60 ANNIVERSARY JTA daily news bulletin

Contents copyright. Republication only by previous arrangement

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency/ 165 West 46th Street/ New York, New York 10036

Vol. XLIV - 60th Year Wednesday, November 23, 1977 No. 220

Latest Fad Among Israeli Journalists:
'IS THIS EGYPT? ISRAEL IS CALLING'
By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Nov. 22 (JTA)--The latest fad among Israeli journalists is to telephone Cairo directly--either the office of the Middle East News Agency or Al Ahram, Egypt's major newspaper. The front page of Israeli newspapers have been full of reports of the exchanges, although it appears now that the novelty is beginning to wear off.

In the meantime it was learned in Jerusalem, that Israel would not cut off the telephone communications with Egypt unless Egypt would ask to do so. Telephone communications with Egypt--and Morocco--were established for the first time, to allow the Egyptian journalists to report to their media. The communication was reached via the international operator in Athens. Direct dialing to Morocco also continued today.

The Egyptian who is called usually expresses satisfaction with President Anwar Sadat's visit and contends Egypt has made its contribution toward peace and it is now up to the Israelis to make the next move. A spokesman for the President's office told Yediot Achronot that Sadat returned from the visit deeply moved and will never forget the warm welcome he received. An Egyptian sportswriter expressed the hope to Maariv's sports editor that Egyptian and Israeli teams will soon compete against each other in athletic contests.

However, businessmen are also taking up the opportunity opened by the Sadat visit. Chaim Péled, head of a local public relations office, took out a quarter-page advertisement in Al Ahram for $250 urging Egyptian businessmen to use his company to advertise their products in Israel.

The director of an Israeli underwear company Delta, has asked its representatives in London to try to approach the Egyptians there about the possibility of buying Egyptian cotton. In exchange, the company proposes selling Israeli-made goods in Egypt.

SPECIAL ANALYSIS
THE NEW REALITY IN THE MIDEAST
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 22 (JTA)--The greatest achievement of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's visit was making the Israelis believe in him. The common saying here, "You can never trust an Arab," does not sound valid anymore. Israel's traditional argument, "There is nobody to talk with in the Arab world," sounds anachronistic. The Israelis took leave of Sadat believing that he sincerely wanted peace. The question now is: what kind of peace?

The second achievement of the visit is that the peace negotiations have actually begun. They began Sunday night at the King David Hotel where Sadat and Premier Menachem Begin held a "working dinner," or perhaps Saturday evening when the Egyptian national anthem was played at Ben Gurion Airport.

The subject now is no longer waiting for the Geneva conference, trying to overcome procedural obstacles. As far as the two countries are concerned, the Geneva conference can wait. It is time for preparatory negotiations between Israel and Egypt, which should eventually lead to the Geneva conference.

Israel-Egypt Negotiations Seen

Sadat's declaration that he did not come to Israel to sign a separate agreement with Israel does not contradict holding such negotiations, analysts here note. The negotiations will take place, although the actual signing of treaties will have to be in Geneva, with all the parties concerned.

Israel's past efforts to reach an early understanding with the United States before the convening of the Geneva conference may now be replaced with efforts to reach such an understanding with Egypt, according to analysts. Obviously, it is much more difficult to convince Sadat of Israel's claims than to convince President Carter, but in the long run the effort should pay off. In this respect, the Americans may find out that their role as the irreplaceable mediators has diminished considerably, at least as long as the Egyptians and the Israelis continue the negotiations begun in Jerusalem.

Some optimists said today that the visit has brought the Mideast 30 years closer to peace. Time will tell if this prediction is right, but what is obvious already is that the visit speeded up the process of negotiations. The issues are no longer procedural. They are substantive.

Many Israelis said they missed at least a symbolic Israeli concession made so that "Sadat would have something to go home with." To judge by the public appearances, this gesture was not made.

Pressure Mounting On Begin

Few, if anybody, knew today what was really promised to Sadat in his private talks with Begin. Few knew whether Begin promised anything, or was going to initiate such a gesture. Begin will also face pressure for gestures from within his own government.

