

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

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TOP SECRET / SENSITIVE
EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

July 27, 1972

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

MEMORANDUM FOR: HENRY A. KISSINGER
FROM: AL HAIG
SUBJECT: New Message from Rifai

DOS HAS REVIEWED

Rifai's message to you (Tab A), dated July 15 [redacted] reports his impressions of the latest Israeli-Jordanian meeting of June 29. He is exceedingly gloomy about Israeli inflexibility. He is convinced that:

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- Israel will retain most of the territories, even at the price of perpetual war.
- Only the US can exert sufficient weight to change Israel's position.
- Israel not only accepts the inevitability of a new war but is preparing for one, as early as the end of this year.
- Jordan will not participate in a new war as long as there is any hope of a settlement.

Attachment

from (151)

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TOP SECRET - XGDS (3)
CLASSIFIED BY: HENRY A. KISSINGER

TOP SECRET

: الرقم
: التاريخ

THE ROYAL PALACE,
Amman, Jordan,
July 15, 1972.

Dear Sir,

I thought of writing you a few lines to give you our impressions of the meeting which took place on the 29th of June 1972, the details of which I had sent to you

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As a result of that meeting, the following points seem to us to be obvious:

1. Israel has no intention of withdrawing from a large part of the occupied territories. She wants major changes in the 1967 borders, even if the price of retaining the territory is a state of perpetual war. Israel is not interested in peace if it means giving up her war gains.
2. The above Israeli intransigent position will not change "if Israel can help it." We had the impression from the meeting that Israel will only change her position -- if at all -- if she was persuaded to do so. We believe that the only country that can exert productive and persuasive weight on Israel is the United States. We believe time is running out, and some movement must be started if a war is to be averted.

الجمهورية العربية السورية
رئيس الوزراء

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: الرقم
: التاريخ

3. Under the existing conditions of no peace, Israel not only accepts the inevitability of a new war but is actually preparing herself for one. A war between Israel and Egypt and, in our view, Syria and possibly Lebanon, might take place soon. The Israelis believe this will happen towards the end of the year or early next year. We have made it clear to them that Jordan will not participate in a new war as long as there is the faintest glimmer of hope in establishing a permanent peace. We are adamant in our determination to continue to make progress towards peace irrespective of the obstacles which we are bound to encounter.

4. We realize that the United States will not be in a position to play an effective role to establish a permanent peace before the end of the year, but I thought it might be important to give you our impressions of the most recent contacts we have had with our neighbors.

With my best regards and wishes,

Respectfully yours,



Zaid al-Rifai
Political Advisor
to His Majesty

The Honourable
Dr. Henry Kissinger,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.,
U.S.A.