



TELCON
 Lord Cromer/Secretary Kissinger [in Sit Rm]
 1:03 a.m., October 25, 1973

K: Hello, Rollie.

C: Yes, Henry, how are you?

K: Okay. We have had some disturbing information from the Soviets in a letter from Brezhnev to the President in which he asked us to dispatch Soviet and American military contingents to the Middle East and that if we don't agree -- [Reads] "I will say it straight that if you find it impossible to act jointly with us in this matter, we should be faced with the necessity urgently to consider the question of taking appropriate steps unilaterally. We cannot allow arbitrariness on the part of Israel.

C: Oh, no.

K: Our own information is that none of this is supported by [actions] on the ground, things in Israel are quiet, the Security Council meeting this evening was very desolatory. I just wanted to tell you what our policy is and I hope in this grave situation we will get your support. We feel that the only chance we now have which will be is defense readiness around the world.

C: q Globally?

K: Globally, yes.

C: Sure.

K: We are going to what they call our Def Con three alert -- cancel leave, alert planes and so forth; one carrier from the Eastern Atlantic is moving into the Mediterranean and one carrier to the Mediterranean; alerting the 82nd air division and our forces in Europe.

C: They are having a hell of a buildup down in the Mediterranean.

K: We will not inform our Allies of the Brezhnev letter because we don't want it to leak but we will have to inform them of what we are doing. But we would like your very strong support.

C: What would you like us to do?

K: Well, don't say the Americans have gone crazy.

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Lord Cromer/Secy Kissinger

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- C: Of course. This letter says if we do not get this support -- Let me just get this letter down.
- K: "If you find it impossible to act jointly with us in this matter, we should be faced with the necessity urgently to consider the question of taking appropriate steps unilaterally. We cannot allow arbitrariness on the part of Israel." What they are asking us to do is to join forces forcing Israel to comply.

[Re-reads message to Cromer]

- C: Thank you for letting me know, Henry.
- K: I just wanted you to know what we are doing.
- C: Thank you very much.

