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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF REPORTAGE BY TRAVELING PRESS
MONDAY, MAY 27, 1974

TO ANDERSON FROM KING

SUMMARY: ALL PRESS REPORTS ANALYSE HANGUPS TO FINAL AGREEMENT, REFLECTING PAUCITY OF HARD INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO TRAVELERS. RADIO-TV REPORTS AS OF EARLY AFTERNOON TODAY INJECTING INCREASING NOTE OF UNCERTAINTY THAT SECRETARY CAN PULL IT OFF. END SUMMARY

1. KALB, VALERIANI NOT HEARD ON AIR TODAY. WESTINGHOUSE'S ANDERSON CARRIED HOURLY ON CBS REPORTING BREATHLESSLY THAT HAK NOW DOWN TO WIRE IN LAST GASP EFFORT TO SAVE THE NEGOTIATIONS, ADDING VARIOUSLY (A) CEASEFIRE LINE AGREEMENT COMING UNSTUNT, (B) ISRAELI INSISTENCE ON SYRIAN REIN ON PALESTINIANS A NEW MAJOR ROADBLOCK! (C) THAT FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ADVERSARIES WHETHER OR NOT THE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE OF LONG-TERM NATURE OR A TEMPORARY PACT HAS NOW EMERGED. ANDERSON-S ASSOCIATE CAMELIK REPORTING FROM BEIRUT ALSO ON CBS THAT OUTLOOK FOR SECRETARY NOT CHEERING.

2. GWERTZMAN LEADS PAPER WITH THIS HEADLINE: KISSINGER MAKES PROGRESS IN SYRIA BUT SNAGS ARISE -- OFFICIALS SAY KEY ISSUE OF THINNING OUT FORCES IS VIRTUALLY RESOLVED - DEADLINE PUT OFF AGAIN -- DAMASCUS BRINGS UP FRESH OBJECTIONS ON BUFFER ZONE AND DRAFT LANGUAGE. STORY NOTES OFFICIALS AND NEWSMEN EXPRESSING UNCERTAINTY SECRETARY CAN WRAP UP AGREEMENT BEFORE HIS SELF-IMPOSED DEADLINE, THE WHILE BEING SKEPTICAL HE WILL PACK UP AND GO HOME WITHOUT A FINAL DEAL. QTES AMERICAN OFFICIALS THAT HE HAS ALL BUT RESOLVED THINNING OUT ISSUE, BUT EVEN AS A SENIOR OFFICIAL WAS RELAYING NEWS THAT "WE'RE GETTING VERY CLOSE ON THINNING OUT," SYRIANS FOUND NEW PROBLEMS

UNCLASSIFIED

Classification

PAGE 2

*T0SEC 1085

UNCLASSIFIED

WITH WIDTH OF BUFFER ZONE. THEY HAD ARISEN IN TALKS OF MAW AND ATHERTON WITH SYRIAN FONMIN KHADDAM AND WERE IN NATURE OF "NIT-PICKS" RATHER THAN MAJOR OBSTACLES. GWERTZMAN MAKES IT PLAIN WITHOUT SO STATING THAT TRAVELERS NOT GETTING MUCH NEWS. REFERS FOR EXAMPLE TO CHARGE AIR OF SUSPENSE IN HOTEL WHERE PRESS AWAITED OUTCOME OF THIS SESSION OF TALKS AND TO DETAILS OF SECRETARY S COMPROMISE PLAN APPEARING IN ISRAELI PRESS. STORY CLOSES WITH ACCOUNT OF MEIR'S MOVING TRIBUTE TO SECRETARY.

