

A VERY SPECIAL DAY A BREAKTHROUGH 30 YEARS IN THE MAKING

SADAT: Israel Is A Legitimate State

BEGIN: Everything Is Open To Negotiation

THE TOPIC WAS PEACE

By Tuvia Mendelson and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 20 (JTA)--The main message was peace in the speech by President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and the response by Premier Menachem Begin of Israel before a packed Knesset this afternoon. Both leaders refrained from emphasizing those points of disagreement most painful to the other.

The core of Sadat's hour-long address in Arabic was Egypt's readiness for full recognition of Israel as a legitimate sovereign state in the Middle East. Begin, who spoke for 45 minutes in Hebrew, called for a peace treaty, normal diplomatic relations and open frontiers between Israel and Egypt allowing their peoples to move freely between the two countries.

Although Sadat reiterated his oft-repeated call for complete withdrawal by Israel from the occupied Arab territories including "Arab Jerusalem" and its recognition of the right of the Palestinians to establish their own state, he did not mention the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Begin, while affirming Israel's "eternal undisputed rights," did not refer to any areas that Israel would never give up, not even East Jerusalem, but emphasized Israel's commitment to free access to the holy places.

The unprecedented appearance by the Egyptian leader before Israel's parliament and all the pomp and ceremony occasioned by such a momentous event was broadcast and televised world-wide via satellite. When Sadat arrived at the Knesset he laid a wreath at the eternal light memorial to fallen Jewish soldiers everywhere. His entry into the chamber was greeted by a trumpet fanfare and a warm standing ovation by the assembled Knesset members and guests. "Today I announce and declare that we welcome you, we are ready to accept you and live with you under a permanent peace," Sadat proclaimed from the Knesset podium.

Separate Peace Pact Not Object Of Visit

Early in his address, the Egyptian leader stressed that he did not come to Jerusalem to negotiate a separate peace between Israel and Egypt because a separate peace would not lead to permanent peace in the area. He said he did not come to achieve an agreement to terminate the state of war between the two nations nor does he seek another disengagement either in the Sinai, the Golan Heights, or the West Bank. "I came for you today on solid ground to shape a new life and to establish peace. I came here so that we together can build a durable peace in the region," Sadat declared.

He insisted that there can be no peace without the Palestinians, that the Palestinian issue was the crux of the Middle East conflict and noted pointedly that the United States, Israel's greatest friend and ally, the provider of military

economic and moral support to Israel "has accepted the fact that Palestinians are entitled to get their legitimate rights."

Urging Israel's acceptance of the right of the Palestinians to establish their own state, Sadat declared that Israel had nothing to fear from "a newly born state" which would need world assistance and would not be a threat to anyone.

What Israel Would Receive

Sadat declared that for ending the occupation of Arab territory and acknowledging the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people, Israel would receive a peace agreement recognizing its secure boundaries and any international guarantees it chooses to accept. The relations between Israel and the Arab countries should be based on the principle of no resort to force, he said. "Israel must live within its own borders, with its Arab neighbors, with all the international guarantees afforded to it and the other parties," Sadat asserted.

He deplored that "many months in which peace could have been brought have been wasted over differences and fruitless discussions on the procedures to be followed at a reconvened Geneva peace conference."

"If God Almighty has made it my fate to assume the responsibility on behalf of the Egyptian people and to share in the fate-determining possibility of the Arab nation, the main duty dictated by this responsibility is to try by every means to save my Egyptian people and the entire Arab nation from the horrors of new, shocking and destructive wars," Sadat declared. He said to accomplish that, he became convinced that he must "go to the farthest corners of the world, even to Jerusalem, to address the Knesset, the representatives of the people, to acquaint them with all the facts."

Sadat acknowledged that there were many in the Arab world and some in Israel who looked upon his trip to Jerusalem with anger and suspicion. He said he forgave them. He referred indirectly to a charge by Israel's Chief of Staff, Gen. Mordechai Gur, that his trip was a cover for war preparations. He said that was not the case. "We must all rise above all forms of fanaticism, above all forms of self-deception and above all, forms of obsolete theories of superiority. The most important thing is never to forget that infallibility is the prerogative of God," Sadat said.