Defense Minister Ezer Weizman said today in a newspaper interview with Yediot Achronot that Israel should not miss this historic opportunity. There are other moderate--and influential--ministers in the Cabinet, which will probably push for an Israeli initiative. Among them, probably Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin, Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir and Transportation and Communications Minister Meir Amit.

The latter three are members of the Democratic Movement for Change (DMC). In fact, the discussion in the Cabinet of the Sadat visit may indeed be the first confrontation between the DMC and Begin on the subject of Israel's overall policy. A Cabinet meeting is scheduled for Thursday to hear a briefing from Begin on the Sadat visit.

Begin apparently wants to do some "thinking" before taking the next step. He apparently did not want to make decisions under the pressure of time and public opinion--even at the price of losing some credit with world public opinion, according to analysts.

ARAB DIVISION, DISARRAY AT UN ASSEMBLY
Egyptians Walk Out When Syria Attacks Sadat
By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 22 (JTA)--The division and disarray in the Arab world caused by Egyp-

tian President Anwar Sadat's visit to Israel were reflected today at the opening of the General Assembly debate on the situation in the Middle East. The two principal speakers, Syria and Jordan, displayed differing reactions to the Sadat visit.

Syrian Ambassador Mowaffak Allaf sharply denounced Sadat's visit to Jerusalem as "a stab in the back" of the Arab people and termed it "the first surrender before the Zionist racist force." On the other hand, Jordanian Ambassador Hazem Nuseibeh gave a moderate speech and refrained from any comment on Sadat's trip.

The vehement and stinging attack of the Syrian Ambassador on Egypt brought a prompt response from Egyptian Ambassador Ismet Abdel Meguid who walked out of the chamber in protest.

Four other members of the Egyptian delegation joined Meguid in the walk-out. The Egyptian envoy told reporters that he had left the Assembly hall to protest the attack on his President. He said he will address the Assembly tomorrow but would not reply to the Syrian attack. Meguid's aide remained behind but read a newspaper while the Syrian spoke.

"I was very, very much unhappy and sorry to hear the speech of the representative of Syria," Meguid told reporters outside the Assembly hall. "I wanted to show my attitude. It was very regrettable....I don't think it is necessary to listen to those insults."

Says Sadat Ended Israel's Isolation

Allaf said that Sadat's visit damaged the Arab cause because it saved Israel from its isolation and was a de facto recognition of Israel's seizure of Jerusalem. It was also, he said, a surrender to Israeli insistence on imposing direct negotiations while still occupying Arab land.

The Syrian envoy declared that Sadat, "one of the heroes of the October (1973) war," the successor to the late President Nasser, went to Jerusalem to shake the hands of the "known terrorist" Menachem Begin, "the war criminal" Moshe Dayan and kissing the cheek of "the racist" Golda Meir.

Allaf said that Syria is ready to make peace with Israel only if the Jewish State shows readiness to withdraw from all the occupied territory and to recognize the national rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to an independent state on their own land.

The Jordanian Ambassador, who followed Allaf to the Assembly podium, said that his country is willing to reach a settlement with Israel "provided Israel is willing to reciprocate by withdrawing from all the occupied territories, including, of course, Arab Jerusalem and restoring the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people."

Nuseibeh only indirectly referred to the Sadat visit when he remarked that he realized that the Arab delegations had been placed "in a kind of disarray and confusion in consequence of the instant and electronic instrumentalities of contemporary diplomacy." The Saudi Arabian representative, Jamil Baroody, also did not refer to the Sadat visit in his address to the Assembly. Israel is expected to address the debate on Friday.

DINITZ: DIALOGUE WILL CONTINUE

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 22 (JTA)--Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz asserted last night that Egyptian President Anwar Sadat "did not leave Israel a frustrated man" and there will be "continuity" in the Israeli-Egyptian dialogue.

