

September 4, 1975

POOL REPORT AIR FORCE ONE ANDREWS AFB to SEATTLE

Wheels up at 10:03 a.m.

Nessen came back early in the flight, saying the President would be busy on the flight to Seattle working on the six speeches to be given during the day. He said Ford would be met by Governor Dan Evans, Senator Warren Magnuson, Seattle Mayor Wes Uhlman and a civic welcoming committee. He confirmed there would be a question-answer period at the youth festival meeting in Portland tonight (age of youths ranges from eight to 20.)

On the appointment of an Interior Secretary, Nessen said he had nothing to announce and expected nothing in the next couple of days. (OFF THE RECORD: Nessen advised caution on the name of SBA Administrator and former North Dakota congressman Thomas S. Kleppe.) Nessen also handed out paper on the renaming of Earl J. Silbert as U.S. attorney for D.C. and Isabell A. Burgess of Phoenix to be a member of the National Transportation Safety Board for term expiring Dec. 31, 1979.

On the veto of oil decontrol, Nessen said not to expect anything before Saturday at the earliest. He said decontrol was barely mentioned in the meeting with Hill leaders and was discussed for only three minutes at the conclusion of that meeting.

As Ford's helicopter could be heard arriving on the White House lawn, x for the flight to Andrews, the President said ~~xxx~~quickly, x let me say we certainly hope some compromise can be reached on oil decontrol." ~~xxx~~ ~~xx~~ When one of the congressmen asked: "When are you going to give a little more, Mr. President?", Ford replied: "Oh, come on. x We've come from way over here (gesturing) and we've given 75 per cent." Nessen said this was a light hearted type of ^{ex-}change. Someone then asked if the President would go for 60 months. Amid considerable laughter, Ford replied: "We've gone a helluva long way already."

Nessen said Zarb held a 45-minute briefing at the White House to spell out proposals to correct specific problems growing out of decontrol. Zarb said if the veto is sustained and there is no compromise on a phase out, the Administration will take the following three ~~xxx~~ steps: 1. take the #2 tariff off combined with windfall profits and consumer rebates 2. will propose emergency ^{natural gas} legislation ~~including~~ including authority to protect farmers and rural home owners who use propane gas and 3. submit legislation to help independent ^{oil} refiners and marketers adjust to decontrol.

3-3-3-3

pool report andrews afb to seattle

Ford emphasized that timing was important and urged them to do anything possible to expedite consideration. He urged them to approve the plan within two weeks. (Later, Nessen said Kissinger explained that the timetable now called for the technicians to ~~be~~ start taking their posts within 2 1/2 weeks.)

At this point, Ford introduced Kissinger who continued the briefing. The Secretary said war would almost certainly have occurred if steps were not taken and the stalemate had continued. Using the large relief map and two other maps on easels (those already made public) Kissinger described the agreement in general outline.

~~Referring~~ Referring to the stations to be ~~run~~ manned by U.S. technicians, Kissinger said: "The threat of surprise attack is essentially removed. We do not guarantee the agreement. We have no role to enforce the agreement."

Kissinger then went into negotiating history, before going into what Nessen said was considerable detail on the technicians. He said ~~that~~ ~~approximately~~ American technicians would be placed in five stations in total. Two of the stations already exist (one Egyptian and one Israeli) and three others would be manned entirely by Americans. At any time, Kissinger said, there would not be more than 75 Americans on duty. He said we committed ourselves in writing to no more than 200. Those not on station, he said, will be housed ~~in~~ outside the disengagement zone, possibly in the Egyptian city of Ismailia on the West Bank of the canal.

More figures: Kissinger ^{said} that at the two stations ~~now~~ still manned by Israelis and Egyptians there would be a ~~group~~ group of no more than five to ten Americans ~~in~~ on duty at each. At the three to be manned totally by Americans, there would be 10 to 12 on duty at any time. (Based on these figures, the total at any one time at all five stations would be 56 or lower than the 75 ~~maximum~~ limit ~~mentioned~~ mentioned above.)

Kissinger said the job of the civilian technicians would be to stay in communication with both sides and the UN. He noted they would only be where the UN is located in the buffer zone. Before there would be any danger to Americans, Kissinger said, the UN ^{of several thousand} force would have to be withdrawn. He said the agreement states specifically that the President can withdraw the American technicians whenever he believes they are in danger. It is totally his judgment.

4-4-4-4

pool report

andrews afb to seattle

Kissinger elaborated on the timetable for congressional approval, mentioned earlier. He said anything beyond the 2½ week period --when American technicians are scheduled to be going to their stations--would hold up the process. Kissinger quote: "This (agreement) gives the best possibility for peace in a long time."

At the start of a question-answer period, Speaker Albert was the first to respond. White House source quoted Albert: "I am ready to recommend that the House of Representatives approve a concurrent resolution as soon as possible. I intend to support the proposition."

Albert asked about how much aid would be given to each country. ~~White House~~ White House sources (Nessen on background) confirmed the figures given publicly after the meeting by House minority leader John Rhodes. Rhodes said the aid for Israel in FY 1976 would range from 2.1 to 2.3 billions of dollars. Of that total, 1.5 billion would be military assistance. For Egypt, Rhodes said the economic aid (no military) would range from 600 to 650 millions.

~~House sources~~ Kissinger on Monday brought up
After disclosing the aid range, the President said: "When you look at the need for stability and the enormous cost of another war, this (the aid) is a good investment."

Nessen said that Majority Leader Mansfield raised the question of the Israeli loss of the ~~oil~~ oil field at Abu Rudays. Nessen declined to give details, subject to Kissinger's testimony later today to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The President repeatedly made the point, according to Nessen, that the agreement was a first step ~~and~~, but that continued momentum is needed to avoid war.

Asked about any private understandings or secret agreements ~~discussed~~, Kissinger said: "There will be no secret agreements that will be kept from Congress."

Another question dealt with whether this agreement would lead to Soviet demands that ~~the~~ ^{THEIR} troops be stationed along the Golan Heights. Kissinger noted this seemed to be an unlikely prospect since both Israel and Egypt had asked for the U.S. technicians.

Kissinger said that if the U.S. can keep the peace progress going, war can be avoided.

5-5-5-5

pool report

andrews afb to seattle

Kissinger, on his own, noted that some people had made an analogy analogy between the stationing of ^{U.S.} technicians on the Sinai and the original dispatching of U.S. advisers to Vietnam. Nessen, paraphrasing Kissinger, said in Vietnam, the U.S. got involved in a military operation to help one side win, to train the army of one side. In the Sinai, the number of Americans is small, ~~are~~ ^{THEY} are volunteers, civilians, technicians and they are there at the request of both sides to give warning of suspicious movements. He said they would be withdrawn if in danger.

On board AF One for the flight were Senator Bob Packwood, Republican of Oregon; Senator Ted Stevens, Republican of Alaska, and Rep. Joel Pritchard, Republican of Washington.

mashek, usn&wr
kelly, chi trib
bell, abc