

# Senators Defy Kissinger, Declassify Sinai Papers

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 3—The Senate Foreign Relations Committee ended its drawn-out dispute with Secretary of State Kissinger today by overriding his formal objections and declassifying four documents, already printed by the press, dealing with American assurances to Israel and Egypt.

The committee action was taken by a 12-to-2 vote this morning after another closed-door meeting with Mr. Kissinger. The two dissenters were Senator Robert P. Griffin, Republican of Michigan, and Senator Claiborne Pell, Democrat of Rhode Island. The Secretary reportedly told the committee that he understood its reasons for publishing the documents; but that for the sake of future relations with other governments he could not approve and the State Department would be obliged to protest.

Later, a department spokesman issued the following statement: "The decision by the

Senate Foreign Relations Committee to release the documents was taken on its own responsibility and over our objections."

While no committee member said that Mr. Kissinger had given even his tacit consent to the publication, it was evident from discussions with Senators and Administration officials that because The New York Times had already printed all four documents, and other papers had published some of them, Mr. Kissinger's objections were made more for the record than anything else.

## Reprinting Was Alternative

Likewise, the committee could have simply reprinted the documents from The Times instead of formally declassifying them. But because several members wanted to make the point that such material should be in the public domain the body decided to act officially.

Three of the documents were published on Sept. 17 in The New York Times and the fourth was printed the next day.

Senator Frank Church told reporters that in the unilateral decision to declassify the material, "the deadlock" with the Administration had been broken. The Idaho Democrat said that the way was now clear for formal committee approval early next week of the Administration's request to station 200 American civilian technicians in the Sinai passes to help monitor the Israeli-Egypt-

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tian accord.

Earlier in the morning, the House International Relations Committee voted 24 to 0 to approve the American presence in the passes, the joint resolution approved by the House committee is scheduled to be acted upon by the full House next Thursday.

The Senate committee, after holding public hearings on the Middle East on Monday and Tuesday, will probably approve a similar joint resolution in time for Senate action Wednesday or Thursday.

The prolonged dispute between Mr. Kissinger and the Foreign Relations Committee had seemed ludicrous at times, with both sides privately admitting that the debate could appear meaningless to outsiders.

As part of the negotiations for the new Sinai agreement, Mr. Kissinger gave certain assurances to both Israel and Egypt. The undertakings to Israel were more numerous and more important.

## Shown in Confidence

These assurances were included in four separate documents turned over by the State Department to the Senate and House committees on a "secret" basis the week of Sept. 8.

They were given to the committees to provide background on all American commitments beside the published agreement to send the 200 civilian volunteers to man the early-warning systems between Israeli and Egyptian forces.

The four documents were:

¶A 16-point memorandum of agreement between the United States and Israel outlining American promises to be "fully responsive" to Israel's military, economic and energy requirements, and stating in detail how Israel would be helped to receive oil in case of another

embargo, and pledging certain steps such as consultation in case of Soviet intervention the Middle East.

¶An eight-point memorandum of agreement with Israel on steps to be taken by both sides at a Geneva conference, including American pledges not to deal with the Palestine Liberation Organization until it recognizes Israel's existence.

¶A brief statement called "Assurances from the United States Government to Israel" augmenting the first document and containing the much-publicized statement that the United States will study "with the view to giving a positive response" to Israel's request for highly sophisticated items including the Pershing missile.

¶A four-point statement listing "Assurances by the United States Government to Egypt" that includes a pledge to make "a serious effort to bring about Israeli-Syrian negotiations."

A check of the documents as released today shows only one significant difference from those published in The Times. In the original documents, the assurances to Egypt were limited to three points, but subsequently the Administration informed the committees there was the following fourth point:

## Other Material Seen

"The United States reaffirms its policy of assisting Egypt in its economic development, the specific amount to be subject to Congressional authorization and appropriation."

The State Department also showed Senator John J. Sparkman of Alabama, the committee chairman, and Senator Clifford P. Case of New Jersey, the ranking Republican, certain highly secret material not shown other members of their committee.

These included letters from President Ford and Mr. Kissinger to Israeli and Egyptian leaders, and a summary of the

record of the actual Kissinger negotiations with both sides.

Mr. Kissinger told the Senate committee yesterday in closed session that all the binding American commitments to either Israel or Egypt had been shown the entire committee and that there were no other ones. This seemed to satisfy one of the committee's demands—that no secrets be withheld from the members. Although the House committee did not press to publish the documents shown it, the majority of the Senate committee began to seek release of the documents once they appeared in the press.

## Compromise Suggested

Mr. Case and Senator Jacob K. Javits, Republican of New York, sought a compromise that would provide for an accurate summary of the documents to be released. But today, according to several participants, Mr. Kissinger balked at issuing the summary that once was favored by the Administration.

He reportedly acknowledged that the press would immediately compare the summary with the original documents and this would cause more trouble than it was worth.

Senators told him that they were determined to hold public hearings on the entire matter

of the Sinai technicians and the United States role in the Middle East. This would be impossible, they said, if all the documents were not made public.

One joint resolution approved by the House International Relations Committee contains a preamble asserting that the American presence in Sinai "may enhance the prospect of compliance in good faith with the terms of the Egyptian-Israeli agreements and thereby promote the cause of peace."

It authorizes the President to send the 200 technicians provided that they "shall be removed immediately in the event of an outbreak of hostilities" or if Congress by concurrent resolution determine that the safety of such personnel is jeopardized or that continuation of their role is no longer necessary.

The committee accepted amendments specifying that approval of the stationing of the Americans "does not signify approval of the Congress of any other agreement, understanding or commitment made by the executive branch."

The President was also obliged to submit written reports to Congress at least every six months on the status and anticipated duration of stay of the American technicians.