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Classification

Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ORIGINATING POST:

STATE

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INCOMING

AMERICAN EMBASSY, BRUSSELS

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Press

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UNCLAS STATE 017717. TOSEC 010200

FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652:N/A

IMMEDIATE

TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: TRAVELLING PRESS REPORTAGE, MORNING, JAN. 23

NO. 15

NEWSPAPERS:

1. WASH POST (MARDER): HEADLINE: "CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS SEEN BY U.S. ON SALT" AMBIGUOUS RESULT OF THE INTENSIVE BARGAINING IS PROGRESS BUT NO FULL AGREEMENT LEAVING "A QUESTION MARK HANGING" OVER NEGOTIATIONS. CENTRAL ISSUES REMAINING ARE STILL BACKFIRE AND CRUISE. ON THESE SOVIETS PUT FORTH "IDEAS OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST" BUT "ADMINISTRATION REQUIRED FURTHER DISCUSSION OF OTHER POINTS."

THE AMERICAN SIDE SAID THE TALKS ACHIEVED "COMPLETE AGREEMENT" ON ANOTHER LONG-TERM ISSUE WHICH MARDER'S EVIDENCE POINTS TO AS THE HEAVY MISSILE PROBLEM.

THE OFFICIAL WHO SPOKE TO REPORTERS WAS "COMPLETELY IMPRECISE" AND HAD "NOTHING CONCRETE" ON ANGOLA DISCUSSION. U.S. WANTED TO TRADE-OFF SALT FOR ANGOLA BUT IT WOULD BE "DIPLOMATICALLY IMPOSSIBLE" TO ACKNOWLEDGE LINK. PHASED WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN FORCES MIGHT LIKewise BE QUIET. KISSINGER'S SUGGESTION THAT SOUTH AFRICANS MUST LEAVE AS FIRST STEP STILL STANDS.

2. WALL STREET JOURNAL (KEATLEY): THOUGH KISSINGER LEAVES CONVINCED OF PROGRESS, "GAINS CLAIMED BY A U.S. OFFICIAL ... FALL SHORT OF WHAT EARLIER SEEMED LIKELY."

ONE ISSUE RESOLVED IS APPARENTLY DEFINITION OF HEAVY MISSILES WHILE, ACCORDING TO AN OFFICIAL. NO NEGOTIATIONS

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WILL BE MADE ON CRUISE AND BACKFIRE SINCE THE RUSSIANS HAVE NOT MOVED FAR ENOUGH THOUGH THEY ADVANCED SOME INTERESTING PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION IN WASHINGTON. HEAVY MISSILE BUSINESS MAY HELP SAT, SFY CONGRESSIONAL CRITICS.

IT APPEARS KISSINGER MAY HAVE REACHED END OF HIS BARGAINING MANDATE; FORD DOES NOT WANT DISGRUNTLED PENTAGON LEAKING TO CONGRESS AND PRESS.

3. NYTIMES (GWERTZMAN): FRONT PAGE CENTER COLUMN HEADLINE SEES "MODEST GAIN." OFFICIAL ASSERTS "CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF PROGRESS" BUT ACKNOWLEDGES KISSINGER FAILED TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM GOAL -- AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE. BOTH SIDES SAID PRIVATELY THEY ARE SATISFIED. NO DETAILS OF THE DISTANCE STILL BETWEEN THEIR POSITIONS WERE AVAILABLE. FORD AND NSC WILL NOW STUDY SITUATION.

GWERTZMAN BRIEFLY REVIEWS GROMYKO AND KISSINGER TOASTS AT U.S. EMBASSY.

FOR THE REST GWERTZMAN REPORTS NO PROGRESS ON ANGOLA, COMPLETE AGREEMENT ON HEAVY MISSILE, DISCUSSION OF MBFR, CONTINUED EXCHANGES ON CRUISE AND BACKFIRE PROPOSALS.

