



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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UNCLASSIFIED

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Classification

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

FOR ANDERSON FROM HARE

1. FOLLOWING KALB REPORT FROM AMMAN WAS CARRIED MONDAY MORNING BOTH ON RADIO AND TV: "KISSINGER COMPLETED HIS TALKS WITH KING HUSSEIN AND THEN WENT SIGHTSEEING AT THE OLD ROMAN AMPHITHEATER, A FIFTEEN MINUTE HELICOPTER RIDE FROM AMMAN. IN A WAY IT WAS ALL A MATTER OF KILLING TIME UNTIL THE ISRAELIS COMPLETE THEIR DELIBERATIONS ON A NEW MAP WHICH KISSINGER WILL PRESENT TO THE SYRIANS. THE NEW MAP ACCORDING TO INFORMED SOURCES WOULD INDICATE AN ISRAELI WILLINGNESS TO WITHDRAW FROM SOME OF THE LAND TAKEN IN THE 1967 WAR IN ADDITION TO ALL OF THE LAND TAKEN DURING THE 1973 WAR INCLUDING THE KEY SYRIAN DISTRICT CAPITAL OF KUNETRA. THERE IS OF COURSE AN IF IN ALL OF THIS, IF AN ARRANGEMENT CAN BE WORKED OUT THAT LEAVES THE ISRAELIS IN CONTROL OF THREE SETTLEMENTS NEAR KUNETRA AND KEEPS CONTROL OF THREE STRATEGIC HILLS OUT OF SYRIAN HANDS. WHETHER THIS MEANS THE HILLS THEN GO UNDER UN CONTROL IS STILL NOT CLEAR. KISSINGER MAY BE IN ISRAEL FOR ONLY A BRIEF TIME BEFORE PROCEEDING ON TO DAMASCUS WHERE HIS BIG POWER COMPETITOR GROMYKO HAS BEEN VISITING."

2. ALTHOUGH NOT FROM MEMBERS OF TRAVELING PARTY, WE HAVE INCLUDED FOLLOWING CBS RADIO REPORTS OF MONDAY MORNING FROM DAMASCUS AND TEL AVIV AS INDICATION PESSIMISTIC TONE TRIP COVERAGE HAS BEGUN TO RECEIVE:

A. DEAN BRAELIS (DAMASCUS): "HEAVY FIGHTING HAS ERUPTED ALL ALONG THE GOLAN FRONT ACCORDING TO THE MILITARY SPOKESMAN HERE. HE SAID ONE ISRAELI WAR PLANE WAS SHOT DOWN BY THE SYRIANS THIS MORNING. THE FEELING HERE AS EXPRESSED BY A SYRIAN SPOKESMAN IS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF KISSINGER'S EFFORT TO DISENGAGE THE SYRIAN AND ISRAELI FORCES. THERE IS SOME EDUCATED SPECULATION HERE THAT AFTER THIS ROUND OF KISSINGER DIPLOMACY THE NEXT LOCATION FOR DISENGAGEMENT TALKS WILL BE IN GENEVA IN ABOUT

PAGE 2
STATE 92687

UNCLASSIFIED

A MONTH'S TIME."

B. BRUNO WASSERTHILE (TEL AVIV): "SOURCES IN JERUSALEM SAY THAT ISRAEL IS ANGERED BY SYRIA'S REFUSAL TO SCALE DOWN THE FIGHTING ON THE GOLAN FRONT WON'T GIVE SECRETARY KISSINGER WHAT HE WANTS MOST, A DISENGAGEMENT MAP SHOWING THE TOWN OF KUNETRA GOING BACK TO SYRIAN RULE. THERE IS GROWING OPPOSITION HERE TO GIVE CONCESSIONS TO THE SYRIANS ON BOTH THE POPULAR AND POLITICAL LEVELS. PUBLIC PROTESTS AGAINST WITHDRAWAL FROM THE 1967 LINE ARE BEING STARTED ALL OVER THE COUNTRY AND MORE AND MORE MEMBERS OF MRS. MEIR'S LABOR PARTY ARE SAID TO BE AGAINST GIVING INTO SYRIA UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS. THE FEELING HERE IS THAT DAMASCUS MADE A BAD TACTICAL ERROR IN NOT SCALING DOWN THE FIGHTING IN THE NORTH, WHICH WOULD HAVE GOTTEN THEM MOST, IF NOT ALL THEY WANTED IN A DISENGAGEMENT PACKAGE. UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES THE CONSENSUS HERE IS THAT THE KISSINGER MISSION WILL FOLD UP AND RETURN TO WASHINGTON PRETTY WELL EMPTY-HANDED BEFORE THE END OF THE WEEK."

3. FOLLOWING ACCOUNTS ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF WEEKEND COVERAGE:

A. KALB - (CBS-TV-BEN GURION AIRPORT - MAY 4): "SEVEN HOURS OF TALKS WITH PRESIDENT ASAD LEFT THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE ALONG THE GOLAN FRONT WILL SOON SUBSIDE EASING THE SECRETARY'S WAY TO A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. DESPITE A TOUGH SYRIAN LINE IN PUBLIC, BASICALLY FOR HOME CONSUMPTION, ASAD IN PRIVATE STRUCK THE SECRETARY AS READY TO MAKE A DEAL. THEY MADE PROGRESS ON ALL ELEMENTS EXCEPT THE MAJOR ONE -- WHERE TO DRAW THE DISENGAGEMENT LINE. THEN KISSINGER EARLY TODAY FLEW INTO ALEXANDRIA FOR ANOTHER EMBRACE WITH SADAT. BOTH KISSINGER AND SADAT BELIEVE THAT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL CAN BE RECONCILED. THEY THINK THAT GROMYKO'S VISIT TO DAMASCUS WILL NOT DISRUPT THE DISENGAGEMENT EFFORT."

