PRESS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REMARKS OF
THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER
SECRETARY OF STATE
TO THE PRESS
FOLLOWING MEETING
IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
JERUSALEM, ISRAEL
AUGUST 28, 1975

SECRETARY KISSINGER: We are continuing a very painstaking examination of the agreement, its annexes. As the distance to be narrowed gets smaller, the adjectives with which to describe progress are more difficult to find. But we are working with a good attitude. We are working in a positive direction.

QUESTION: Will you be back here tonight, sir?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: It depends on my work in Egypt. If possible, I would like to be back tonight because of Sabbath, so that we can work tomorrow during the day and leave then for Egypt some things to be done on Saturday.

QUESTION: Do you expect to be back with a final draft agreement of the basic contract?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I do not want to speculate on that. But we are making good progress on that.

QUESTION: Would you say that the Egyptians now have to make an important decision on the bilateral agreement?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I do not think it is fair for me that always, when I go to the other place, that the other side has to make a decision by definition. I do not want to put pressure on either side by saying: now, it is somebody's turn to make a decision. There is a normal set of decisions to be made by Egypt, not unimportant ones.

QUESTION: Would you like to have all the aspects of the agreement initialed as one unit or could you possibly break it   up into sections?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I would think that all the essential elements could be initialed together so that there cannot be a hold up later.

QUESTION: Did you have a chance today, sir, to discuss the tripartite agreement and these American-Israeli -- is that what you are basically dealing with?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, I do not like the word tripartite agreement if you are talking about the warning system idea that was discussed at great length.

QUESTION: Do you view the American presence in the passes as final yet?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Nothing is final until it is initialed.

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