

Reaction in Washington

U.S. Is Hopeful on Truce

Washington

The United States said yesterday that the cease-fire in the Middle East was beginning to take effect.

Both the White House and the State Department gave optimistic appraisals of the Middle East situation, although one high official said, "We can't with absolute and finite confidence say that the last shot has been fired."

In general, the attitude in Washington was that the

Middle East situation is beginning to stabilize as the result of the pressure brought to bear by the U.S. and Soviet Union, which have co-sponsored the council resolutions calling for a cease-fire in place.

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger reported to President Nixon yesterday morning, the White House said, that the cease-fire "seems to have been taking hold." A similar assessment was issued by the State Department.

Kissinger will hold a news conference this morning to discuss the Middle East situation and his visit last weekend to Moscow for talks with Leonid Brezhnev, the Soviet Communist party leader, which produced the big-power agreement on a three-point cease-fire resolution calling for a truce and subsequent negotiations for settling Middle East problems.

Late yesterday afternoon, the White House said Mr. Nixon has invited Democratic and Republican congressional leaders to a briefing this morning by Kissinger on the Middle East.

Meanwhile, the State Department announced that Kissinger and Chinese officials have rescheduled his trip to Peking to take place Nov. 10 to 13. He had originally planned to be in the

Chinese capital tomorrow through Monday, but the Middle East crisis forced a postponement.

State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said the main goal of the administration's diplomatic activity in the last two days has been to get the warring parties in the Middle East to abide by the cease-fire.

He said that if the cease-fire holds, the main activity would be directed toward prodding the Arabs and Israelis into the "negotiating process."

But he stressed that so far agreement has not been reached on the forum and formula for holding those negotiations. The Security Council resolution adopted early Monday provided for negotiations to be held "under appropriate auspices."

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