4. NYDAILY NEWS (CARTER): STORY HAS MOVED UP TO PAGE TWO AND IS HEADLINED: "KISSINGER LEAVING MOSCOW WITH NO DEAL IN SALT TALKS." LEADS SAYS KISSINGER DID NOT GET HOPED FOR AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE. NEXT PARAGRAPH BALANCES THIS QUOTING OFFICIAL ON "VERY SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS." THE OFFICIAL WOULD NOT SPECULATE ON WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED IF NOT FOR ANGOLA. ONE UNSPECIFIED ISSUE WAS RESOLVED BUT ADMINISTRATION NOW NEEDED TIME TO EVALUATE CRUISE AND BACKFIRE QUESTIONS.

ON PAGE SIX CARTER TELLS HOW HIS FRIENDS SASHA AND LUCIA "WILL TASTE MILK AND HONEY" NOW THAT THEY HAVE BEEN GRANTED PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL.

JEWISH EMIGRATION HAS FALLEN IN WAKE OF JACKSON PRESSURE ON SOVIETS BUT SOME SMALL EASING OF RESTRICTION IS NOTED IN RECENT WEEKS.

CONTRARY TO EXPECTATION THAT FORD WANTED AGREEMENT NOW OR PUT OFF UNTIL LATER, SALT - "ALREADY WELL BEHIND SCHEDULE - WILL DRAG ON."

"MOSCOW DOES NOT SEEM IMPRESSED" BY KISSINGER WARNINGS ABOUT ANGOLA - WHICH "KISSINGER SEEMS TO CONSIDER A LOST CAUSE."

TV/RADIO:

1. STEVE BELL/BARRIE DUNSMORE, ABC TV - GOOD MORNING AMERICA:

BELL: SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER LEFT MOSCOW THIS MORNING AFTER THREE DAYS OF TALKS WITH SOVIET LEADERS.

THE GOAL: TO GET THE STALLED STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS MOVING AGAIN.

DUNSMORE, FROM MOSCOW: BOTH SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO AND SECRETARY KISSINGER WERE ACCENTING THE POSITIVE AS THEY WENT IN FOR A FINAL ROUND OF TALKS HERE IN MOSCOW THIS MORNING. GROMYKO SAID THERE WAS MOVEMENT ON SALT. 'YOU CALL IT PROGRESS,' HE SAID. KISSINGER REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT THERE WAS SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARD THE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT, AND HE ADDED THAT THE SOVIETS INTRODUCED SOME VERY INTERESTING NEW IDEAS.

WHAT SEEMS LIKELY IS THAT KISSINGER WENT AS FAR AS HE COULD GO IN HIS INSTRUCTIONS, AND IT WILL REMAIN NOW FOR THE ADMINISTRATION TO DECIDE WHETHER THE NEW RUSSIAN IDEA CAN BE ACCEPTED. THIS MUCH TIGHTER REIN ON KISSINGER REFLECTS CONCERN IN WASHINGTON THAT ANY NEW SALT AGREEMENT MUSTN'T BE A POLITICAL LIABILITY FOR THE PRESIDENT.

2. LEW WOOD/RICHARD VALERIANI, NBC TV - TODAY SHOW:
WOOD: SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER FLEW TO BRUSSELS TODAY AFTER THREE DAYS OF TALKS WITH SOVIET LEADER LEONID BREZHNEV, FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI GROMYKO AND OTHER SOVIET LEADERS.

VALERIANI, FROM MOSCOW: KISSINGER AND BREZHNEV HELD A FINAL FOUR HOUR MEETING AT THE KREMLIN, BUT THEY FAILED TO COME TO TERMS ON THE TWO PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS STILL BLOCKING THE NEW AGREEMENT: THE SOVIET BACKFIRE BOMBER, AND THE AMERICAN CRUISE MISSILE. NO PICTURES OF THE MEETING WERE ALLOWED. KISSINGER TOLD NEWSMEN THIS MORNING THAT SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN THE ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE OF CONCLUDING

A NEW AGREEMENT. AND HE ADDED THAT HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS. BEFORE THE MEETING WITH BREZHNEV, KISSINGER WAS THE HOST AT A LUNCHEON FOR SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO. THE TWO MEN CONTINUED THEIR NEGOTIATIONS THIS MORNING BEFORE THE SECRETARY LEFT FOR BRUSSELS. TODAY'S AGENDA INCLUDED ANGOLA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. KISSINGER LEFT NO DOUBT THAT HE WAS STILL NOT SATISFIED WITH THE RUSSIAN PROPOSAL ON ANGOLA.

