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Deputy Secretary General Pansa called Ambassador Rumsfeld  
Tuesday, August 21, 1973

He says he is receiving numerous calls from various delegations asking him whether he can confirm the rash of news stories on three separate news items

1. The Presidential visit to Europe
2. The Kissinger visit to Brussels
3. The various alleged US drafts of declarations.

Specifically, he is being asked by the various delegations whether the piece of paper they have, which was given to their Governments by someone from the United States is the same document that now is being reported heavily in the press as the so-called US rough draft. He, Pansa, doesn't know whether it is or whether there is something new. They don't know whether it is or whether there is something new and because none of these are labeled or dated and there is no one providing any leadership in terms of saying -- yes this is something and this isn't something and being open and direct by way of consulting with our Allies, there seems to be an increasing amount of confusion as to what is what.

I said to him

1. With respect to the Presidential visit to Europe that what I had told them previously in the Council still stands, and that when an announcement is made by the White House, that is when a trip is final. Until it's made by the White House, a meeting with the President or a trip by the President is tentative, and he properly reserves the right to make any changes or adjustments as to dates or locations or whether or not he goes. To my knowledge, the White House has announced nothing beyond that which has been provided to the Council. At that point where they have something to announce, they will announce it, and they won't be probably leaking it out beforehand. My guess is that he ought to respond to people that as with every other Presidential trip, not only our President, but most Presidents, when they are ready to make an announcement on it, they will make it.





2. With respect to the Kissinger trip. I told him that what I had told them in the Council was still to this date to my knowledge correct, that there is a likelihood that Kissinger will come to Brussels in September, the ATA has announced that he has accepted a speaking engagement. Whether he will come, I don't know. At that point where he is absolutely certain that nothing else will intervene to disrupt his plans, I am sure that he and/or the White House will announce it. That is the status of the situation. The moment he has additional information, I am sure it will be announced by the White House at which point we will then have the information.

3. With respect to the so-called US draft Declaration, singular or plural depending on your choice, and viewpoint and perspective, I told him that to my knowledge there was no "new paper" and that no matter who asked him, they obviously had a recourse by way of getting an answer to the question they were asking him, and the recourse was back through the channel through which they, or their Government, was given whatever it was they were given. (This is the same answer I gave Krapf when he called sometime ago.)

Finally I told Pansa that it seemed to me that this is a fairly normal thing and we ought not to get up tight about it, that there are in these kinds of circumstances, leaks to the press and legitimate questions people can answer, and I think that he and I can probably help get us through the period of speculation simply by being relaxed and telling people, "look, it will be announced when it is announced, and don't worry about it" and to not get up tight about it.

He closed by asking me to ask my representative on the SPC tomorrow to address these questions along the lines that I had responded to him, and say that he had been asked by some people about all this stuff and that he can then just kind of give them some answers. I told him I would think about it. I told him I was a little reluctant to do that because if you say it is not sure that Kissinger is going to come to Brussels on September 11, then the ATA hears about it, and then they get all excited, and they start badgering Kissinger -- well you said you were coming, -- and you end up with a who struck John. In life it is not necessary that every single ambiguity be completely eliminated at every single moment in time, and that I didn't know whether or not I would have Goodby do it or not.

NOTE: Gene, let's figure out whether or not we want Goodby to do it, and whether or not we ought to report this conversation with Pansa.

