

Approved for Release by CIA
Date 10/31/2012

***** ~~TOP SECRET~~ ***** COPY

SENT TO Haig

FLASH
DE WTE28 #0002 2791255
Z 061250Z OCT 73
FM NEW YORK

TO WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EXCLUSIVE EYES ONLY~~

FLASH

TO: THE WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

FROM: SECRETARY KISSINGER

PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING TO THE PRESIDENT FOR DELIVERY AT 9:00 A.M., WITH INFORMATION COPY TO GENERAL HAIG. BEGIN TEXT.

REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT

AT 6:00 A.M. THIS MORNING, I WAS NOTIFIED THAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE HARD INFORMATION THAT EGYPTIANS AND SYRIANS WERE PLANNING TO LAUNCH A COORDINATED ATTACK WITHIN SIX HOURS.

I IMMEDIATELY CALLED DOBRYNIN AND TOLD HIM OF THE ISRAELI DEMARCHE. I EMPHASIZED TO HIM THAT:

-- THE U.S. AND THE USSR HAVE A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO RESTRAIN THEIR RESPECTIVE FRIENDS.

-- WE ARE URGENTLY COMMUNICATING WITH THE ISRAELIS, WARNING THEM AGAINST ANY PREEMPTIVE ATTACK.

-- THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR OUR OWN RELATIONSHIP THAT THIS CRISIS NOT DEGENERATE INTO ARMED CONFLICT.

I ASKED DOBRYNIN TO CALL MOSCOW IMMEDIATELY TO REPORT THIS INFORMATION AND TO ASK HIS GOVERNMENT TO RESTRAIN SYRIA AND EGYPT. HE PROMISED TO DO SO AND HAS DONE SO. (IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE THE ABOVE, WE HAD DOBRYNIN USE OUR COMMUNICATIONS.)

I THEN CALLED ISRAELI CHARGE SHALEV AND TOLD HIM THAT I HAD TALKED TO DOBRYNIN. I EMPHASIZED TO HIM THE ESSENTIALITY OF RESTRAINT ON THE ISRAELI PART, AND SAID THERE MUST BE NO PREEMPTIVE STRIKE.

2.

SHALEV CALLED BACK SHORTLY THEREAFTER AND SAID HIS GOVERNMENT ASSURED US THERE WOULD BE NO PREEMPTIVE ACTION. SHORTLY THEREAFTER WE RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM PRIME

State Dept. review completed

***** ~~T O P S E C R E T~~ *****S COPY

MINISTER MEIR CONFIRMING THIS.

NEXT, I CALLED THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ZAYYAT. I TOLD HIM OF REPORTS WE HAD OF POSSIBLE EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL AND URGED THAT NO ATTACK BE LAUNCHED AND THAT THERE BE RESTRAINT BY HIS GOVERNMENT AND SYRIA. HE REPLIED THAT HE SUSPECTED ISRAELI PROVOCATION BUT WOULD COMMUNICATE WITH CAIRO IMMEDIATELY.

I HAVE SENT PERSONAL MESSAGES TO KING HUSSEIN AND KING FAISAL URGING THEM TO INTERVENE WITH PRESIDENTS SADAT AND ASSAD.

I HAVE ASCERTAINED THE LOCATION OF THE SIXTH FLEET, BUT HAVE TAKEN NO ACTION IN REGARD TO THAT FOR THE TIME BEING.

AFTER RECEIVING THE ISRAELI ASSURANCES THAT NO PREEMPTIVE STRIKE WOULD BE LAUNCHED I PASSED THIS ON TO BOTH ZAYYAT AND DOBRYNIN. I TOLD THEM THAT SINCE THIS MESSAGE WAS PASSED TO US, WE WOULD OPPOSE ANY PREEMPTIVE STRIKES.

3.

I HAVE SENT A BRIEF ALERT MESSAGE TO VARIOUS OF OUR POSTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST JUST SO QUIET PRECAUTIONS COULD BE TAKEN.

I AM MAKING DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HERE IN NEW YORK AND HAVE ASKED DOBRYNIN TO DO THE SAME.

I WILL BE CALLING SYG WALDHEIM TO GIVE HIM A GENERAL PICTURE OF THE SITUATION SO THAT "THE U.N. WILL BE INFORMED", BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE NO NEED AT THE MOMENT FOR CONSIDERING SECURITY COUNCIL RECOURSE. I WILL STRESS THAT THE REPORT IS FOR INFORMATION AND THAT WE ARE NOT ASKING FOR ANY ACTION BY THE U.N. AT THIS TIME.

I HAVE DIRECTED BRENT SCOWCROFT TO CALL A 9:00 A.M. WSAG MEETING. WE HAVE REQUESTED AN URGENT INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE FROM THE CIA, AND WE WILL HAVE FURTHER INFORMATION AT THAT TIME REGARDING SIXTH FLEET DISPOSITIONS.

IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO GIVE YOU AT BEST WHAT CAN BE A PRELIMINARY JUDGMENT. ON THE BASIS OF THE INFORMATION WE HAVE, I BELIEVE THE ISRAELI FEARS OF A POSSIBLE ATTACK ARE JUSTIFIED. HOPEFULLY, WE WILL BE ABLE TO GENERATE SUFFICIENT PRESSURE SO THAT COOLER HEADS WILL PREVAIL.

I SHALL KEEP YOU FULLY INFORMED AS THE SITUATION DEVELOPS.

HENRY A. KISSINGER
SECRETARY OF STATE

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