3. RICHARD ROTH, CBS RADIO, WORLD NEWS ROUNDUP:

ROTH, FROM MOSCOW: KISSINGER'S SUMMARY TO REPORTERS HERE SAID SOME IMPORTANT ISSUES ON STRATEGIC ARMS HAVE BEEN RESOLVED, AND WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY TECHNICAL EXPERTS AT THE TALKS IN GENEVA. PROGRESS WAS MADE ON OTHER ISSUES, HE SAID, INCLUDING THE INTRODUCTION OF WHAT HE CALLED 'SIGNIFICANT AND CONSTRUCTIVE NEW IDEAS' BY THE SOVIET SIDE. THOSE WILL BE TAKEN BACK TO WASHINGTON FOR STUDY. BUT THERE IS NO BREAKTHROUGH, NO AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE. AND THE SECRETARY'S SOVIET COUNTERPART, FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI GROMYKO, WAS WILLING TO MAKE ONLY THE VAGUEST PREDICTION ABOUT A SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON.

'I DO NOT KNOW,' HE SAID. 'BUT CERTAINLY THE SUMMIT WILL

TAKE PLACE IN THE AGREEMENT IS SIGNED AND WHEN IT IS SIGNED.' ASKED IF A SUMMIT IS STILL POSSIBLE BEFORE THE AMERICAN ELECTIONS THIS FALL, GROMYKO SAID, 'IT IS TOO RISKY TO TALK ABOUT INTERNAL MATTERS IN THE UNITED STATES.'

4. BARRIE DUNSMORE, AMERICAN INFORMATION RADIO, ABC NEWS:

KISSINGER: GOOD PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON VERY SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS, AND SOME INTERESTING NEW SOVIET IDEAS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED.

DUNSMORE: THE NEW ELEMENTS APPEAR ALSO RELATIVELY POSITIVE. THE RUSSIAN PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN CATEGORIZED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE AS VERY INTERESTING, AND IN FACT THERE HAS BEEN SOME PROGRESS IN ONE PARTICULAR AREA OF SALT, AND THAT'S IN THE GENERAL AREA OF DEFINITION OF HEAVY MISSILES. THE HANGUP STILL LIES, HOWEVER, IN THE QUESTION OF DEPLOYING AND COUNTING FOR THOSE TWO WEAPONS SYSTEMS, THE RUSSIAN BACKFIRE BOMBER AND THE U.S. CRUISE MISSILE. SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THESE AREAS TOO ...

5. BERNARD KALB, CBS RADIO:

REPORTERS' QUESTIONS INCLUDED THE WORD 'FAILURE.' HAD THE TALKS FAILED, OR WAS THERE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS? BOTH

KISSINGER AND GROMYKO REJECTED 'FAILURE,' BOTH INSISTING THAT THE TALKS HAD MADE GOOD PROGRESS TOWARD A SALT AGREEMENT. THE NEGOTIATIONS CONCLUDED LAST NIGHT AFTER SOME 10 HOURS OF INTENSE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN KISSINGER AND SOVIET LEADER BREZHNEV, U.S. OFFICIALS LATER DISCLOSING THAT THERE HAD BEEN WHAT HE CALLED 'A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF PROGRESS.' BUT HE ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT THE TWO SIDES HAD BEEN UNABLE TO ACHIEVE A COMPLETE BREAKTHROUGH ON THE DEADLOCK. THAT HAD BEEN WIDELY EXPECTED, ALTHOUGH KISSINGER HIMSELF HAD EARLIER MADE CLEAR THAT AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WAS NOT THE ONLY POSSIBLE OUTCOME. THERE COULD ALSO BE PROGRESS, THERE COULD EVEN BE FAILURE.

