

# WASHINGTON DATELINE

BY TRUDE B. FELDMAN

ISRAELITE'S WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

GOLDA MEIR conferred with President Nixon in the White House Oval office last Thursday.

Their meeting lasted one hour and 20 minutes, but they were alone for only a few minutes of that period. Sitting in on the conference were Mordecai Gazit, Director General of the Prime Minister's Office; General Aharon Yariiv, Negotiator; Simcha Dinitz, Israeli Ambassador to the U. S.; Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, and Harold H. Saunders of the National Security Council staff.

Prior to their session, the President and Prime Minister made small talk with reporters and photographers. The President asked Mrs. Meir about her health--if she slept on the plane coming over and in which plane she flew. She told him it was an El Al plane.

"Does El Al make money or is it subsidized? The President asked Golda. She told him it does make money, but isn't subsidized.

Mrs. Meir looked tired and grim. She wore a two-piece electric blue outfit, with light brown beads draped around her neck. She constantly fingered the gloves which lay in her lap.

When the President noticed the photographers scrambling and jockeying for position, he told them they could have another chance after the conference. "It's a nice day, so I'll walk her to her car, and you can get different shots of us outside afterwards," he said.

The President did bring Mrs. Meir out to the Rose Garden where they posed again. The President looked at the unusual amount of photographers lined up on the lawn and asked, "How many of you have been to Israel?--Raise your hand." As he himself raised his hand and said "I've been there" -- Mrs. Meir commented that many of their colleagues (reporters and photographers) are now in Israel covering the war.

The President escorted the Israeli Prime Minister and her aides to her limousine and chatted with them about their particular positions. As they waved "Shalom", Mrs. Meir asked to be remembered to Mrs. Nixon.

How were the talks? I asked the President. "They were very constructive talks--as were the talks yesterday," he replied (referring to his conference with Egypt's new Foreign Min-

ister Ismail Fahmy).

Mrs. Meir was later asked if there was any chance of her meeting with Ismail Fahmy while she was here. With a smile, she said the subject wasn't discussed. But then again, this was the case when she and King Hussein were here the same time last Spring. During this trip, there was also "free" time on her heavy schedule.

"The President has assured me that the security and well-being of Israel are the true and lasting concerns of the U.S.," she said. "I wouldn't assume the U.S. wants Israel to do something Israel doesn't want to do..."

However, Mrs. Meir also said that she doesn't think the U.S. has a "detailed plan to get a true and lasting peace."

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger last week gave some of the details surrounding his trip to Tel Aviv and Moscow, and attempted to put into perspective the latest situation in the Middle East.


During a one-hour press conference, Dr. Kissinger said that throughout the first week of the Mideast war, the U.S. attempted to crystallize a consensus in the Security Council which would bring about a cease-fire on terms that the world community could support. He recalled that on October 10th, the Soviet Union began an airlift which began fairly moderately but which, by October 12th, had achieved fairly substantial levels.

"The U. S. and the Soviet Union are ideological and, to some extent, political adversaries," he said. "But the U. S. and the Soviet Union also have a very special responsibility. We each possess nuclear arsenals capable of annihilating humanity. We each have a special duty to see to it that confrontations are kept within bounds that do not threaten civilized life.

Both will have to come to realize that the issues that divide the world today, and foreseeable issues, do not justify the unparalleled catastrophe that a nuclear war would represent. Therefore, in all our dealings with the Soviet Union, we have attempted to keep in mind, and we have attempted to move them to a position in which this overriding interest that humanity shares with us is never lost sight of..."

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