

Ford reassures Greek, Mideast leaders

United Press International

President Ford has sent a message to Greek Premier Constantine Caramanlis urging restraint and moderation in the Cyprus crisis and promising American support, a Greek government spokesman said yesterday.

Parallel messages of reassurance to Israel and to Egypt were also made public in Tel Aviv and Cairo.

To Israel's Premier Itzhak

Rabin, Ford said his new administration would honor all the commitments made by its predecessor, including long - range military and economic support.

Ford reassured Egypt's President Anwar Sadat that he would work for continued improvement in the two countries relations.

"I have watched the tragic crisis over Cyprus embroil two of our trusted allies, and endanger the sta-

bility of the area," Ford was quoted as writing to Caramanlis.

"Your emergence on the scene is a symbol of hope to me and all those who are working for a speedy resolution of that difficult problem. I know you share with me the conviction that cool heads and moderate behavior are essential. Be assured we are committed to assist in any way," the quotation continued.

"You should be assured that my administration will remain steadfast in its commitments and will continue to support our mutual efforts to invigorate the NATO Alliance and our mutual relationship within the Atlantic community," Ford was quoted as saying.

Caramanlis received the message in Athens from American Ambassador Henry J. Tasca; Ambassador Kenneth B. Keating deliv-

of continued support

ered Ford's message to Rabin.

Rabin's office said:

"The President also mentioned that the United States would persevere in the peace efforts in the Middle

East, in which she has taken such an active part during recent months."

Ford said he looked forward with interest to Rabin's visit to Washington during the summer. Former President Nixon invited Ra-

bin when he toured the Middle East in June.

The Middle East News Agency quoted Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy, who is currently in Paris, as saying Ford sent a message to Sadat "affirming that he will

work for consolidating the good relations between the two countries in accordance with the principles laid down by ex-President Nixon."

☆☆☆ Section A Page 7
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