BUT TODAY, KISSINGER AND GROMYKO HIT THE SAME THEME. GROMYKO TELLING REPORTERS THAT THERE WAS 'FORWARD MOVEMENT' ON SEVERAL MATTERS, KISSINGER SAYING 'SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS' HAS BEEN MADE TOWARD A SALT AGREEMENT, THAT HE WAS SATISFIED.

WIRES:

1. REUTER (NELSON): UNEXPECTED PROPOSAL TO CUT CEILING ON STRATEGIC NUCLEAR FORCES TO ABOUT 2150 VEHICLES WAS UNDERSTOOD TO BE A FACE-SAVING WAY OF EXEMPTING BACKFIRE FROM LIMIT. LIMIT WILL BE REDUCED BY ESTIMATED NUMBER OF BACKFIRES TO GO INTO SERVICE.

KISSINGER SAID U.S. WILL REPLY TO SOVIETS IN A FEW WEEKS AND THEN CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS.

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2. UPI (NO BYLINE): U.S. AND SOVIETS MAY CONSIDER 10 PERCENT CUT IN STRATEGIC DELIVERY ARSENALS IN AN UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT THAT U.S. OFFICIAL CALLED "BIGGEST SINGLE PROGRESS OF ANY U.S.-SOVIET NEGOTIATING SESSION IN MOSCOW." UNDER THE NEW PROPOSAL PRESUMABLY SOVIETS WOULD HAVE TO DROP 400 VEHICLES FROM CURRENT 2,600 WHILE U.S. COULD STAY AT ABOUT 2,100.

KISSINGER SAID BREZHNEV HAD GIVEN HIM "CONSTRUCTIVE" AND "SIGNIFICANT" NEW IDEAS BUT REPORTED PROGRESS ON SALT IS TEMPERED BY SOVIET REFUSAL TO PRESSURE CUBA ON ANGOLA. AFTER STUDY IN WASHINGTON KISSINGER WILL CONSULT THROUGH DOBRYNIN ON FUTURE OF SALT. KISSINGER MAY

ALSO GO TO MOSCOW AGAIN.

3. AP (SCHWEID): THOUGH U.S. OFFICIALS SAY A LOT REMAINS TO BE DONE "SIGNIFICANT AND CONSTRUCTIVE NEW IDEAS" PUT FORWARD BY SOVIETS TO REDUCE STRATEGIC DELIVERY VEHICLES

10 PERCENT AND COMPROMISE ON BACKFIRE AND CRUISE, MAY MEAN BREZHNEV COULD COME TO SIGN A NEW AGREEMENT AS EARLY AS MAY.

HEAVY MISSILE AND CRUISE ISSUES APPEAR SOLVED. GROMYKO SAYS THERE WAS "MOVEMENT FORWARD ON SEVERAL MATTERS."

KISSINGER EVIDENTLY WAS MUCH LESS SUCCESSFUL ... ON ANGOLA."

LATE ITEM:

LA TIMES (JOHNSTON): THOUGH SALT IS NO LONGER DEADLOCKED OR IN A STATE OF STAGNATION AND SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IS CLAIMED BY U.S. OFFICIALS, KISSINGER WILL RETURN WITHOUT AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE FOR MORE TALKS WITHIN ADMINISTRATION. ONE MAJOR ISSUE IS SOLVED AND THERE WAS PROGRESS ON BUT NO RESOLUTION OF BACKFIRE AND CRUISE. WHETHER SETTLEMENT OF HEAVY MISSILE QUESTION WOULD LIMIT DEPLOYMENT OF SOVIET SS-19S WAS UNKNOWN.

THERE IS NO HINT THAT KISSINGER MADE ANY PROGRESS ON ANGOLA. AFTER EVIDENTLY REFUSING TO DISCUSS ANGOLA AT ANY LENGTH, BREZHNEV HAS DEPUTIZED GROMYKO TO HEAR KISSINGER OUT TODAY." MBFR AND THE ME ARE ALSO ON AGENDA.

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