3. LA BERGER EX JERUSALEM SHARES P-1 BYLINE WITH ONE YUVAL ELIZUR AND, ALSO REFLECTING LACK OF NEWS FROM PARTY LEADS WITH SHIMON PERES" DESCRIPTION OF SECRETARY'S LATEST EFFORTS AS -GRAND FINALE" TO AGREEMENT. THEN QTING AMERICAN OFFICIALS ABOARD PLANE, REPORTS SECRETARY SO CLOSE TO THIN-OUT AGREEMENT HE IS ALMOST READY TO SUBMIT HIS OWN PLAN FOR BRIDGING REMAINING MINOR"DIFFERENCES. AT WHICH POINT STORY QTES "OBSERVERS WHO RAISE CAUTIONARY POINT THAT EACH TIME ONE ISSUE APPEARED SOLVED ANOTHER AROSE TO TAKE ITS PLACE, CITING AS,EXAMPLE PAINSTAKING WORK WHICH WENT INTO CONSTRUCTION OF 1-4 MILE WIDE BUFFER ZONE. NOBODY OBJECTED AT TIME BUT NOW COMES SYRIA DEMANDING IT BE NARROWED. BESIDES BUFFER ZONE STORY MENTIONS AS PROBLEMS ISRAELI DEMAND THAT SYRIA PREVENT PARAMILITARY ACTION AGAINST NATIONAL TERRITORY, AND DISPUTE WHETHER FINAL AGREEMENT SHOULD BE PROVISIONAL, AS SYRIA WANTS, OR PERMANENT, ONE ISRAELIS WANT. STORY THEN RECOUNTS LATEST GOLAN FIGHTING AND CLOSES WITH MEIR'S LUNCHEON TRIBUTE TO HAK AS MASTER OF NEGOTIATION AND MAN OF INTELLECT AND SOUL. SHIRT-TAILED TO STORY IS SPECULATIVE PIECE ABOUT POSSIBLE BREZHNEV VISIT TO ME TO MATCH ONE PLANNED BY PRESIDENT.

4. O'LEARY HAS TOP HEAD ON P-1 "GOLAN TALKS IN FINAL STAGE -- OBSERVERS OPTIMISTIC, WHICH ALSO CARRIES PICTURE OF A SMILING HAK. O-L MINCES NO WORDS IN REVEALING NEWS BLACKOUT BY US PARTY AND DEPENDS FOR NEWS ON SYRIAN COMMUNIQUE ON TALKS, WHICH IS DESCRIBED AS LENDING OPTIMISTIC AIR TO PROCEEDINGS. HE ALSO TAKES CHEER FROM SPOKESMAN ANDERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HAK ONITING IN JERUSALEM, SOMETHING OBSERVERS BELIEVE IS SIGNIFICANT: SECRETARY WOULD HAVE LITTLE REASON TO SPEND ANY GREAT LENGTH OF TIME IN ISRAEL TONIGHT IF HE ONLY HAD THE TASK OF REPORTING TO THE ISRAELIS THAT TALKS HAD FAILED. SPECULATIVELY O'L REPORTS THREE POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS FOR ON-GOING NEGOTS: (A) THAT HAK FEELS HE IS CLOSE ENOUGH TO BREAKTHROUGH TO WARRANT

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CONTINUING THE TALKS; (B) THAT AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED AND TODAY'S MEETING IS TO DRAFT THE ACTUAL ACCORD. THIRD REASON NOT VOUCHSAFED TO US AS STORY GOES ON TO QIE OBSERVERS AGAIN THAT IF AGREEMENT IN PROSPECT ITS ANNOUNCEMENT MOST CERTAINLY WOULD BE RESERVED FOR WHITE HOUSE AND POSSIBLY SYRIA, EGYPT AND SOVIET UNION.

5. BOTH AP AND UPI CARRY MULTI-SOURCE NIGHT LEADS REPORTING CONCLUSION OF 12TH SHUTTLE TO DAMASCUS WITH NO WORD YET WHETHER DEAL REACHED. BOTH QUOTE AMERICAN SOURCES AS SAYING HAK GOES HOME TOMORROW, PERIOD. TREATMENT OF THIS DAY'S ACTIVITIES BRINGS GROMYKO ARRIVAL AT DAMASCUS HIGH INTO BOTH AGENCY STORIES.

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