"It was not a one-time event," Dinitz told an overflow audience of 4000 persons at the 54th biennial General Assembly of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. "We have seen a breakthrough, followed by a dialogue and we will not stop the dialogue until we bring peace."

But the Israeli envoy cautioned those who are looking for immediate results. "We cannot produce instant solutions in 24 hours to a conflict that has existed more than 29 years," he said. "However, if we lay a solid foundation we can consider that this is the beginning of peace in the Middle East. We must now break the political barrier into a political settlement."

Noting that the news media has been asking him if he plans to have a "mini-dialogue" with Egyptian Ambassador Ashraf Ghorbal, Dinitz said when he returns to Washington today he plans to call Ghorbal and seek a meeting.

Schindler, Ghorbal In Cordial Exchanges

Meanwhile, Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and Ashraf Ghorbal exchanged cordial telegrams yesterday on President Anwar Sadat's historic visit to Israel. Schindler, who is also chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, released the texts of the telegrams to the General Assembly.

In his message to Ghorbal, Schindler stated, in part: "President Sadat's courageous decision to pay a visit to Israel and address the Knesset has raised the hopes of all who share the dream of peace with justice in the Middle East. The electrifying fact that leaders of Egypt and Israel will meet face to face marks an extraordinary moment, and we pray that it will be recorded in history as a dramatic step on the road to conciliation and ultimate friendship for the benefit of the region and the world. Please convey to President Sadat our gratitude for his bold move...."

Replying, Ghorbal declared, in part: "...I share your hopes and prayers for peace with justice in the Middle East. Allow me to express an equal hope that this bold and dramatic step on President Sadat's side to dispel any Israeli misgivings about Arab intentions and sincerity in seeking this peace will be met with an equal dramatic step on the Israeli side for a comprehensive peaceful settlement in the area." He added that all men of vision "share the dream of peace with justice to live up to the gravity of the responsibility and look beyond for the greater gain of ultimate friendship and cooperation through permanent, full and just peace."

WHITE HOUSE: SADAT-BEGIN TALKS BROKE DOWN PSYCHOLOGICAL BARRIERS TO PEACE

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22 (JTA)--The White House said yesterday that the meetings in Jerusalem between Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin have "clearly" set up a new approach towards peace in the Middle East. "We feel their actions broke down the psychological barriers to peace in the Middle East," Deputy Presidential News Secretary Rex Granum said.

"Clearly their actions change the approach to seeking a just and lasting peace in the Middle East," Granum observed. "It was a very tangible demonstration that both sides genuinely want peace. We knew from our private discussions with them that they genuinely wanted peace, but for the first time Israel and a major Arab leader have publicly called for peace and pledged themselves to no more war."

Granum made his remarks when asked for

Presidential reaction to the Sadat visit to Israel. He started his response by saying, "We were encouraged by the visit" and "we feel everything was conducive to a broad-based Middle East peace solution." Granum made it clear that the actions lead toward Geneva. He added, however, that it was "premature" to discuss the summit in more detail and the White House is waiting further reports from the American Ambassadors in the Middle East.

The White House announced that Begin had telephoned Carter yesterday to brief him on his talks with Sadat. According to the White House, Begin "again expressed his appreciation for the President's efforts in the Middle East, which the Prime Minister said made the historic meeting possible. The President expressed his appreciation for the call and characterized the conversation as warm and encouraging." Begin had earlier expressed Israel's gratitude to Carter last Thursday.

A Need For Patience

In a related development yesterday, the State Department's top Mideast expert rejected views that the United States was cool to the Sadat-Begin summit meeting and declared that "nothing could be more welcome" than the face-to-face meetings that took place.

Alfred L. Atherton, the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, yesterday told the 400 delegates attending the 64th annual policymaking meeting of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith at the Hyatt Regency Hotel here that there is a need for patience in the Arab-Israeli negotiations. He noted that the problems of more than 30 years cannot be resolved quickly.

Atherton, who addressed the closing session of the four-day ADL meeting, welcomed the statements issued by Sadat and Begin in their televised press conference earlier in the day that they want President Carter's assistance towards establishing a Geneva conference as the framework and forum for discussions leading to a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The U.S., Atherton said, will play an active role towards this end as the parties want.