He said that he has been asked, ever since arriving in Israel, what he intends to achieve by his visit. "I came here without the intention to achieve something but to start a new road," Sadat said.

Israel Has One Hope: Peace

Begin, who followed Sadat at the podium, had warm words for Sadat's trip. "The distance between Cairo and Jerusalem is almost infinite but President Sadat has crossed that distance graciously," he said. He said the trip required courage and "We, the Jewish people, know how to appreciate such cour-

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Supreme Court, Cabinet ministers, members of the diplomatic corps, leaders of the opposition parties and the leaders of the various religious sects—Druze, Copts, Moslems in their traditional garb. He embraced Moslem clergymen from Israel and the West Bank and had a hearty greeting for former Mayor Sheikh Mohammed Ali el-Jaabari of Hebron.

He stopped to chat briefly with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis, the self-described "postman" who forwarded Begin's invitation to Sadat to Cairo. He greeted Gen. Ennio Siliavuo, commander of United Nations peace-keeping forces in the Middle East. At the end of the ceremonies, Sadat entered President Katzir's car and with Begin, in a second car, the official convoy drove to Jerusalem.

Unprecedented Excitement, Anticipation

Although Ben Gurion Airport has witnessed the arrival of Presidents, Prime Ministers and ruling monarchs of many nations, the scene there last night exceeded all past occasions in terms of excitement and anticipation, according to veteran observers. Security precautions were tighter and more extensive than ever before. Tens of thousands of soldiers, police and border police were stationed at the airport and its environs.

All roads leading to it were sealed off. Helicopters by the dozens circled overhead and several made repeated low level patrols of the flood-lighted landing strip beginning long before Sadat's plane was due. All incoming and outgoing flights were suspended but the hundreds of delayed passengers didn't seem to mind for they were witnesses, albeit at some considerable distance, to an historic world event.

Thousands of representatives of the mass media, in addition to what appeared to be the entire Fourth Estate of Israel and Egypt, waited behind police barricades for the climactic moment. Sadat's arrival was televised and broadcast world-wide via satellite.

There were no political statements made by either Sadat or his hosts at the airport. But the massed colors—the blue and white of Israel, the red, white and black Egyptian tri-color and the many hued regimental banners of Israel's armed forces mingling in the breeze—registered a statement of their own.

SADAT VISITS RELIGIOUS SITES

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 20 (JTA)—Egyptian President Anwar Sadat prayed early today in the Moslem mosque of Al Aksa at the start of his first full day in Israel. He was greeted by applause and cheers by the 1500 Arab men who were allowed into the 1200-year-old stone building to pray for the first day of the Al-Adha sacrificial feast which commemorates Abraham taking Isaac to be sacrificed.

The Egyptian leader was surrounded by a tight ring of Israeli and Egyptian security men and other security personnel kept a close watch on the entire crowd throughout the 45-minute prayer service inside the silver-domed building.

After removing his shoes to enter, Sadat walked to the front of the carpeted building between the two rooms of massive marble columns and sat cross-legged on the floor, with several turbaned Moslem leaders and personal aides surrounding him.

Somber And Serious Throughout Ceremony

Sadat swayed gently from side to side as the Moslem prayer chants were heard, and he at first fingered a string of small green prayer beads, but

later put them into his pocket. At least six times the Egyptian President took a white handkerchief from the breast pocket of his grey suit and wiped the perspiration from his face.

He raised his hands to the side of his face with the numerous Arabic chants of "Allah is great" and also knelt over in prayer, his head touching the ground. Sadat appeared somber and serious throughout the ceremony and listened attentively to the discourse delivered by the mosque's religious leader who said abandoning Jerusalem is like abandoning Mecca, and urged full rights for the Palestinian people.

The heavy security in the mosque was especially visible as the several dozen plainclothes men remained standing while all other worshippers knelt in prayer. Sadat proceeded across the Temple Mount towards the Dome of the Rock near Al Aksa. A crowd of more than 1000 people outside Al Aksa chanted "Sadat-Palestine" and blue uniformed policemen linked arms to prevent the crowd from surging forward.

