

SENSITIVE

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SITUATION(S) MESSAGE(S) LISTING

DATE 11/16/73//320

SITUATION: HAK TRIP
SUBJECT CATEGORY: TOHAK III

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

MESSAGE:

IMMEDIATE

O 130055Z NOV 73

FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK118

TO USLO PEKING

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25X1

TOHAK118

TO JON HOWE FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

DELIVER IN SEALED ENVELOPE

TO: SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

NOVEMBER 12, 1973

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

JUS 3/2/2012

FOLLOWING IS A REPORT OF TODAY'S MEETING BETWEEN THE ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE, PROVIDED BY DINITZ. IT INCLUDES THE ISRAELI VERSION OF THE ALTERCATION OVER CHECK POINTS ABOUT WHICH US UN HAS CABLED YOU.

THE MEETING RESULTED IN A DEADLOCK ON ALL THE ISSUES DISCUSSED WITH THE EGYPTIANS AND A ONE-SIDED ACTION ON THE PART OF GENERAL SILASVAD AND A DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH HIM.

(A) PRISONERS OF WAR; THE EGYPTIANS PRESENTED THEIR PLAN FOR THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS OF WAR AND WOUNDED PRISONERS OF WAR. ACCORDING TO THIS PLAN THEY ARE PREPARED TO COMPLETE THE EXCHANGE OF WOUNDED POWS

***** WHSR COMMENTS *****

SEC FILES

PSN1037943

DTG:130055

TOR:3170144

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State Dept. review completed

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WITHIN SIX DAYS WHEREAS THE EXCHANGE OF THE NON-WOUNDED PRISONERS OF WAR THEY WILL TRY TO STRETCH OUT OVER A LONG PERIOD. THEY REFUSED TO SUBMIT TO US A LIST OF NAMES OF ALL THE PRISONERS SO LONG AS WE HAD NOT AGREED TO THEIR CONCEPT OF "FREE" CONVOYS TO SUEZ TOWN. THEY ALSO CLAIMED THAT THEY HAD NOT YET RECEIVED THE FULL LIST OF POWS FROM THE RED CROSS AND THAT THE LATEST LIST THAT THEY DID RECEIVE DOES NOT CONTAIN THE NAMES OF 61 OFFICERS WHOSE NAMES WERE PUBLISHED ON ISRAEL RADIO. IN THE PRESENCE OF A RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVE WE PROVED TO THEM THAT THE FULL LIST THAT WE HAVE FORWARDED TO THE RED CROSS IN TWO COPIES UP TO NOVEMBER 11 CONTAINS 7,990 NAMES.

THEY REJECTED OUR PROPOSAL FOR A SIMULTANEOUS EXCHANGE OF ALL PRISONERS OF WAR, WOUNDED AND NON-WOUNDED ALIKE, AND IN PARTICULAR THEY REJECTED OUR PROPOSAL TO TRANSFER TO THEM IN A SINGLE CONVOY ALL THE 8,000 EGYPTIAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN OUR HANDS; THEY EXPLAINED THAT THIS IS NOT CONDUCTIVE TO THE MORALE OF THEIR FORCES AND TO THE ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY OF THE CAMPS. THEY SUGGESTED THAT THE EXCHANGE BE DONE BY RED CROSS PLANES - AND THIS IS LIABLE TO TAKE SOME FOUR MONTHS.

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(B) SUPPLY TO SUEZ TOWN: THEY REJECTED OUR PROPOSAL TO ACCOMMODATE THEM ON THIS SUBJECT BY INCLUDING SUPPLY ITEMS WHICH ARE NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED IN THE AGREEMENT, IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR AGREEMENT THAT THE TRUCKS WILL NOT BE UNLOADED IN SUEZ TOWN ITSELF BUT

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RATHER IN A PARKING AREA OUTSIDE THE CITY AND IN OUR PRESENCE IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT NO ARMS ARE SMUGGLED IN. THEY INSISTED ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT SUPPLY TO SUEZ TOWN IS NOT SUBJECT TO OUR AGREEMENT, WHETHER IT CONCERNS THE NATURE OF THE SUPPLY, THE QUANTITIES AND THE INSPECTION; ACCORDING TO THE EGYPTIANS THIS IS SUBJECT TO U.N. ASSENT ONLY. ON THIS POINT GENERAL SILASVAD SUPPORTED THE EGYPTIAN STAND AS FAR AS QUANTITIES AND THE NATURE OF ITEMS WAS CONCERNED BUT PROPOSED AN ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY THE SUPPLY CONVOY FROM CAIRO WOULD BE UNLOADED IN A U.N. PARKING AREA IN THE CITY OF SUEZ WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF ISRAELIS AND THAT IN THIS WAY THE CLANDESTINE INTRODUCTION OF ARMS WOULD BE PREVENTED.