BACKGROUND REPORT
PRECEDENT FOR SADAT-BEGIN TALKS
By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Nov. 22 (JTA)--There is only one precedent in modern Jewish history for the encounter between Egypt's President Anwar Sadat and the leaders of Israel. Premier Menachem Begin referred to it in his Knesset reply to Sadat. It was the meeting at Aqaba in June, 1918 between Dr. Chaim Weizmann and Emir Feisal, the acclaimed leader of the Arab national movement in World War I.

That meeting paved the way for further meetings between Feisal and Zionist leaders at the Paris Peace Conference and two important declarations of friendship by the Arab leader. On Jan. 3, 1919, Feisal and Dr. Weizmann signed an agreement in their respective roles as representatives of the Arab Kingdom of the Hejaz and of the World Zionist Organization.

Referring to the "racial kinship and ancient bonds existing between the Arabs and the Jewish people," it called for "the closest possible collaboration in the development of the Arab state and Palestine."

Article 1 stated that "The Arab state and Palestine in all their relations and undertakings shall be controlled by the most cordial good will and understanding, and to this end Arab and Jewish duly accredited agents shall be esfablished and maintained in the respective territories."

Article 4 stated that "All necessary measures shall be taken to encourage and stimulate immigration of Jews into Palestine on a large scale, and as quickly as possible to settle Jewish immigrants upon the land through closer settlement and intensive cultivation of the soil. In taking such measures the Arab peasant and tenant farmers shall be protected in their rights, and shall be assisted in forwarding their economic development."

Other articles guaranteed freedom of religion in Palestine, Moslem control of the Islamic holy places and Zionist advice about the economic development of the new Arab state. Feisal's second public declaration of friendship for Zionist aspirations was contained in his letter, dated March 3, 1919, to Felix Frankfurter, a member of the American Zionist delegation at the Paris Peace Conference. Feisal wrote:

"We Arabs, especially the educated among us, look with the deepest sympathy on the Zionist movement....We will wish the Jews a most hearty welcome home....I hope the Arabs may soon be in a position to make the Jews some return for their kindness. We are working together for a reformed and revived Near East and our two movements complete one another. The Jewish movement is national and not imperialist. Our movement is national and not imperialist, and there is room in Syria for us both. Indeed, I think that neither can be a real success without the other."

CARTER WILL NOT 'MISS THE MOMENT'

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 22 (JTA)--Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher said here today that President Carter "does not intend to miss the moment" presented by the Sadat-Begin meeting and that "despite the pitfalls and difficulties we now have the best chance since 1948 for real peace in the Middle East."

Addressing the 54th biennial Assembly of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Christopher, who is Acting Secretary of State while Secretary of State Cyrus Vance is visiting Latin America, gave the first detailed response by the Carter Administration to the recent events in Jerusalem. "We see this initiative as a beginning. It foreshadows the face-to-face negotiations which must come between all participants in the conflict if the vision and imagination displayed in Jerusalem over the past few days are to be translated into reality," he said.

Christopher declared, however, that in bringing the peace discussions to Geneva, one cannot avoid either the participation of the Soviet Union or the question of the Palestinians, "not if we want a real chance for peace." He added: "It would be wrong and short-sighted in these weeks of intense diplomacy to pretend that the Soviet Union, as co-chairman of the Geneva conference, does not have an interest in the Middle East or to pretend that it does not have a role to play in the outcome of negotiations--a constructive role or a troublesome role," the State Department official said.

Christopher noted that President Carter has endorsed the concept of a Palestinian homeland or entity. He stated, however, that the U.S. does not prefer an independent Palestinian state and that our preference would be for such an entity to be linked with Jordan. Christopher reaffirmed that the basis for negotiations must be UN Resolutions 242 and 338. He declared: "Our position on the Palestinian issue and on the role of the Soviet Union pose no threat to the security of Israel."