

# Congress Seen Accepting a Sinai Unit

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 12 — When the possibility of Americans being sent to Sinai surfaced during recent Middle East negotiations, members of Congress expressed concern over "another Vietnam," but so far no significant opposition has developed in Congress to the Administration's request to station 200 Americans in the Sinai passes.

Both Congressional leaders and Administration officials said today that only a few members of Congress opposed the actual request to send volunteers to the Sinai to help monitor the recent Egyptian-Israeli agreement. The majority of Congress has apparently accepted Secretary of State Kissinger's main argument that there is no real alternative to stationing the Americans at the early-warning system.

Several members of Congress, however, have expressed concern privately to Mr. Kissinger about the high "price" the United States will have to pay in economic and military aid to both sides—estimated at \$3-billion—and what they regard as excessive secrecy in handling of the unpublished aspects of the agreement.

Mr. Kissinger and others have apparently been persuasive in arguing that the American civilians who will be in Sinai will not be similar to Vietnam advisers but more analogous to United Nations peace-keeping observers who will report to all sides and take no part in any hostilities.

Legislation to authorize the sending of the 200 Americans is still being prepared in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House International Relations Committee, in consultation with the Administration.

Originally, the Administration had suggested a concurrent resolution from both houses, an action reflecting the "sense" of Congress that the Americans should be sent. This would not have the force of law.

But now, because the Administration has said it is willing to accept changes proposed by Senator Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, and others giving Congress as well as the Administration the right to recall the observers if they seemed in jeopardy, consideration is being given to a "joint resolution" that would have the force of law.

State Department officials said today that they hoped the

language could be agreed upon so that votes could be taken either late next week or the week after. The Administration would like the stationing issue settled by the time Israeli and Egyptian negotiators finish work in Geneva on the protocols to carry out the accord.

Mr. Kissinger again stressed before the House Armed Services Committee today that the Administration was not eager to send Americans to the Sinai, but that it went along reluctantly because otherwise the Israelis would not have signed the agreement with Egypt. The Egyptians, desiring to have Americans as "witnesses" to the accord, also asked for the American presence.

In the public part of his testimony today, Mr. Kissinger said the Egyptians had originally wanted about 1,000 Americans in the Mitla and Gici passes and the Israelis also wanted substantially more than 200. But he said that in the negotiations he was able to bring the number down.

### Reasons Offered

In interviews with members of Congress of different persuasions, the following reasons were given for the lack of significant opposition:

¶ Failure by Congress to support the stationing of Americans would lead to a charge that Congress was against steps toward peace.

¶ The Israeli Government is strongly supporting the American presence, as is the pro-Israeli lobby, which means that members of Congress friendly to Israel—and this is a majority of Congress—would run a political problem in opposing the measure.

¶ Many members of Congress were impressed with the fact that 36 Americans are already serving as United Nations truce observers and that the 200 will be civilians not attached to the Defense Department. Therefore, in their mind, the American involvement is not so new or so deep.

Concern has been voiced more about the size of the impending American aid package than about American presence in the passes.

### Questioning on Aid

A participant in Mr. Kissinger's closed-door appearance before the Armed Services Committee said the Secretary was questioned closely about the estimated \$3-billion request, of which about \$2.4-billion to \$2.5-billion would be earmarked for Israel.

Similar questions have been asked in other committees, but the aid package will not come to Congress until well after the observers issue is voted upon.

Another problem is troubling the Administration. Many members of Congress have complained about not being able to see all the unpublished documents relating to the accord. The Administration has only shown them to certain key members of the foreign affairs committees.

### Leak Is Charged

The irritation of some members has been heightened by reports in The New York Times about the unpublished undertakings to Israel and Egypt. The members of Congress have accused the State Department of leaking the documents to The Times, a charge denied by department officials.

On another Middle East matter, Mr. Kissinger met with Senator Clifford P. Case, Republican of New Jersey, and Representative Jonathan B. Bingham, Democrat of The Bronx, to try to work out an agreement permitting the sale to Jordan of 14 batteries of Hawk missiles promised King Hussein.

The Case-Bingham side wants explicit assurances that the Administration will not sell Jordan equipment that will allow the Hawks to be mobile and possibly useful in an offensive against Israel. The Administration is reluctant to go beyond general assurances that they will be used for self-defense.