

ARAB STATES - ISRAEL: The Egyptian Government may be reassessing its position regarding peace negotiations. The sticking point is what it considers Israeli "stalling"--the same issue which earlier caused it to break off the disengagement talks.

On 5 December, Egyptian authorities notified the UNEF commander, General Siilasvuo, that Cairo has so far made no decision on the question of the resumption of talks at Kilometer 101. The Egyptian foreign minister also summoned the US and Soviet ambassadors to meet with him separately yesterday to discuss the continuing tension on the Suez front and the forthcoming Geneva peace conference.

Well-informed sources in Cairo said that unless the two superpowers adopt a firmer attitude toward Israel's "stalling attitude" at the military-level talks, it will be difficult for Egypt to attend a peace conference. These sources indicated that it is unlikely the Kilometer 101 talks will be resumed before Secretary Kissinger's visit to Cairo on 13 December. In addition, they would not discount the possibility that Egypt is seriously considering postponing the Geneva talks until Israel has met all the conditions of the six-point cease-fire agreement.

The People's Assembly is scheduled to meet in Cairo on 8 December to hear the government's draft policy statement on general Egyptian policy in the foreign and domestic fields for the next several years. This draft has been in the works for some months. The Assembly will also hear a statement by the War Ministry on the military situation. Informed sources had previously suggested that Egypt intended to "freeze" the situation pending the outcome of Secretary Kissinger's visit, to which they attach great importance.

Cairo's Al Ahram sounded a warning note yesterday about expectations for Secretary of State Kissinger's second visit. The commentary called into question the extent of US willingness to pressure

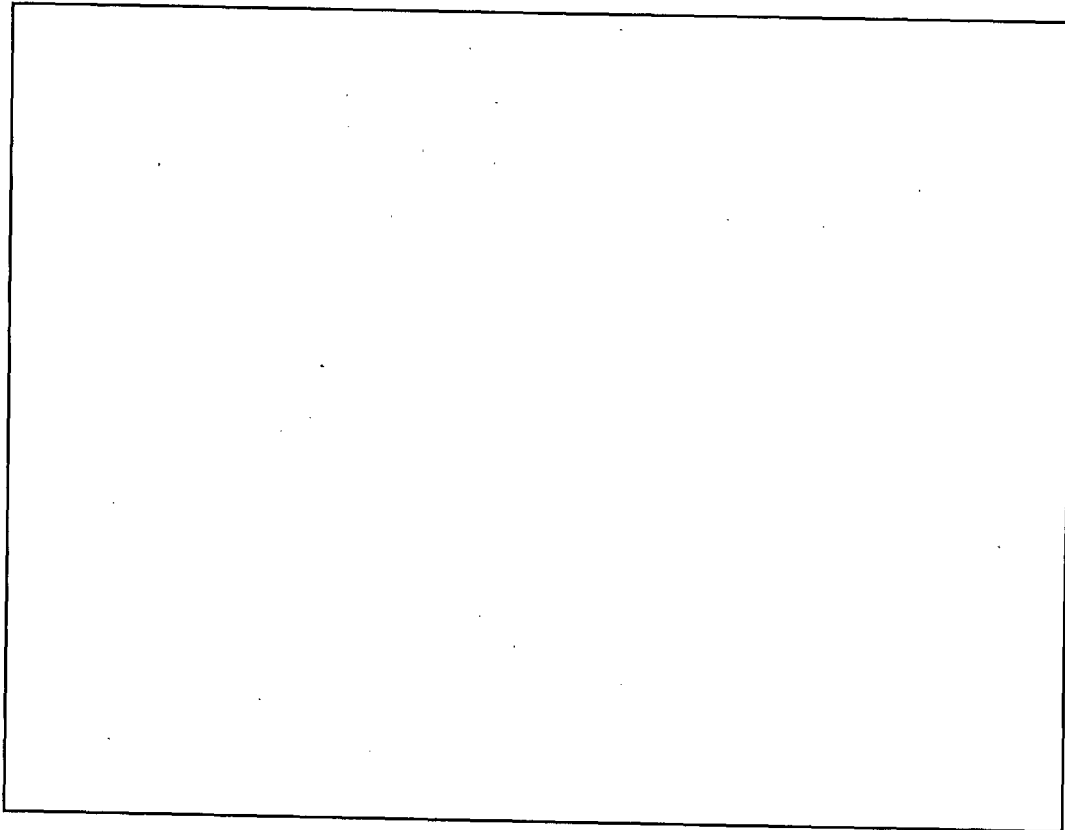
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Israel. It also challenged US definitions of a "reasonable peace," the return of "almost" all occupied territory, and a "complex" formula for Jerusalem, labeling the latter point incompatible with Security Council resolutions.

Al Ahrām appeared to be interpreting the stalemate at Kilometer 101 as a failure by the Secretary of State to follow through on pledges made during his first visit to Cairo. Asserting that responsibility for the breakdown must be fixed before the Secretary returns, the paper concluded that the Arabs cannot trust US efforts to effect a settlement if the results of the second visit are no better than those of the first.



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According to press reports from Tel Aviv yesterday, the Israeli Army has not permitted correspondents or television crews to visit the cease-fire line for the past few days; future visits will be authorized only after formal application is made and approved.

A Soviet press officer in Cairo claimed recently that a few MIG-23s and MIG-25s are in Egypt with Soviet pilots to carry out reconnaissance missions.

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The Foxbat is a much better reconnaissance aircraft than the Flogger; the Israelis have only a marginal capability to down the Foxbat.

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Analysis of Egyptian claims to have ten Egyptian-made Zafir missiles housed in silos and manned by Egyptian crews [Redacted]

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[Redacted] indicates that the claims are not valid. There is no evidence of missile silos in Egypt, and such technology is currently beyond Egyptian capabilities. In the early 1960s, West German technicians helped the Egyptians' attempts to develop two single-stage liquid-fueled ballistic missiles, but neither of these ever became operational. There is no information available to substantiate the Egyptians' claim that French technicians have been working on the Zafir missile recently.

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