

EIS-HK-MT 110 34

-- Egyptian  
-- Sadat/Meir mss

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[redacted] #0614 0282356  
O 282355Z JAN 74 ZFF-1 ZFF-4  
FM THE WHITE HOUSE 25X1

TO USINT CAIRO

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE EYES ONLY [redacted] WH40351

DELIVER OPENING OF BUSINESS [State Dept. review completed] [MORI C05141520]

TO AMBASSADOR EILTS  
FM BRENT SCOWCROFT

PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER MEIR TO FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI TO GIVE "EYES ONLY" TO PRESIDENT SADAT:

"THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR MESSAGE. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WE ARE READY TO ENTER INTO DISENGAGEMENT TALKS WITH SYRIA AT ANY MOMENT. THERE IS, HOWEVER, ONE OBSTACLE THAT MUST FIRST BE OVERCOME. THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD, AS A MINIMUM, HAND OVER TO US THE LIST OF OUR POWS AND PERMIT THEM TO BE VISITED BY RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVES. I MEET OFTEN WITH THE PARENTS AND WIVES OF OUR POWS AND FIND IT MOST DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN NOT ONLY THAT THEIR DEAR ONES CONTINUE TO BE DETAINED BUT ALSO THAT THEIR FAMILIES MUST GO ON LIVING IN UNCERTAINTY AS TO THEIR FATE. WE HOLD OVER 300 SYRIAN POWS WHOSE NAMES WE TRANSMITTED TO THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THEIR CAPTURE. THE POWS IN ISRAEL ARE, OF COURSE, BEING VISITED BY RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVES. WE ARE READY TO CARRY OUT AN EXCHANGE OF POWS WITH SYRIA."

WARM REGARDS. [ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY]  
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\*\*\*\*\* W H S R C O M M E N T \*\*\*\*\*

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## MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER MEIR TO PRESIDENT SADAT:

"Thank you very much for your message. I want you to know that we are ready to enter into disengagement talks with Syria at any moment. There is, however, one obstacle that must first be overcome. The Syrian Government should, as a minimum, hand over to us the list of our POWs and permit them to be visited by Red Cross representatives. I meet often with the parents and wives of our POWs and find it most difficult to explain not only that their dear ones continue to be detained but also that their families must go on living in uncertainty as to their fate. We hold over 300 Syrian POWs whose names we transmitted to the International Red Cross immediately after their capture. The POWs in Israel are, of course, being visited by Red Cross representatives. We are ready to carry out an exchange of POWs with Syria."

TOP SECRET