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Authority E.O. 12958
By NARA Date 8-16-02

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WASHINGTON

MEETING WITH BIPARTISAN LEADERSHIP

Thursday, October 25, 1973

8:30 a.m. (1 hour)

From: Henry A. Kissinger

I. PURPOSE

To brief the bipartisan leadership of Congress on the current situation in the Middle East. You last met with them on the Middle East on October 10, 1973.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

A. Background: Fighting broke out in the Middle East on October 6. The following major developments have occurred since that date.

- October 8; We asked for a meeting of the Security Council. Ambassador Scali put forward a general position favoring return to the ceasefire lines, but no resolutions were offered.
- October 10; Israel had succeeded in breaking through on the Syrian front and spent the next few days consolidating their position there. The same day, the Soviets began a large-scale airlift to Syria and Egypt.
- October 14; The Egyptian army launched an offensive, which the Israelis met and turned back. That same day, October 14, our airlift to Israel was begun.
- October 16; Premier Kosygin went to Cairo. The Israelis made a limited crossing of the Suez Canal to the west bank.
- October 17; Very heavy fighting took place on the Suez front as the Egyptians sought to dislodge the Israeli penetration on the west bank. That same day you met with four Arab foreign ministers and the Arab oil exporters decided on a cutback in production.
- October 18; The Israelis had built up a sizable force on the west bank of the Canal and were on the offensive.

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-2-

- October 19; You asked Congress for \$2.2 billion in aid for Israel. That same day, the Soviet leadership requested that you send me to Moscow and I departed early the next morning.
- October 21; King Faisal announced that oil shipments to the U.S. would be blocked, which led all other Arab oil producers to take the same step. In Moscow, an agreement was reached on a ceasefire.
- October 22; At 1:00 a.m. the Security Council passed a resolution calling for a ceasefire, implementation of Resolution 242, and direct peace negotiations. The ceasefire went into effect twelve hours later, although fighting continued for another day, leaving the Israelis in a strong position on the west bank of the Canal.
- October 23/24; Another ceasefire resolution was passed by the Security Council. The Egyptians called a Security Council meeting for October 24 to deal with alleged Israeli violations of the ceasefire.

B. Participants: Bipartisan Leadership of Congress, Secretary Kissinger and key members of White House staff. (List at Tab A)

C. Press Plan: Meeting to be announced. Ollie Atkins photo only.

III. TALKING POINTS

1. The purpose of this meeting is to bring you up to date on the situation in the Middle East. As you know, I asked Secretary Kissinger to go to Moscow last Saturday in response to a request by General-Secretary Brezhnev.
2. The meetings in Moscow achieved our basic objectives of getting agreement on a ceasefire and thereby establishing a basis for moving forward on the diplomatic front.
3. Despite two ceasefire resolutions, some fighting has continued and we are trying to bring this rapidly to an end.
4. I would like to ask Secretary Kissinger to give you a more complete rundown of developments.

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PARTICIPANTS

Executive

The President
The Secretary of State

Senate

Robert Griffin, Minority Whip
J. William Fulbright, Chairman, Foreign Relations
John Stennis, Chairman, Armed Services
John McClellan, Chairman, Appropriations
Milton Young, Ranking, Appropriations

House

Speaker Carl Albert
Thomas O'Neill, Majority Leader
Gerald R. Ford, Vice President-designate and Minority Leader
John McFall, Majority Whip (must leave early)
Leslie Arends, Minority Whip
Edward Hébert, Chairman, Armed Services
William Bray, Ranking, Armed Services
George Mahon, Chairman, Appropriations
Elford Cederberg, Ranking, Appropriations

Staff

Bryce Harlow	Brent Scowcroft
Alexander Haig	William Timmons
Anne Armstrong	Tom Korologos
Roy Ash	Max Friedersdorf
Ron Ziegler	

Regrets

All are out of town:	
Mike Mansfield	Thomas Morgan
Hugh Scott	William Mailliard
George Aiken	
Robert Byrd	Melvin Laird