

Kissinger's Complex Mideast Compromise



Jack Anderson

SECRETARY OF STATE Henry Kissinger has fashioned the jigsaw pieces for an interim Arab-Israeli settlement. He will return to the Middle East in a few days to fit the pieces together.

The secret cables between Washington and the Middle East contain the broad outlines of a delicate, enormously complex arrangement, which could bring eventual peace between the Arabs and Israelis. Here are the highlights:

- Israel is willing to give up part of the Sinai, including the strategic Mitla and Giddi mountain passes and the ebbing Abu Rudeis oil fields. The Israelis agreed to this concession after Kissinger obtained a guarantee from the Shah of Iran that he will make up their oil loss.

- Both Egyptian and Israeli leaders will make public statements promising to "refrain from warfare" against one another. The United States will also pledge not to support any Israeli military action against Egypt.

- Kissinger has given into Soviet demands that a final settlement will be negotiated at a Geneva conference. This deal was struck during Kissinger's stopover in Geneva to confer with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. In essence, it was an old-fashioned horse-trade: The Russians agreed to accept Kissinger's interim agreement and Kissinger agreed to the Geneva talks.

- Kissinger and Gromyko also agreed that the displaced Palestinians

would be represented in Geneva by the Palestine Liberation Organization. This will be hard for the Israelis to swallow. But American and PLO envoys have been holding secret meetings on the subject, usually in third countries.

In sum, Kissinger has worked out a brilliant compromise, with something for everyone. He can take personal credit for keeping the Middle East quiet since October, 1973.

Footnote: A permanent peace of course, is still far away. The Arabs are still demanding that Israel give up the Golan Heights to Syria and the West Bank of the Jordan River to a new Palestinian state.

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THREE YEARS AGO Henry Kissinger issued his famous "tilt" toward Pakistan. It took three years to restore good relations with neighboring India.

Now Kissinger has relaxed the ten-year-old arms embargo against Pakistan. And the Indians, just as they were settling down to pleasant relations with the United States, suddenly are angrier than ever.

Officials in India, according to CIA reports, believe the United States wants to establish a military presence in Pakistan — on the strategic Arabian Sea. In fact, the reports suggest that Pakistani President Ali Bhutto may already have agreed to such a deal.

Written with Les Whitten