(C) SUPPLY TO THE THIRD ARMY: THE EGYPTIANS AND GENERAL SILASVAD EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THE QUANTITIES OF FOOD AND THE ITEMS ARE SUBJECT TO U.N. INSPECTION AND APART FROM MILITARY SUPPLY AND EQUIPMENT, ALL OTHER ITEMS ARE PERMITTED. ISRAEL HAS THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT AND TO INSPECT AT THE TIME OF UNLOADING.

AS FAR AS THE DRIVERS ARE CONCERNED, GENERAL SILASVAD SAID THAT THE U.N. WOULD USE EGYPTIAN CIVILIAN DRIVERS WORKING FOR THE U.N. ON THE CONVOYS TO SUEZ TOWN, WHILE THE CONVOYS TO THE THIRD ARMY WOULD BE DRIVEN BY EGYPTIAN MILITARY DRIVERS.

WE REJECTED TOTALLY THE EMPLOYMENT OF EGYPTIAN DRIVERS.

THE EGYPTIAN GENERAL JAMSEY ASKED FOR A TEMPORARY CONVOY TO SUEZ TOWN AND THE THIRD ARMY AND WE AGREED, PROVIDED THAT HE WOULD SUPPLY US WITH A LIST OF THE PRISONERS OF WAR. HE REJECTED THIS CONDITION AND WITHDREW HIS REQUEST BUT ASKED US TO PERMIT THE REMAINING EIGHT TRUCKS, OUT OF THE LAST CONVOY OF 50, TO PASS THROUGH. WE AGREED TO THAT ON THE SPOT.

(D) MISCELLANEOUS: IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT IN PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS THE EGYPTIANS ASKED FOR A DAILY CONVOY OF SEVEN TRUCKS TO SUEZ PLUS WATER TANKERS; FOR THE THIRD ARMY THEY ASKED FOR A DAILY CONVOY OF 50 TRUCKS (INCLUDING 150 TONS OF FOOD AND WATER).

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IN A PRIVATE CONVERSATION GENERAL YAARIV OFFERED JAMSEY TO MAKE FURTHER CONCESSIONS ON THE ITEMS OF SUPPLY FOR SUEZ TOWN (SUCH AS NEWSPAPERS, MAIL, VISITS OF RED CROSS DOCTORS) AND ALSO THE REPAIR OF THE WATER PIPELINE, IN EXCHANGE FOR AN ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY THE CONTENTS OF THE TRUCKS WOULD BE INSPECTED BY US ON THEIR UNLOADING. WE POINTED OUT THAT THE POPULATION OF SUEZ DOES NOT CONSIST ONLY OF CIVILIANS AND THAT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE TALKS THE EGYPTIANS HAD CLAIMED THAT THE POPULATION IS ABOUT 5,000, WHEREAS, AT A LATER POINT THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT A POPULATION OF 20,000. BOTH THE EGYPTIANS AND THE RED CROSS ADMITTED THAT THIS NUMBER CONTAINS A MAJORITY OF MILITARY PERSONNEL. FOR EXAMPLE, OF THE 1,200 WOUNDED IN THE EGYPTIAN HOSPITALS, 60-70 PCT ARE MILITARY PERSONNEL. WE POINTED OUT THAT SUPPLY TO SUEZ TOWN MEANS A SUPPLY NOT ONLY TO CIVILIANS AND THIS THEREFORE JUSTIFIES OUR DEMANDS FOR CONTROL OVER THE SHIPMENTS TO SUEZ. WE ALSO STATED THAT AS FAR AS QUANTITIES AND ITEMS WERE CONCERNED BOTH TO SUEZ AND TO THE THIRD ARMY, THEY HAVE TO OBTAIN OUR APPROVAL.

FINALLY, THE EGYPTIANS MADE SEVERAL PROPOSALS BY VIRTUE OF PARA (A) OF THE AGREEMENT.

(1) BOTH SIDES SHOULD REFRAIN FROM AERIAL PATROLS UP TO A DISTANCE OF 30 KMS. FROM THE LINES OF THE OTHER SIDE AND ALSO IN THE GULF OF SUEZ ON THE WESTERN BANK. WE REPLIED THAT THIS IS NOT PRACTICABLE UNDER THE EXISTING TWISTED LINES.

