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1974/10/13

MEMORANDUM

DECLASSIFIED
Authority (UN) 009029
By SOM NARA Date 7/13/00

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET/NOFORN~~

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

CONFIDENTIAL

H775

3-3 1978

PARTICIPANTS: Five Representatives of families of Israeli
MIA in Egypt
Yitzhak Rabin, Prime Minister of Israel
Yigal Allon, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister
of Foreign Affairs
Shimon Peres, Minister of Defense

CLASSIFIED BY FRANK WISNER
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO
YEAR INTERVALS AND DECLASSIFIED ON
DECEMBER 31, -----
Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State and
Assistant to the President for National
Security Affairs
Peter W. Rodman, NSC Staff *PWR*

TIME AND DATE: Sunday, October 13, 1974
11:55 - 12:05 p.m.

PLACE Prime Minister's Residence, Jerusalem

[The Secretary greeted the visitors who were ushered in following the formal meeting. They took seats on the sofa and chairs in the living room.]

Kissinger: I raised the problem with Sadat, and he listened sympathetically. And after our conversations here, and after the Defense Minister and the Foreign Minister have spoken to me again, I'll raise it again with great urgency.

Basically, I am very optimistic. But I have to speak frankly: He has to go to the Arab Summit. He can't be accused of being soft on Israel. So if you can telling nothing to the press.... He hasn't given me a firm promise, but his attitude was very sympathetic. I am optimistic that something will happen two to three weeks after the Summit. It has to be kept quiet or he can't do it.

Question: Since our last meeting, there has been no contact with Egypt on this. There are still 58 missing soldiers. A year after the war, the families are very impatient. I may be very rude, but the families can't wait any longer.

~~SECRET/NOFORN~~

CLASSIFIED BY Henry A. Kissinger
EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5b (13)
DATE FULLY DECLASSIFIED ON Jan 10 Det

CONFIDENTIAL

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Kissinger: It is up to you. I'm doing the best I can. If you tell the press, there will be nothing.

Question: But promises don't give us bodies.

Allon: After the summit, we will know where it stands.

Kissinger: That is true.

Question: How can we talk to people who make business on dead bodies?

Kissinger: Your Government has raised it with me on every occasion. There is no Egyptian official whom I haven't raised it with. Only Sadat can do it. I'm quite optimistic and I am usually right. After November, we can achieve what we want. He hasn't asked anything in return; he is not making any business with it. He has the problem he has to go to the Arab Summit. The Prime Minister raised it with the President. The Foreign Minister and Defense Minister raised it. I've raised it with Fahmy. But there is only one man who can do it. I have the impression he will permit it in November. As Yigal said, we will know after the Summit.

Question: It is an empty promise.

Kissinger: We will know.

Question: I can't imagine any Government that will want to talk to people who deal this way.

Allon: It doesn't apply to talking to us.

Question: The problem should be divided into two parts. There are soldiers whose bodies can't be found, but there are soldiers whose bodies are known, so it is not a problem of searching.

Kissinger: I've given you my answer; I'm sorry you don't find it satisfactory.

Question: But we don't know if it will be a continuation of the project or not.

Kissinger: I've tried to convey my impression.

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Authority MMJ 009029
By SDM NARA Date 7/21/00

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Allon: Tell him you talked to the families.

Question: The pressure that comes from the families on our government.....

Kissinger: With all respect, the reason he does it is because I raise it.

I have never seen your Government without this issue being pressed on me. Every time I've been able to make progress, it is with Sadat. I haven't seen him since June. I think he can't give a formal answer until after the Summit.

Allon: It takes place on October 26.

Kissinger: I have the impression there is an excellent chance--there is a high probability--of a positive answer in November.

I'll communicate with the Prime Minister anyway, after my meeting tomorrow.

Question: We will have his reaction tomorrow?

Kissinger: But the Summit isn't until the 23rd.

I have the impression he would have given me an answer last week except for the Summit. My impression was it was a sort of technical point, so he could go to Rabat and say he has done nothing. But he is positively disposed.

Your Government has never failed to raise it insistently and repeatedly. And we have had many contacts.

[The meeting broke up. Dr. Kissinger said a few words privately to each of the representatives, asking about the family member who was missing. They then departed. The Secretary then returned to the King David Hotel.]

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