADDRESS ON ECONOMIC POLICY.

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