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(2) U.N. FORCE SHOULD BE PUT INTO POSITION BETWEEN THE LINES OF THE TWO SIDES IN EVERY PLACE AND ESPECIALLY IN THE SOUTH. WE REPLIED THAT IN MOST CASES THIS WAS NOT PRACTICABLE.

(3) TO INVITE U.N. PATROLS ON THE WEST BANK OF THE CANAL WHO WOULD INSPECT AND ENSURE THE WELL-BEING OF THE EGYPTIAN CIVILIANS AND THEIR TREATMENT BY OUR FORCES IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL USAGE. WE REJECTED THIS PROPOSAL.

(E) U.N. CHECK-POINTS: AS THE MEETING WAS DRAWING TO AN END GENERAL SILASVAO SURPRISINGLY ANNOUNCED THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AUTHORITY THAT HE HAD BEEN GIVEN HE WILL SET UP WITHIN A SHORT TIME TWO U.N. CHECK-POINTS IN PLACE OF THE ISRAELI CHECK-POINTS: ONE AT KILOMETER 101 AND THE SECOND AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE TOWN OF SUEZ FROM THE EAST. THE CONVOYS THAT WOULD PASS OVER THE ROAD WOULD BE ESCORTED BY U.N. FORCES. ISRAEL WILL BE ABLE TO INSPECT THE CONTENTS OF THE CONVOYS TO THE THIRD ARMY AT THE UNLOADING POINT. AS SOON AS OUR PEOPLE LEFT, THE FIRST CHECK-POINT WAS ESTABLISHED SEVERAL METERS TO THE WEST OF OUR CHECK-POINT AND THEN WE LEARNED THAT ANOTHER CHECKPOINT WAS ESTABLISHED SEVERAL METERS EAST OF OUR CHECK-POINT.

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AT APPROXIMATELY 1800 HOURS UNEF PERSONNEL WITHOUT OUR CONSENT PUT UP A CHECK-POINT ON THE SUEZ-CAIRO ROAD AT THE WESTERN ENTRANCE TO THE CITY. THIS CHECK-POINT IN FACT CUT OFF THE CONTROL POST OF THE ISRAEL DEFENSE

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ARMY ON THE ROAD FROM OUR FORCES WEST OF THE TOWN OF
SUEZ, ISRAELI MILITARY PERSONNEL ON THE SPOT ASKED
THE U.N. PERSONNEL TO REMOVE THE CHECK-POST SO THAT
THE ROAD WOULD AGAIN BE OPEN FOR TRAFFIC. WHEN THE
U.N. PERSONNEL REFUSED TO DO SO, THE CHECK-POINT WAS
REMOVED BY ISRAELI MILITARY PERSONNEL ON THE SPOT.

THE NEXT MEETING WITH THE EGYPTIAN GENERAL WAS
FIXED FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14; THE GENERAL CLAIMED
THAT HE WAS BUSY TOMORROW (NOVEMBER 13).

END TEXT
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TO: SECRETARY KISSINGER

HAKTO 118

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT *BS*

November 12, 1973

Following is a report of today's meeting between the Israeli and Egyptian military representative, provided by Dinitz. It includes the Israeli version of the altercation ^{over} check points about which US UN has cabled you.

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referred to Ben Shimon
from Min Shalev
5:45 pm 11/12/73

Minutes of meeting between Major General Yaariv
representing Israel, and Major General Jamsey
representing Egypt, held on November 12, 1973.

NOT SENT

The meeting resulted in a deadlock on all the issues discussed with the Egyptians and a one-sided action on the part of General Silasvao and a direct confrontation with him.

(a) Prisoners of War : The Egyptians presented their plan for the exchange of prisoners of war and wounded prisoners of war. According to this plan they are prepared to complete the exchange of wounded POWs within six days whereas the exchange of the non-wounded prisoners of war they will try to stretch out over a long period. They refused to submit to us a list of names of all the prisoners so long as we had not agreed to their concept of "free" convoys to Suez town. They also claimed that they had not yet received the full list of POWs from the Red Cross and that the latest list that they did receive does not contain the names of 61 officers whose names were published on Israel Radio. In the presence of a Red Cross representative we proved to them that the full list that we have forwarded to the Red Cross in two copies up to November 11 contains 7,990 names.

They rejected our proposal for a simultaneous exchange of all prisoners of war, wounded and non-wounded alike, and in particular they rejected our proposal to transfer^{to} them in a single convoy all the 8,000 Egyptian prisoners of war in our hands; they explained that this is not conducive to the morale of their forces and to the absorptive capacity of the Camps. They suggested that the exchange be done by Red Cross planes - and this is liable to take some four months.

