

Yom Kippur War 1973

Timeline of Key U.S. Policy Decisions

DECISIONS AND DECISION-MAKERS

There were five major decisions in the 1973 pre-crisis period:

<i>Decision Number</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Content</i>
1	6 October	President Nixon ordered the eastward movement of certain units of the U.S. Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean.
2	6 October	The President approved the recommendation of the Washington Special Actions Group (WSAG) that the United States promote a cease-fire on the basis of the <i>status quo ante</i> . ¹
3	6 October	The President confirmed WSAG's delineation of a "low-profile" U.S. policy on the military resupply of Israel, combined with efforts to dissuade the Soviet Union from resupplying its clients. ²
4	9 October	The President approved a WSAG recommendation that the United States modify its position on resupply, granting Israeli arms requests "in principle," but withholding U.S. military transport. ³
5	10 October	Kissinger decided to accept "in principle" a Soviet proposal for a cease-fire-in-place. ⁴

There were nine discernible decisions made by U.S. policy-makers during the 1973 crisis period:

<i>Decision Number</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Content</i>
6	13 October	Kissinger and Schlesinger decided on interim measures to aid Israel, including the dispatch of ten C-130s and the transport of supplies to the Azores.
7	13 October	President Nixon ordered a full-scale U.S. military airlift direct to Israel.
8	19 October	The President submitted to Congress a formal request for \$2.2 billion in military aid to Israel.
9	19 October	Nixon authorized Kissinger to accept an invitation to fly to Moscow for urgent consultations.
10	21 October	Kissinger agreed to a joint U.S.-Soviet cease-fire proposal to be submitted to the UN Security Council.
11	23 October	Nixon and Kissinger resolved to prevent the destruction of the Egyptian Third Army; Nixon conveyed this commitment in a note to Sadat, and Kissinger relayed verbal warnings to Israel.

SOURCE:

Alan Dowty et al, *Middle East Crisis: U.S. Decision-making in 1958, 1970 and 1973* (pp 200 & 242) University of California Press, 1984