

FORD ADMINISTRATION
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to fear from an attempt to bring peace in the Middle East."

Kissinger told the committee that now is "not a time to assess blame on any party in the negotiations" for the failure of the negotiations. He repeated his statement that "all parties made a serious effort but for a variety of reasons...did not take the final step to make agreement possible." The committee voted 26-6 to hear Kissinger testify in executive session.

Rep. Benjamin Rosenthal (D, NY), who was one of those objecting to the public cut-off noted that, "We are on the verge of a national debate concerning the Administration's reassessment of policy in the Middle East." Rosenthal said that while the Administration was saying publicly it was not assessing blame the Administration through the newspapers was attributing the breakdown to "short-sighted" attitude of Israel.

In Baton Rouge, La., Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D, Wash.) criticized the White House "hints" at a reduction in aid to Israel. "The fundamental core of American policy has been to preserve the peace by helping to maintain the balance of power in the Middle East," Jackson said. He added "For Israel's chief ally to hint at cuts in support that might tip the military balance, is certainly to enhance the prospects for armed conflict."

However, Kissinger stressed at a press conference that the U.S. was not considering punishing Israel. "The punishment of a friend cannot be a purpose of a national policy," he said in reply to a question.

Kissinger told the House committee that the U.S. will stand by its commitments, will work for any reasonable solution to the Mideast conflict and will consult with other nations. "The U.S. cannot wash its hands of the problem,"

Kissinger said. But he conceded that "the step-by-step process no longer can be pursued, at least in the same pattern." He said the settlement process will now be enlarged and the Middle East will go "from a local to a global basis and from a bilateral to multi-lateral" negotiations. This appeared to be an allusion to the involvement of the Soviet Union in the process.

A report from Paris said that American and Soviet representatives are expected to start discussing a tentative date for the resumption of the Geneva peace conference. The U.S. and the Soviet Union are co-chairmen of the conference. However, Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz interviewed on CBS-TV said the Geneva conference was "not a place for making peace" but for declarations since it was "nothing but a UN." However, Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin told the Knesset in Jerusalem that Israel was prepared to seek peace through any means, "including through the Geneva conference."

Dinitz said on the CBS interview that "we still believe that the best prospect for peace is to renew the American initiative in one way or another." He said while Israel owes much to the U.S., "and we value and appreciate very much the efforts of the Secretary of State and the American government" Egypt also received a great deal from the U.S. "So there is no reason why Egypt too should not help us together to divide the initiative and we are standing ready to continue our march to peace," Dinitz said.

Kissinger told a press conference that the United Nations peace-keeping mandate in the Sinai which expires in April and the mandate on the Golan Heights expires in May should be extended to allow negotiations to proceed in a "tranquil atmosphere."



VIKTOR POLSKY, ONE OF THE MOST PROMINENT OF THE "NEW WAVE" OF SOVIET JEWISH ACTIVISTS, WILL ARRIVE IN THE UNITED STATES ON APRIL 7 FOR A MONTH'S VISIT. UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY HE WILL BE SPEAKING IN PHILADELPHIA, SAN FRANCISCO, LOS ANGELES, BALTIMORE, HARTFORD AND PITTSBURGH. HE WILL THEN LEAVE FOR A TOUR OF CANADA.



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NIXON AIDE CALLS KISSINGER 'TWO FACED'

NEW YORK (WUP) -- William Safire, a former close aide of Nixon, now a N.Y. Times columnist, has called for the resignation of Henry Kissinger who, he charged with having exhibited a "two-faced" stance on the question of the Middle East.

In a Times essay, Safire said that "Henry Kissinger is still pursuing his favorite tactic: say one thing in public, and 'passing the word' directly to the contrary in private."

Safire had reference here to Kissinger's conflicting statements as to who was really to blame for the failure of his Mideast mission. "Presum-

ably, Secretary Kissinger figures he can always win back Israeli friendship," Safire noted, "and it is useful to keep a foot in the Arab tent for future dickering. But, in so doing, he fundamentally misread the kind of policy necessary for the United States to follow in order to keep the peace in the Mideast."

The former Nixon aide said that we must credit Kissinger "with the noblest intention for his two faces; We can see how he wants to keep himself on good mediation terms with the Arabs, who are not unsophisticated at this game, and cannot be displeased at the background savaging of the Israeli position."

PHILADELPHIA -- A nationwide program to link nursing home patients with the outside community through volunteer ombudsmen was announced by the American Jewish Congress National Women's Division.

NEW YORK -- The first copy of a new volume, On Repentance, published in Jerusalem by the Torah Education Department of the World Zionist Organization and comprising a selection of oral lectures on the theme by Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, was presented to the world renowned talmudic scholar and orthodox theologian by Micha Yinon and Rabbi Mallen Galinsky, representing the Department in the United States.

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