From the Temple Mount Sadat proceeded to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher where dignitaries from the various Christian denominations greeted him. Here, too, there was enthusiastic applause and cheering as the Egyptian leader entered the church. From the church he returned to his quarters at the King David Hotel to await Premier Menachem Begin and his aides to escort him to the Yad Vashem memorial.

Series Of Meetings Arranged

The Israeli Premier was, meanwhile, chairing a Cabinet meeting at his office at which the ministers were considering detailed political proposals to be put to Sadat at the series of political discussions to be held with him.

The first of these was a half-hour meeting with Begin, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin at the hotel last night. But it is understood the two sides did not go into specifics at this encounter. More businesslike working sessions were set for later today after the return from Yad Vashem, and this was to go on through a "working lunch." Dayan and Yadin were to flank Begin at the lunch, and Sadat was also to be accompanied by two aides.

There was to be a "working dinner," too, after the Knesset session. This dinner was to be attended by 12 to 15 people on each side. Whatever else happens as a result of Sadat's visit, Israel, and especially Jerusalem, can never be the same again. This weekend the nation's capital was different than any other weekend. Egyptian flags, Egyptian officials, Egyptian journalists and an international focusing, hour-by-hour, on the events here had an impact which can hardly be overstated.

DMC, AGUDA URGE COMPROMISE

JERUSALEM, Nov. 20 (JTA)—Two coalition factions, the Democratic Movement for Change and Aguda, have separately aired their belief in the need for Premier Menachem Begin to adopt a softer line than heretofore if the opportunity presented by the visit of President Anwar Sadat is to be properly exploited. DMC chief Yigael Yadin told the reporter for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Sadat would be hearing his faction's positions at the scheduled meeting with him tomorrow. The clear implication was that the positions as presented by Begin to Sadat would not necessarily reflect completely DMC's positions. Yadin noted there was Cabinet consensus on objection to a Palestinian state, objection to the PLO at Geneva and objection to total withdrawal from occupied territories.

age." Begin stressed, "We do not believe in might and we have never put our trust in might in our relations with the Arab countries.... All of us here have one hope, one desire and one ambition—to bring peace."

"We ask for a complete and true peace, a total appeasement between the Jewish people and the Arabs," the Israeli leader said. He recalled that at its birth Israel was attacked on three fronts by its neighbors and that the hand of peace it extended then and over the years that followed was rejected. But, he declared, "We should not drown ourselves in past memories of the wars between us. We have to overcome those memories and care for the future," he said.

Begin observed to Sadat that "we did not invite you and you did not come to form a barrier between Egypt and the other Arab countries." But, he said, Egypt and Israel must recognize that they have to live together forever and should freely negotiate a peace treaty. "War is avoidable but peace is unavoidable," he said. He proposed that the first clause of a peace treaty should deal with the termination of all states of war.

"Let our frontiers be open for free movement. Let your people come here and our people go to you. Our country is open to the people of Egypt without conditions," Begin said. He also reiterated his invitations to President Hafez Assad of Syria and King Hussein of Jordan to open negotiations for peace with Israel. Begin said that he himself was ready to travel to any Arab capital to promote good relations and peace.

Begin's speech was interrupted twice by Communist MK Meir Wilner. Begin sighed, lapsed into English and told Sadat, "The Communist member here disturbs me but this is the price I had to pay to convince him not to disturb you."

Mutual Concessions Urged

Labor Alignment leader Shimon Peres, who followed Begin to the Knesset rostrum, declared that "peace cannot be achieved without mutual concessions. We will have to concede things dear to us and the Egyptians will have to do the same."

The Israeli opposition leader said that "some sort of formula will have to be found to the problem of Palestinian identity, but not at the cost of national security to Israel and Jordan." Peres suggested "a kind of federation between the Palestinians and Jordanians." He stressed that "a momentous opportunity is here and we must all practice patience and mutual trust."

Peres, who was the former Defense Minister, said he felt peace settlements could also be reached with Jordan and Syria as well as Egypt. At the outset, Peres said he was not speaking in the name of the opposition but for the united people of Israel who want peace.

Begin, Sadat Express Optimism

Sadat and Begin expressed optimism today following the special Knesset session, during an interview by the political correspondent of Israel Radio.

