

CEASE-FIRE

No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-187-7-8-9

3* ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN (AP)-ISRAEL AND EGYPT MAY BEGIN A PRISONER EXCHANGE WITHIN DAYS UNDER A COMPREHENSIVE NEW CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT THAT ALSO CLEARS A SUPPLY CORRIDOR TO 20,000 ENCIRCLED EGYPTIAN SOLDIERS, A HIGH U.S. OFFICIAL SAID TODAY.

AT THE SAME TIME, IT WAS LEARNED, ISRAEL CAN EXPECT THE LIFTING OF A BLOCKADE THAT HAS RESTRICTED OIL DELIVERIES FROM IRAN THROUGH THE RED SEA.

THE TWO POINTS WERE THE PRINCIPAL CONCERNS OF ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER GOLDA MEIR WHEN SHE CALLED ON PRESIDENT NIXON AND SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER IN WASHINGTON LAST WEEK.

EGYPT, MEANWHILE, HAS PRESSED FOR RELIEF FOR ITS TRAPPED THIRD ARMY ON THE EAST BANK OF THE SUZ CANAL AS WELL AS FOR THE CITY OF SUZ ON THE WEST BANK. KISSINGER TOOK THIS UP WITH PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT IN CAIRO ON WEDNESDAY AND WORKED OUT A FRAMEWORK FOR THE AGREEMENT THAT WAS AFFIRMED BY MRS. MEIR TO AN EMBASSY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY JOSEPH SISCO.

BY TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT, FORWARDED BY KISSINGER TO U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM AS HE HEADED TO THIS JUMPING-OFF POINT FOR A VISIT TO CHINA, ISRAEL WILL NOT BE COMPELLED TO WITHDRAW ITS FORCE TO THE OCT. 22 U.N. CEASE-FIRE LINES. AND EGYPT CAN MAINTAIN A FOOTHOLD ON THE EAST BANK, WHICH WAS DOWN BY ISRAELI IN THE 1967 SIX-DAY WAR.

HOWEVER, THE TWO SIDES AGREED TO BEGIN IMMEDIATE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE POSITIONS HELD BY THE ISRAELI ARMY. U.S. OFFICIALS DISCLOSED THAT PRELIMINARY TALKS ALREADY HAVE BEEN HELD ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A DISENGAGEMENT OF EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI FORCES.

THE MAIN APPARENT PREREQUISITE FOR THE PRISONER EXCHANGE IS THAT ISRAEL YIELD TO U.N. FORCES THE CONTROL OF THE ROAD FROM CAIRO TO SUZ THAT IS THE LIFELINE OF FOOD, WATER AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES.