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Later, returning to the subject of Greece-Turkey, the senior official said he wanted to add that Caramanlis as well as Demirel wants to move.

On the Middle East--The official said it is "the bigger problem we now have." If there is a war it will involve the U.S., the ~~United States~~ Japan and the European countries economically.

Of the Salzburg meeting with President Sadat, the official said "It could lay the basis for a new period of Middle East diplomacy." "I don't have the impression that either position (Egyptian ~~or~~ or Israeli) is frozen." Secretary Kissinger spent an hour Monday night with foreign minister Fahmi going over their respective understandings of what happened in Salzburg so that there was no possibility of a misunderstanding. "We are moving ~~forward~~ quite deliberately" to try to find a consensus for the best approach to use. "We haven't done much selling." One reason for increased flexibility may be that both leaders, having demonstrated that they would not accept settlement at any price, are now in a stronger political position at home.

This is a direct quote attributable to Secretary of State Kissinger: "I am not saying there is going to be progress. I am saying the conditions exist under which there could be progress."

On background again, the senior official ~~replied~~ replied when asked if there had been no disappointments or setbacks during Ford's weeklong trip to Europe, "It sounds ridiculous, but I can't think of any."

Just to set the briefing, the American official wandered back to the pool shortly after takeoff and began to chat. When Ron Nessen came back and said he didn't think there should be any briefing because the White House press would be tired and would not want to file when they returned to Andrews at 3 a.m. However, after the senior official departed, pool reporters said that while they appreciated the solicitude it probably would be better to let the members of the press corps decide for themselves whether they wanted to write. Nessen agreed and the senior official duly appeared about an hour later.

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