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ISRAEL

Israeli Government Statement

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2300 GMT 22 Mar 75 TA

[Text] Some two minutes ago, Mr Dan Patir, the prime minister's adviser, appeared here with the prime minister's announcement on the postponement of the talks with Dr Kissinger. We shall hear now the recording of Dan Patir's statement: [Patir--recorded] The talks that were intended to open the process of achieving a peaceful agreement on controversial subjects between Egypt and Israel were interrupted this evening. In the initial stages of the negotiations Israel expressed its readiness to vacate the Jiddi and Mitla passes and the Abu Rudays oilfields in return for Egypt's ending the state of belligerency. Egypt refused to cancel the state of belligerency, insisting that it continue. In spite of this, Israel proposed a withdrawal of its forces from the existing separation lines in return for a less binding political formula.

[Announcer] A short break in the announcement occurs here, caused by an amending by one of the secretaries of something in the statement of the prime minister's adviser. We shall hear the sequel immediately: [Patir] I continue. In spite of this, Israel proposed, in return for a less binding political formula, a withdrawal of its forces from the existing separation lines, including the western part of the strategically important Mitla and Jiddi passes, and their transfer to UN control. Israel also proposed to transfer the oilfields to Egyptian administration. This proposal also has been rejected by Egypt. This rejection by Egypt precipitated the break in the talks. Israel is ready--today as always--to continue seeking a settlement with Egypt, and with this objective in mind it will continue to maintain very close contact with the Government of the United States.

The Government of Israel expresses profound appreciation to the U.S. Government, and especially to the secretary of state, Dr Henry Kissinger, for his untiring efforts to achieve peace. This ends the official statement.

[Announcer] The prime minister's adviser went on to say that at 0800 tomorrow a plenary session of the Cabinet will be convened to hear a report; and afterwards the Knesset also may be convened to hear an announcement by the prime minister.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE



March 22, 1975

No. 165

REMARKS OF
THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER
SECRETARY OF STATE
AND ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER SHIMON PERES
FOLLOWING AN EARLY MORNING MEETING OF
THE AMERICAN AND ISRAELI NEGOTIATING TEAMS
JERUSALEM
MARCH 22, 1975

DEFENSE MINISTER PERES: Well, as you know, we had an important and long Cabinet meeting this afternoon. Afterwards we have reported to Dr. Kissinger about the deliberations in our Cabinet session, and we went into great details about the many and complicated problems ahead of us, and since today is Friday night we have decided to continue tomorrow. I hope the Secretary will remain so we shall be able to deal with the very serious matter in a relaxed and thoughtful way tomorrow night.

QUESTION: Mr. Peres, are the talks deadlocked? Have you hit a really serious snag?

DEFENSE MINISTER PERES: I would not like to conclude the negotiations as long as they go on. Let us be a little bit patient and not run ahead of time, neither with guesses nor with conclusions.

QUESTION: Why the special session tonight, on Friday night?

DEFENSE MINISTER PERES: Basically, I believe because we are a democratic country and decisions are being taken by the Cabinet.

QUESTION: Could we get Dr. Kissinger's assessment?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I agree with what the Defense Minister has said. We reviewed in great detail all the points that are involved in a potential agreement. We thought that both sides would benefit from a day of thinking over where we stand, and we are going to meet again tomorrow evening and continue our discussions.

QUESTION: Secretary Kissinger, how do you react to these tales of deadlock? How would you characterize where it stands?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I would say that over the recent week the positions of the two sides have come closer to each other. Both sides have made a serious effort to take into account the considerations of the other, but a gap remains and, of course, as long as a gap remains there remains a lot of work to be done.

QUESTION: Are you going to continue with the work? Do you plan to keep going, keep going to Aswan, keep up the shuttle?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I plan to continue the shuttle as long as I think there is a possibility of bridging the gap.

QUESTION: And do you think so now, Sir?

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SECRETARY KISSINGER: I think so now, and we will continue our discussions tomorrow.

DEFENSE MINISTER PERES: Goodnight, gentlemen. Go and have a rest.
