

Q. Re Soviet attitude to the Kissinger mission and the Middle East.

A. Mr. Gromyko did not discuss with me the American attitude toward the Middle East crisis. At one point, however, he said that they had been carrying on discussions with the Arab countries and United States of America.

Q. Re Palestine refugees.

A. Yes, we had very long talks on this subject because I had expressed the view that this was at the heart of the problem and that unless some satisfactory solution was reached it would be very difficult to achieve a settlement that would be considered just by the two sides. This was one of the reasons why I came to the conclusion that the problem of a settlement is going to be extremely difficult.

Q. Are you satisfied with your visit and to what extent?

A. Yes, I am very satisfied so far with the visit and before I leave the U.S.S.R. I am sure that I am going to feel even more satisfied. In the first place it is quite clear from the way that I have been received here and by the serious way the talks have been conducted that the U.S.S.R. wishes to have good relations with Canada. The second reason that I am pleased is that I will have had an opportunity of speaking at some length with three leading members of the Soviet hierarchy: the Foreign Minister, the President and the Prime Minister, Mr. Kosygin. Finally, I am satisfied because during the talks we have not engaged in platitudinous remarks but we have discussed really very difficult problems. And that to me is the greatest source of satisfaction.