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MAY 22, 1974

FLASH

HAKTO 129

TO: GENERAL SCOVROFT

FROM: THE SECRETARY

PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT:

BEGIN MESSAGE:

THE ISRAELI NEGOTIATING GROUP THIS MORNING REJECTED COMPLETELY THE LATEST SYRIAN PROPOSAL ON THINNING OUT OF ZONES. THE SYRIANS PROPOSE A 6-18 KILOMETER BELT ON EACH SIDE WITH STRICTLY LIMITED FORCES. THE ISRAELIS INSIST THAT ALL ARTILLERY AND SURFACE TO AIR MISSILES BE MOVED BACK TWENTY-FIVE KILOMETERS OUT OF RANGE OF ISRAELI FORWARD POSITIONS. THIS WOULD REQUIRE A MASSIVE REDEPLOYMENT OF SYRIAN FORCES WHICH ASSAD FEELS HE WOULD NOT SURVIVE POLITICALLY.

MORI/CDF  
C03344598

MY ASSESSMENT IS THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE ASKING THE SYRIANS TO PROTECT ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS ESTABLISHED IN VIOLATION OF EXISTING RESOLUTIONS AND NEVER RECOGNIZED BY THE U.S. NO SYRIAN PRESIDENT CAN ACCEPT THIS. THE SETTLEMENTS UNDER THE SYRIAN SCHEME WOULD BE NO MORE VULNERABLE THAN THEY WERE BEFORE OCTOBER 6 OR FOR THAT MATTER THAN THEY ARE TODAY.

State Dept. review completed

UNLESS THE SYRIANS CAVE TODAY I SHALL THEREFORE RECESS THE TALKS TOMORROW.

THERE IS A SLIGHT CHANCE THAT THE ISRAELIS MAY RECONSIDER BUT IT WOULD REQUIRE A STIFF PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE DELIVERED IN WASHINGTON BEFORE THE END OF BUSINESS TODAY IN WASHINGTON.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

END OF MESSAGE

PLEASE ALSO STRESS TO HAIG.

WARM REGARDS

SECRET/SENSITIVE/



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SECRET/SENSITIVE

May 22, 1974

22 MAY 64 12 34z

HAKTO 129

FLASH

TO: GENERAL SCOWCROFT 

FROM: THE SECRETARY

Please pass the following message to the President:  
BEGIN MESSAGE:

The Israeli negotiating group this ~~morning~~ morning rejected completely the latest Syrian proposal on thinning out of zones. The Syrians propose a 6-10 kilometer belt ~~ix~~ on each side with strictly limited forces. The Israelis insist that all artillery and surface to air missiles be moved back twenty-five kilometers ~~wa~~ out of range of Israeli forward positions. This would require a massive redeployment of Syrian forces which Assad feels he would not survive politically.

My assessment is that the Israelis are asking the Syrians to protect Israeli settlements on the Golan Heights established in violation of existing resolutions and never recognized by the U. S. No Syrian president can accept this. The settlements under the Syrian scheme would be no more vulnerable than ~~any~~ they were before October 6 or for that matter than they are today.

SECRET/SENSITIVE

-2-

Unless the Syrians cave today I shall therefore recess  
the talks ~~tomorrow~~ tomorrow.

There is a slight chance that the Israelis may reconsider  
but it would require a stiff Presidential message delivered in  
Washington before the end of business today in Washington.

END OF MESSAGE

Please also stress to Haig.

Warm regards

To: Scorsone, F. CASH

From: H

Please pass the following message to the

President:

The Israeli negotiating group this morning

rejected completely the latest Syrian proposal on

thinning out of forces. The Syrians propose a 6-10

km belt on each side with strictly limited

forces. The Israelis insist that all artillery <sup>and surface to air</sup> ~~be moved~~ <sup>removed</sup>

back 25 kms out of range of Israeli forward

positions. This would require a massive

redeployment of Syrian forces which Assad feels

he could not survive politically.

My assessment is that the Israelis

are asking the Syrians to protect Israeli settlements

on the terms he sets established in complete  
violation of existing resolutions + new <sup>agreed</sup>  
by the U.S. No Syrian president can accept this. The  
settlements under the Syrian scheme would  
be no more workable than they were before October  
or for that matter than they are to-day.

Unless the Syrians agree to-day I shall  
therefore resume the talks to-morrow.

There is a slight chance that the Israelis  
~~are~~ may reconsider but it would require a stiff  
Presidential message delivered in Washington  
before the end of business to-day in Washington.  
End of message

Please also send to Haig