

Extract from the Prime Minister's Bureau Journal, 24 October 1973

Prime Minister: The basis is: [if] they don't shoot, we don't shoot. On our initiative we will not move. If they shoot, we cannot sit [still]. He (Simcha) can tell him [Kissinger] that. The following should be said to Simcha:

1. Simcha should tell Kissinger in all friendship, we want to be completely open with him, even if it sounds disappointing to him. The idea with the hill or a fictitious move is not serious. It will not work. The Egyptians know exactly what this is all about. It's just not serious.

2. Simcha will tell him: there was no turning point, there are no markers, [.....] shots. The Egyptians did not even begin to observe the ceasefire in practice (the ceasefire of October 22).

3. We say unequivocally, and this he can pass on to the Soviets: If they do not fire, we will not shoot, and the IDF will receive instructions accordingly. Without provocations we would not have done [anything] and without provocations we will not do. Had it not been for what happened yesterday, had there not been violations, we would not have to defend and shoot.

At 02:05, Dinitz told Lior on the phone - he gave Kissinger the three points. I explained to him that it was not a few hundred metres but serious areas. We reached the gates of Suez. We surrounded the Third Army. He (the friend) said he remembers the PM saying something .about Port Tawfiq

The Prime Minister joins the conversation: [.....] I have just been told what [Egyptian Foreign Minister] Zayat said in the Security Council. But if the Egyptians are ordered to cease the fire, and they keep it, tell him he has my word that nothing will happen. Zayat said in the Security Council, they are ready for a ceasefire if we withdraw to the June 4 lines and recognize the rights of the Palestinians. He should know that this talk is not talk that guarantees peace and quiet in the area.

Tell the secretary [Kissinger] that the place that was mentioned, is not [.....]. He has to believe us that we are speaking the truth.

.Simcha: The secretary said he might come to the area one more time

Prime Minister: Tell him, good, let him come again, and you too will come. Let him come and have another good meal.

02:20. Brigadier General Lior (addresses the Prime Minister): What are the guidelines for the IDF at the moment?

Prime Minister: Tell the Minister of Defense that I told Simcha that he could give his friend (Kissinger) her word that in this matter it's completely unequivocal. If they don't shoot, we will not shoot. As for Port Fouad, the fact is that we did nothing there.

Brigadier General Lior (to the Prime Minister): The facts are that we are attacking now.

Prime Minister: We accepted the ceasefire. If they stop firing, we need to stop firing. Where are we going now?

Minister Galili: The question is whether we stand or will stand...

Prime Minister: In the end, there is a limit. The government can not say that it has accepted a ceasefire, and at the same time there is movement and shooting.

Galili: You have to set a certain time that you stand [still] and don't shoot.

Prime Minister: It is not a matter of an hour or two. I will see the Minister of Defence and the Chief of Staff. Finally, I do not understand. Did we accept the ceasefire or not? God did us a kindness that the Egyptians fired, and we were quicker, but there is a limit. Nor should we bring him[Kissinger] into an unpleasant situation.

Prime Minister to Lior: I would like to summon the Minister of Defence and the Chief of Staff to 03:30 at the bureau and we'll sum up.

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