

TELCON

Sen. Javits/Sec. Kissinger
Saturday, Oct. 6, 1973

11:01 am

J: Quite a Yom Kippur. What is your report?

K: My personal estimate which I don't want you to repeat -- it is clearly an Arab attack. The Israelis would not attack on Yom Kippur without provocation and the Egyptians have crossed the Canal in five places. And one report is that they broke through in one place. The Syrians have attacked in two places and have penetrated and I got a report at 6:00 that such an attack might be imminent. I called Zayyat and Dobrynin. The Syrians are not answering their phone. Also Eban. I got an Israeli promise that they would not launch a preemptive attack. As late as yesterday Zayyat was telling me the Egyptians would be very calm, quiet and give diplomacy a chance and are eager to meet with me in November and wanted to come to Washington next week.

J: What do you think brought this to a boil this way.

K: What we have to determine now, Jack, is whether there was Soviet collusion or not. We have offered the Soviets joint action in the Security Council to restore the ceasefire and the ceasefire lines with approval of the Israelis. This should smoke them out.

J: All will be nullified if these fellows -- if they make any effort.

K: The resolution is to return to the ceasefire line.

J: I know the diplomatic thing would work that way but all could be very very sharply affected if the Arabs have any success. It will be very hard to deal with them.

K: Our estimate is that unless the Israelis were totally surprised which is not impossible because of Yom Kippur they would be in their lowest posture ever.

J: No question about it.

K: Don't you think?

J: I am sure. I had second hand report that (Saper) (phonetic) called this morning and said they were in considerable difficulty. Said it had been very hurtful. I am sure they caught them at their lowest ebb of preparation. I gather it has been boiling up for a couple of days.

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K: Not that we got any reports. The first report we got that seemed remotely dangerous was at 8:00 last night and we were still checking it when I was awakened with an appeal from the Prime Minister giving us authority to approach other countries to restrain themselves. I got up immediately and did it. I saw Eban at 4:30 on Thursday and he thought the situation very calm and when I said we should consider a diplomatic move after the election he said you should consider whether it could ever be calmer than it is now.

J: There security was very high.

K: Not a case.

J: That is on the Syrian side.

K: For your information I was reading reports and asking for special intelligence information. As late as Wednesday and assessment both from the Israelis and our own intelligence that there was nothing to it. Not that we knew it and were sitting on it.

J: Of course. I think we had better see what goes on. I will not say anything.

K: I am in New York now but I will go back to Washington as soon as I see a break.

J: Has the President had any reaction.

K: I have talked with him and if he agrees that it looks like Soviet collusion we have to do Sept. 1970 again. If there is Soviet collusion, we will come down hard. If they pull away from the Arabs we will pull away and stay neutral from them. We are assuming that the Israelis can take care of themselves. If that is wrong we have to go back to the drawing board.

J: What I have heard did not make me very happy.

K: We are keeping in closest touch with the Israelis. We are not making a move without discussing it with them.

J: May I feel free to call you again.

K: Where.

J: I am home.

K: Leave your number when you move with the White House board., END