Asked to describe the talks with Begin, Sadat said, shortly after he came out of Begin's work room in the Knesset, that the real negotiations haven't started yet. He said the negotiations would start tonight.

Sadat was then asked whether the negotiations would lead to peace. He responded, "I am always optimistic." Begin then joined him and said: "I share the President's optimism." The two leaders were then interviewed by ABC-TV newscaster Barbara Walters—the first ever interview held with

an Israeli and an Arab statesman sitting side by side.

Tonight, Begin and Sadat held a working dinner at the King David Hotel where the Egyptian President and his entourage are staying. Tomorrow, Sadat is scheduled to meet with leaders of Israeli political parties and lunch with Begin and his aides. In the afternoon, prior to his return home, Sadat and Begin will hold a news conference at the Jerusalem Theater.

BEGIN ON SADAT: 'WE LIKE EACH OTHER'

JERUSALEM, Nov. 20 (JTA)—"I held a personal, warm talk with President Sadat and I may say that we like each other. He has a sense of humor—and I, too, sometimes have a sense of humor. We exchanged views. I think a fitting personal tie has been established between us."

This was Premier Menachem Begin's summation of his first brief session last night with President Anwar Sadat. The Premier spoke to a radio reporter. Looking ahead to the rest of the visit, Begin said: "We shall take advantage of every opportunity as we have agreed, in order to hold private, personal talks." Question: "Beyond this visit as well?" Begin: "I hope there will be a continuation."

CARTER TERMS KNESSET EVENT A CONTRIBUTION TO THE CAUSE OF PEACE

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20 (JTA)—President Carter said today that the historic event in the Knesset today constituted "a moving occasion and a contribution to the cause of peace." The President, who watched the entire two-hour and 10-minute proceeding, said it was characterized by "candor and conciliation." He added: "In that spirit we hope and believe it is possible to move toward a lasting peace." Jody Powell, Presidential news secretary, indicated that there will be no interpretation of today's event until after the Sadat-Begin talks are concluded tomorrow.

Carter attended a special early morning church service to pray for the success of Sadat's mission to Israel. He cancelled his usual Sunday morning participation in the regular Sunday service and his teaching Sunday school in order to watch the Knesset proceedings at the White House. In a statement last night, the President said: "The hopes and prayers of all Americans are with those two men (Sadat and Begin) as they seek progress towards peace for the people of the Middle East and, indeed, for the entire world."

Talking to reporters after today's church service, Carter said he thought that Sadat's visit might help overcome Syria's refusal to deal with Israel. "He (Sadat) does not want Syria left out of the negotiations," the President said. He added that he does not believe that Egypt and Israel will reach a separate peace agreement.

Carter said that perhaps peace had not been reached in the Mideast so far because the leaders in the area and in the United States had not been aggressive enough in their diplomacy and had lagged behind the desire of their people.

Begin, Sadat Applauded For Their Courage

Vice President Walter Mondale likened today's event in Jerusalem as being "the words again of Genesis 33 of the reconciliation of Jacob and Esau." He said President Sadat and Premier Begin have planted "a seed" for peace in the Middle East.

Addressing some 600 delegates at the annual meeting this afternoon of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League at the Hyatt Regency Hotel,

Mondale drew heavy applause when he said, "President Sadat deserves the congratulations of all the world for his courage."

He added that Begin and Sadat have "demonstrated not only to their own people, but to the world that higher standard of leadership." He said that "they have shown true leadership in breaking through the weight of past positions and a generation of suspicion to take this immensely important step towards peace. This government and the American people applaud President Sadat and Prime Minister Begin for their vision, their boldness, and their commitment to the search for peace."

Mondale said that "all of us know that this historic meeting will not by itself cut through all the accumulated fears and problems which divide the nations of the Middle East. But what took place this morning in Jerusalem was a step toward greater understanding."

KISSINGER EXPRESSES CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM

NEW YORK, Nov. 20 (JTA)—Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said today that if Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin are saying nothing more to each other in private than they said in their address in the Knesset today, "then we will see a rapid worsening of the situation."

