

HOUSE ENDS STUDY OF OCTOBER ALERT

Data on Action by Nixon in
Mideast Crisis Called Too
Sensitive for Release

4/10/74
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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 9—The House of Representatives voted early today to end further inquiry into the worldwide American military alert ordered by President Nixon at the height of the Middle East war last fall.

On Oct. 24 a note from the Soviet Union was given to Secretary of State Kissinger at a time when Israeli forces were poised to attack forces of the Egyptian Third Army, then stranded on the east bank of the Suez Canal. Together with what the Nixon Administration described as "ambiguous" Soviet troop movements, the note indicated what President Nixon called "the most difficult crisis we have had since the Cuban confrontation of 1962."

The key paragraph of the note signed by the Soviet Communist leader, Leonid I. Brezhnev, was recently provided to The New York Times. It read:

"I will say it straight, that if you find it impossible to act with us in this matter, we should be faced with the necessity urgently to consider the question of taking appropriate steps unilaterally. Israel cannot be permitted to get away with the violations."

Allegations Against Israel

The term "violations" referred to allegations that the Israelis had failed to heed United Nations resolutions directing an immediate cease-fire. The day after the alert went into effect, the Administration portrayed the note as threatening unilateral military intervention.

The note immediately became a subject of domestic political controversy when Senator Henry M. Jackson, Democrat of Washington, described it as brutal. He implied that the Administration's response had been inadequate.

Others attacked from the opposite side, arguing that the Administration had overreacted. The implication here was that

it was trying to show that the President could act even in time of domestic trouble.

Two in the latter category, Representatives Michael J. Harrington of Massachusetts and Fortney H. Stark of California, both Democrats, presented a resolution of inquiry that called on Mr. Kissinger to furnish all the relevant information on the alert and the note.

Response by Kissinger

Mr. Kissinger responded to a later request by the House Foreign Affairs Committee in three forms: He allowed the chairman, Thomas E. Morgan, Democrat of Pennsylvania, and three committee members to read the note and report generally on its contents to the rest of the committee; he provided intelligence information on Soviet troop movements; he provided an unclassified account along with a chronology of Administration decisions during the crisis.

The committee voted, 26 to 2, last week, that Mr. Kissinger's response was sufficient and that the information was such that the national interest required that it not be made public.

The co-sponsors of the resolution disagreed, terming the information skeletal, and took the issue to the floor, where they were overwhelmingly defeated in a voice vote.

Officials provided additional information about the Soviet note, which was typed in English and consisted of four paragraphs.

The first stated that Israel continued to ignore the cease-fire orders and that this represented a challenge to the Soviet Union and the United States.

The second paragraph insisted on the need to "implement" the resolutions and "invited" Washington to join Moscow "to compel observance of the cease-fire without delay."

The third paragraph, quoted above, proposed Soviet military action if Washington declined to act jointly.

In the final paragraph Mr. Brezhnev told Mr. Nixon: "I value our relationship." The note began simply "Mr. President," not the usual salutation, "My Dear Mr. President."