

Lindsay: What is Israel willing to do?

Rabin: I believe for an Egyptian commitment for non-belligerency, I think it can get more than what has been offered by now. For a commitment by Egypt not to go to war, not to use the threat or the use of force, and efforts to move to establish a real peace, they can get and be given the passes and the oil. But this is for a clear-cut commitment to the end of belligerency, which means the end of the war between our two countries.

Lindsay: Would an oral commitment be sufficient?

Rabin: This should be in the context of a signed legal paper in which Egypt will take this commitment vis a vis Israel and Israel will take this commitment vis a vis Egypt. There should be an arrangement and a timetable of how it should proceed. I'm sure that once Egypt will be ready to commit itself to an end of belligerency between itself and Israel, it will be a real breakthrough to an end to conflict.

Lindsay: So, in exchange for a written agreement of non-belligerency and certain guarantees, Israel would be willing to give up the Mitla and Giddi passes and also the Abu Rudeis oil fields?

Rabin: Let me put it this way: I would recommend the government to do so.

Lindsay: I understand. As a former politician myself, I understand what you are saying. Can you give more details, in addition to non-belligerency?

Rabin: First and foremost, it's a commitment there will be no more war between Egypt and Israel -- under no circumstances, regardless of what would happen with Jordan, regardless what would happen with Syria or any other country, regardless of what would happen with anybody: An end to the war between our two countries -- this is the essence of it.

Lindsay: How about your right of access to the sea?

Rabin: There is no problem of access to the sea because by this [withdrawal] we will still keep Sharm el-Sheikh and the bulk of Sinai and therefore there is no problem. In addition to that, the fact there

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will be non-belligerency will facilitate all kinds of relations, including the question of the crossing of the Suez Canal, et cetera, et cetera. I don't want to get too specific on this issue, but it must include a commitment to non-belligerency which should be unconditional, an arrangement of demilitarization of the area from which we will withdraw, and of course what goes with it does not need specification at the present.