

TELCON
Gen. Haig - Secretary Kissinger
Oct. 13, 1973
2:45 p. m.

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By DM/365, NARA, Date 6/13/19

K:.... Proposed Austrialians to the Soviets. They turned it down, possibly because they've got a thing going for them and now they probably figure the British won't come in, won't put the resolution forward. Now the 21st armored division of Egypt has crossed the Canal.

H: It has ? Oh, boy.

K: The defense department may actually have inflicted a diplomatic and military defeat on us. It may be over by Monday night.

H: Have they got the C-130s moving?

K: 60 tons, but the battle won't be influenced by that.

H: It will sure be influenced by failure to get the stuff.

K: Ah, you know at the right moment 10 tons can make a difference. If the Israelis could have broken through in Syria on Thursday and then turned around, it would have been...

H: Have you talked to the Israelis today? What's their attitude, pessimistic?

K: Well, they want the stuff now, they are desperate now. And we are in one hell of a position.

H: Have they got anything back there in the pass area to meet this thing?

K: I think so.

H: If they stick their noses out of there they may be able to hurt them badly. What's the problem with the Brits, Henry. Could the President call.

K: The President doesn't want to call Heath.

H: Oh, I think he would, Henry, have you talked to him.

K: No, but I have called Home and there is no sense in the President calling Heath until... It's 8:00 at night there, if they are going to... They went to Sadat who said he didn't want

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It, it fits with the scenario or with Soviet rhetoric.....Isn't supposed to want it.

H: So afraid to break relations .

K: but suppose they put it forward, supposing thenaccused of collusion with the Russians to make Sadat swallow something he doesn't want, the Russians wouldn't swallow it , the British would have to bear the onus alone.

H: Perfidious Albion.

K: Isn't it something.

H: We ought to be able to lay a heavy arm on those monkeys.
K: I tell you, compared to the risk of continuing the war, riskhaven't heard by 3:30 I'll put in another call. You know what we'll be into if this doesn't work, a massive airlift, massive confrontation with the United Arabs and the Soviets and the guys who get us into it are the goddamned Arabists, right?

H: Yep, with reasonable degree of Soviet honesty, if they are schnookering us...

K: If they are schnookering us and Israel won,would 20 plane loads have made any difference.

H: Can't believe that it would. It wouldn't serve any purpose to think that it would, despite the fact that ... could have had a fairly thin influence. At least oral assurances must have been all right. Got to face this. They are putting it out all over town that we are split, disorganized.

K: You know who's doing that, Jackson is putting it out.

H: That's not where he's getting it.

H:trying to prove the NSC system isn't working.

H: We can make a damn good case for what we did

H: Yes, absolutely.

K: We gave the Israelis iron clad assurances for replacement to where they could have drawn down all stocks and get a victory.

H: I think they would do it in any event. Don't think they've ever been characterized as being excessively timid. Their problem in the final analysis is a combination of four years of maintaining the balance. Mel Laird and Dick Helms shaved down to the point where they were not strong enough.

K: That's a criticism they deserve.

H: Mel Saunders and the rest of those bastards colluding to weaken the people in view of the Soviet buildup. These things don't happen that easy.

K: Our Sunday and Monday intelligence estimates still showed overwhelming strength d... Arabists overestimated... but couldn't have been decisive. Thing to do now is to do our god damndest to get the stuff in there.

K: You agree we have to now have a massive airlift within three days, next step consultation with the Arab world and with the Soviets.

H: No question need to do that but we have to be very sure now that we look down the line at our own gamesmanship. With regard to our running this, I think confronted with one challenge after another.

K: We have got to get a higher defense budgets now, turn sharp right. We have got to reopen our military assistance program again with Soviet arms being chief supplier in the world today, heavy victory for Soviet arms, haven't got a chance.

H: Schlesinger's calling me. What do you suppose he wants. Anything a problem.

K: Don't know, but if he's got a problem he should call me not you.

H:really brutalized him last night.

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