

Authority E.O. 12958

By KJ NARA Date 4/10/18



Department of State  
SITUATION ROOM  
**TELEGRAM**

1974-5-21, Assad, Israel, Agreement  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 00823

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EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), BY  
SUBJECT: MOOD IN DAMASCUS

REF: DAMASCUS 0813

1. MOOD IN DAMASCUS CONTINUES TO BE ONE OF OPTIMISM AND BELIEF THAT DISENGAGEMENT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED EXCEPT FOR "MINOR DETAILS." "BUSINESS COMMUNITY ALREADY REPORTEDLY IS BEGINNING TO CONTEMPLATE WITH ANTICIPATION BOOM WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ONCE DISENGAGEMENT IS ACHIEVED. SECRETARY BEING HAILED BY MANY AS "WONDER WORKER" AND ALL SOURCES ATTRIBUTE SUCCESS OF DISENGAGEMENT TO SECRETARY'S PATIENCE AND PERSISTENCE.

2. LOCAL NEWS MEDIA HANDLING STORY IN LOW-KEY STRIGHT-FORWARD MANNER. DAMASCUS RADIO LAST NIGHT AND TODAY CARRIES TEXT OF OFFICIAL SYRIAN GOVERNMENT STATEMENT WHICH EMPHASIZES THAT THE DISENGAGEMENT REMAINS ONLY "FIRST STEP TOWARDS COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AS WELL AS GUARANTEEING OF THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE." AL-THAWRA NEWSPAPER (OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT ORGAN) AND AL-BAYTH (PARTY ORGAN) TODAY CARRY SAME OFFICIAL RELEASE AS ANNOUNCED ON THE RADIO BUT IN ADDITION INDICATE THAT "SOME PROGRESS WAS ACHIEVED IN THE TALKS." BOTH PAPERS ALSO AGAIN CARRY PROMINENTLY PLACED

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PICTURES OF SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT IN SMILING, RELAXED ATTITUDES. EVEN MORE INTERESTINGLY, BOTH DAMASCUS DAILY LISTS THE NAMES OF THE MEN WHO CONSULTED WITH THE PRESIDENT FOR THREE HOURS DURING THE BREAK IN THE TALKS YESTERDAY. THEY INCLUDED: FOREIGN MINISTER ABD AL-HALIM KHADDAM; INFORMATION MINISTER GEORGE SADDIQI; DEFENSE MINISTER MUSTAFA TLASH; DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENSE, GENERAL AHMAD BAGH; CHIEF OF STAFF, GENERAL YUSSUF SHAKKUR, AND CHIEF OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, HIKMAT SHIHABI.

3. DEAN BRILIS, CBS CORRESPONDENT (PLEASE PROTECT), TELLS ME THAT HIS OFFICIAL SOURCES ALSO REFLECT OPTIMISM OVER EVENTUAL OUTCOME OF DISENGAGEMENT TALKS, EVEN THOUGH HE HAS DETECTED SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE FACT THAT SYRIA MAY NOT BE GETTING BACK ALL OF THE HILLS OVERLOOKED BY THE KUNEITRA. THIS RESERVATION, HOWEVER, IS OUTWEIGHED BY THE CONTINUED TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN YOU WHICH HIS SOURCES STILL EXPRESS. CONCERNING DETAILS OF THE AGREEMENT, MANY DAMASCENES ARE LISTENING TO FOREIGN RADIOS, PARTICULARLY RADIO ISRAEL, WHICH HAS BEEN PROVIDING SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF AN ALLEGED AGREEMENT CONTINUOUSLY OVER THE LAST 24 HOURS. FROM WHAT WE ARE TOLD, MOST DAMASCENES ARE PLEASED BY WHAT THEY ARE HEARING, EVEN THOUGH THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE NO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT IN THIS REGARD.

4. COMMENT: "WONDER WORKER" IS THE BEST THAT WE COULD DO THIS TIME. SCOTES

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