

## **October 10, 1969**

### **Next Steps on the Middle East**

#### **Citation:**

"Next Steps on the Middle East", October 10, 1969, Wilson Center Digital Archive, From the Six Day War to Yom Kipper: Selected US Documents on the Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1969-1973, a briefing book prepared for the international workshop, "New Evidence on the Arab-Israeli Conflict" (Wilson Center, June 11, 2007).

<https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/230154>

#### **Summary:**

Sisco references a memorandum outlining the overall strategy for US discussions with the Soviet Union on the Middle East. He intendeds that the deal they plan to offer will focus on the borders with the UAR and Jordan.

#### **Original Language:**

English

#### **Contents:**

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## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

SECRET/NODIS

October 10, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Secretary  
 The Under Secretary

THROUGH: S/S

FROM: NEA - Joseph J. Sisco *JJS*

SUBJECT: Next Steps on the Middle East

As you indicated to me at luncheon this week, you have reported fully to the President orally and we have the necessary latitude to go ahead over the next few weeks in our further talks with the Soviets. I thought the President might find useful a current information memorandum outlining the overall strategy we discussed rather fully during our New York sessions.

I know you are anxious also to review very carefully the UAR document in particular (TAB A). You will note that it has been both shortened and simplified, though, of course, we tried to limit the number of changes since we are in the middle of negotiations and numerous deletions and additions at this stage are apt to raise Soviet suspicions. You recall Dobrynin's excited reaction when you mentioned a "shorter and less detailed document."

I will be glad to discuss the attached at your convenience. My intention would be to proceed in such a way with Dobrynin that the principal focus of our upcoming discussions will be on points 2, 3, and 4. In other words, the deal we are offering is a willingness to be more specific on the UAR border question, if we get satisfaction on the peace language and agreement from the Soviets to leave it to the parties to negotiate the practical security arrangements on Sharm al-Shaikh and Gaza, demilitarized zones and the ultimate disposition of Gaza.

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I thought the President should also know what we have in mind in the days ahead regarding the Jordan part of the settlement which will become the focus of increasing attention. I have included a document on the Jordanian part of the settlement (TAB B), which in large measure parallels the UAR document, merely as illustrative without asking the President to clear it.

Attachment:

Memorandum for the President :

NEA:JJSisco:bw  
10/9/69

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