(b) Supply to Suez Town : They rejected our proposal on this subject to accommodate them by including supply items which are not specifically mentioned in the Agreement, in exchange for their agreement that the trucks will not be unloaded in Suez town itself but rather in a parking area outside the city and in our presence in order to ensure that no arms are smuggled in. They insisted on the principle that supply to Suez town is not subject to our agreement, whether it concerns the nature of the supply, the quantities and the inspection; according to the Egyptians this is subject to U.N. assent only. On this point General Silasvao supported the Egyptian stand as far as quantities and the nature of items was concerned but proposed an arrangement whereby the supply convoy from Cairo would be unloaded in a U.N. parking area

in the city of Suez without the presence of Israelis and that in this way the clandestine introduction of arms would be prevented.

(c) Supply to the Third Army : The Egyptians and General Silasvao expressed the opinion that the quantities of food and the items are subject to U.N. inspection and apart from military supply and equipment, all other items are permitted. Israel has the right to be present and to inspect at the time of unloading.

As far as the drivers are concerned, General Silasvao said that the U.N. would use Egyptian civilian drivers working for the U.N. on the convoys to Suez town, while the convoys to the Third Army would be driven by Egyptian military drivers.

We rejected totally the employment of Egyptian drivers.

The Egyptian General Jamsey asked for a temporary convoy to Suez town and the Third Army and we agreed, provided that he would supply us with a list of the prisoners of war. He rejected this condition and withdrew his request but asked us to permit the remaining eight trucks, out of the last convoy of 50, to pass through. We agreed to that on the spot.

(d) Miscellaneous : It will be recalled that in previous conversations the Egyptians asked for a daily convoy of seven trucks to Suez plus water tankers; for the Third Army they asked for a daily convoy of 50 trucks (including 150 tons of food and water).

In a private conversation General Yaariv offered Jamsey to make further concessions on the items of supply for Suez town (such as newspapers, mail, visits of Red Cross doctors) and also the repair of the water pipeline, in exchange for an arrangement whereby the contents of the trucks would be inspected ^{us m} by their unloading. We pointed out that the population of Suez does not consist only of civilians and that at the beginning of the talks the Egyptians had claimed that the population is about 5,000, whereas, at a later point, they were talking about a population of 20,000. Both the Egyptians and the Red Cross admitted that this number ~~largely~~ contains a majority of military personnel. For example, of the 1,200 wounded in the Egyptian hospitals, 60-70% are military personnel. We pointed out that supply to Suez town means a supply not only to civilians and this therefore justifies our demands for control over the shipments to Suez. We also stated that as far as quantities and items were concerned both to Suez and to the Third Army, they have to obtain our approval.

Finally, the Egyptians made several proposals by virtue of Para (a) of the Agreement.

(1) Both sides should refrain from aerial patrols up to a distance of 30 kms. from the lines of the other side and also in the Gulf of Suez on the Western Bank. We replied that this is not practicable under the existing twisted lines.

(2) U.N. force should be put into position between the lines of the two sides in every place and especially in the South. We replied that in most cases this was not practicable.

(3) To invite U.N. patrols on the West Bank of the Canal who would inspect and ensure the well-being of the Egyptian civilians and their treatment by our forces in accordance with international usage. We rejected this proposal.

(e) U.N. Check-points.: As the meeting was drawing to an end General Silasvao surprisingly announced that in accordance with the authority that he had been given he will set up within a short time two U.N. check-points in place of the Israeli check-points? One at Kilometer 101 and the second at the entrance to the town of Suez from the East. The convoys that would pass over the road would be escorted by U.N. forces. Israel will be able to inspect the contents of the convoys to the Third Army at the unloading point. As soon as our people

left, the first check-point was established several meters to the west of our check-point and then we learned that another checkpoint was established several meters east of our check-point.

At approximately 1800 hours UNEF personnel without our consent put up a check-point on the Suez-Cairo road at the western entrance to the city. This check-point in fact cut off the control post of the Israel Defense Army on the road from our forces west of the town of Suez. Israeli military personnel on the spot asked the U.N. personnel to remove the check-post so that the road would again be open for traffic. When the U.N. personnel refused to do so, the check-point was removed by Israeli military personnel on the spot.

The next meeting with the Egyptian General was fixed for Wednesday, November 14; the General claimed that he was busy tomorrow (November 13).