Interviewed on NBC-TV following the speeches, Kissinger outlined what he believed had to result from the Sadat visit. "The problem is to emerge from this meeting with a sense on both sides that they have made, maybe, some sacrifices, for the sake of peace, and a new relationship that opens a new era," he said. "Nobody should leave with a sense that he made a concession or that he gained a victory."

Kissinger, who reportedly talked by telephone to both Sadat and Begin last week, said that if the two could "break through the legalistic points and agree on what they want to accomplish—frontiers, security, the nature of peace—they will find some formulas to deal with it."

The former Secretary of State speculated that Sadat made his dramatic trip to Israel because if the Geneva conference convened with agreement only on procedural matters it would lead to deadlock and a deadlock would lead to an "explosion" in the Mideast. He said if Sadat leaves Jerusalem without having established a means of proceeding toward a peace agreement at Geneva, the situation will worsen.

Kissinger said he thought it was significant that Sadat in his Knesset speech did not mention the Palestine Liberation Organization and that in calling for a Palestinian state, the Egyptian President did not speak with great passion or go into detail.

SADAT'S PRESS SECRETARY FORESEES ISRAELI JOURNALISTS VISITING CAIRO

By Gil Sedan

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"Just like the visit of Egyptian journalists in Jerusalem became a reality, so could a visit by Israeli newsmen materialize," Nassar said, hinting that this was subject to the political developments arising from the Sadat visit. Nassar headed a team of officials at the government information office who arrived Friday to set up the facilities for Egyptian

newsmen covering the visit.

Nassar described his impression of the event as "fantastic, unbelievable, abnormal." But he was quick to add he did not find Israel any different from what he had expected. "The people are friendly and helpful, and I think we can get together and reach an agreement." He said as soon as Sadat told the Parliament in Cairo that he was ready to go to Jerusalem, he knew the visit would materialize. "I know that when the President says something, he means it."

Nassar is a respected veteran journalist in Egypt. Before serving as the President's press secretary, he was a popular columnist, noted for his critical articles against Israel. But as he sat yesterday at the King David Hotel, surrounded by aides and officials of the Israeli Broadcasting Authority, he beamed and smiled praising the Israeli cooperation.

His attitude characterized the attitude of most of the Egyptian officials in Jerusalem. The security guards preferred to keep quiet, but the others were friendly, as if no state of war existed between the two countries.

EUROPE SURPRISED AND ELATED

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Nov. 20 (JTA)—Western Europe is following with unprecedented interest Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's trip to Israel. Observers here described the West European mood as "surprise, elation and passionate interest."

Most papers say it is the most important meeting in the post-war era. In many churches, prayers for peace were being offered over the weekend. Tens of millions of people gave up their normal weekend activities to remain glued to their television screens to watch Sadat's arrival last night and the speeches this morning of Sadat, Premier Menachem Begin and Labor Alignment leader Shimon Peres.

The speeches by Sadat and Begin disappointed most French commentators, who said "Sadat asked for too much and Begin offered too little." What struck most of the commentators here was Begin's omission of the Palestinian issue, which one noted, "simply fails to exist in the Israeli government."

French opposition leader, Socialist Party Secretary Francois Mitterand, paid tribute to Sadat's "courage and imagination." French Premier Raymond Barre said "it was an important step towards a solution." President Valery Giscard d'Estaing watched throughout the day the live programs from Jerusalem, an Elysee Palace spokesman said.

In Eastern Europe, the press and the other media laconically reported on the visit and its developments. The Soviet news agency Tass released a brief comment saying "President Sadat has taken no heed of the wide ranging protests in the Arab world, including the opposition of Syria's President." The Soviet press concentrated mainly on quotations from the Arab papers which oppose Sadat's trip.

Within the Jewish community in Eastern Europe, there seems to be a "huge interest" in the event, according to foreign correspondents in Moscow. Jewish sources in Paris say thousands of Jews gathered in Moscow near the synagogue to recite prayers for peace. French TV reporters in the Soviet Union said "countless Jews remained at home to listen to foreign broadcasts on the visit." In London, British Foreign Secretary David Owen hailed Sadat's mission to Israel as a "bold and imaginative gesture."

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