AFTER SEVEN HOURS IN EGYPT KISSINGER FLEW INTO ISRAEL AND WITHIN AN HOUR CONFERRED WITH TOP ISRAELI LEADERS INCLUDING PM MEIR. KISSINGER IS HOPING THE ISRAELI CABINET TOMORROW WILL REACH FORMAL AGREEMENT ON A PROPOSAL TO PULL BACK FROM SOME OF THE LAND TAKEN DURING THE 1967 WAR. KISSINGER NOW BELIEVES THAT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HE WILL GET A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL DURING THIS CURRENT ROUND OF SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY, POSSIBLE, BUT AT THIS MOMENT NOTHING MORE."

KALB - (CBS RADIO FROM AMMAN - MAY 5): "A REDUCTION IN THE LEVEL OF FIGHTING ON THE GOLAN FRONT WAS AN ISRAELI PRE-REQUISITE FOR ANY SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIA."

KISSINGER ON HIS FIRST VISIT TO DAMASCUS PERSUADED PRESIDENT ASAD AS A SHOW OF GOOD WILL TO LOWER THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE. ACROSS THE GOLAN, FROM SINCE LATE YESTERDAY THERE HAS BEEN ACCUMULATING EVIDENCE TO AMERICAN OFFICIALS THAT THE SYRIANS ARE NOT FIRING AS MANY ARTILLERY SHELLS ALTHOUGH THERE IS STILL AN EXCHANGE OF FIRE ON MT. HERMON. THIS MOVE TOWARDS A DE FACTO CEASE FIRE HAS EASED KISSINGER'S CHORES IN ISRAEL. AFTER ALMOST FIVE HOURS OF TALKS LAST NIGHT WITH MRS. MEIR AND THREE MORE THIS MORNING IT NOW APPEARS THAT ISRAEL HAS SOFTENED HER NEGOTIATING POSITION AND WILL PULL BACK FROM THE SYRIAN CITY OF KUNETRA IF SOME ARRANGEMENT CAN BE MADE TO RETAIN THREE SETTLEMENTS BEHIND THE HILLS FLANKING KUNETRA. KISSINGER CONSIDERS THIS A DEFINITE ADVANCE TOWARDS A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT THOUGH TOUGH NEGOTIATING REMAINS THIS WEEK. HE RETURNS TO ISRAEL MONDAY AFTERNOON BEFORE PROCEEDING TO DAMASCUS."

B. VALERIANI (NBC-TV-NIGHTLY NEWS-ISRAEL - MAY 4): "DURING A MEETING OF SEVEN HOURS WITH PRESIDENT ASAD KISSINGER APPARENTLY RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT THE SYRIANS WOULD REDUCE THE LEVEL OF THE FIGHTING ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE ATMOSPHERE FOR THE DISENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS. AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAID SOME PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE ON OTHER ISSUES AS WELL BUT THERE WAS NO DETAILED DISCUSSIONS OF THE CENTRAL ISSUE -- WHERE THE DISENGAGEMENT LINE WOULD BE DRAWN. THAT WAS LEFT FOR KISSINGER'S RETURN TO DAMASCUS ON TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY.

KISSINGER THEN FLEW BACK TO ALEXANDRIA FOR ANOTHER MEETING WITH EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT. THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IS BEING USED AS SOMETHING OF A MODEL FOR THE SYRIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATION. JGEF SADAT IS BEING CONSULTED CLOSELY. THE EGYPTIANS WENT OUT ON A POLITICAL LIMB BY MAKING A DEAL WITH ISRAEL AND THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEIR SYRIAN PARTNERS ON THE OCTOBER WAR MAKE A SIMILAR DEAL.

ISRAEL WAS KISSINGER'S THIRD COUNTRY OF THE DAY. FROM THE AIRPORT HE WENT DIRECTLY TO A MEETING WITH SENIOR CABINET OFFICIALS IN JERUSALEM TO REPORT ON HIS TALKS IN SYRIA; PRESUMABLY INCLUDING A DEMAND THAT ISRAEL WITHDRAW FROM THREE SETTLEMENTS AROUND THE GOLAN HEIGHTS TOWN OF KUNETRA. THOSE SETTLEMENTS APPEAR TO BE A MAJOR STICKING POINT AT THIS STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

NOW THAT HE HAS COMPLETED HIS FIRST ROUND TRIP SHUTTLE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA, AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAY THAT KISSINGER IS VERY CONFIDENT THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL EVENTUALLY REACH AN AGREEMENT SEPARATING THEIR FORCES ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS BUT HE CAN NOT BE SURE YET WHETHER THEY WILL AGREE TO DO IT WITHIN ANOTHER WEEK BEFORE HE GOES BACK TO WASHINGTON." RUSH