

TELCON
McIntyre/ Sec. Kissinger
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K: I wanted to talk to you about our general state of knowledge of the Middle East problem as you undoubtedly know.

M: Yes.

K: We received an urgent call this morning from our Ambassador in Israel that they thought an attack might be imminent and they were asking us to use our influence and also to assure other interested parties they would not make a pre-emptive attack. We did that and I called the Egyptian Foreign Minister and the Soviet Ambassador, etc. Events seemed to have overtaken us. Now we are consulting with various parties and seeing what time is best for a Security Council meeting. We will keep you informed about whatever conclusions we reach. We would be grateful for any conclusions you reach. We would like to get a sense of what would emerge in a SC meeting before we go into one. I am speaking to you very frankly about what we are doing.

M: Thank you very much indeed. I might mention to you that the Israeli Permanent Representative has called me not to ask for a meeting but to simply give me an outline of what happened as he understands it and too he told me he had been speaking to your Mission here and that some consulting was going on and he promised to keep me informed likewise of anything that developed. That is where we stand. I have not heard anything from the Egyptians or other Arab representatives.

K: I had a brief talk with the Sec. Gen. to bring him up to date on what we have done. Of course, we believe this is a SC matter and not a Gen. Assembly matter.

M: Yes. Where are you speaking from?

K: From the Waldorf. Where I was preparing a speech devoted to peace on earth if you would like to make some suggestions as to appropriate themes.

M. I shall think about it.

K: It does not have my undivided attention. One thing I did want to say, is if there is a meeting and when there is we will do our utmost and we would appreciate any help we could get to keep it at as high a level as obtainable and avoid any cheap shots. You appreciate this situation which is fraught with exaggeration and we are trying to avoid that.

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M: I appreciate that very much needless to say.

K: I have no question about that. We will be in touch with you later.

M: Do you have any indication of who fired the first shot.

K: Our impression, but it is very personal, is that it is one that the Arabs started. That is our impression; that is not a considered opinion but on the external evidence the fact that it started on the holiest day plus no overwhelming fact for the Israelis to do anything now plus the fact they offered assurance they would not pre-emptive attack. We told them if they launched a pre-emptive attack we would oppose them. It leads me to believe they would have been really reckless if they launched it. It is an impression for your own personal information. Once we have decided on our position on an informal basis we may inform you of it.

M: Thank you Mr. Secretary.

K: Nice to talk to you.

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