

**CAIRO CONFERENCE OPENS:
EGYPT CALLS FOR 'RECIPROCITY' BY
ISRAEL TO ITS PEACE MOVE; ISRAEL
SAYS ITS GOAL IS TO TRANSLATE RES.
242 PRINCIPLES INTO PEACE TREATY**

By David Landau and Maurice Samuelson

CAIRO, Dec. 14 (JTA)--The Cairo conference opened officially this morning with a call by Egypt for "reciprocity" by Israel to its peace initiative. Israel responded that its "goal" at this historic meeting was "to begin to translate the principles established in (Security Council) Resolution 242 into all the necessary elements of a peace treaty."

The formal opening session began with an address by Egypt's chief delegate, Ambassador Ahmed Esmat Meguid, who declared that "the whole world hopes that Egypt's genuine desire for a just and lasting peace will be reciprocated by Israel." He added that "tangible and concrete results are expected and should be forthcoming without delay."

Eliahu Ben-Elissar, the head of Israel's negotiating team, defined the elements of a peace treaty as "termination of the state of war forever, establishment of diplomatic relations, commerce, international cooperation and use of international waterways." Ben-Elissar's opening remarks confirmed the prediction by informed sources that Israel hopes the first stage of the Cairo talks will establish "the nature of the peace" leaving territorial issues for a second stage or higher level talks.

Five Empty Chairs At Table

The participants sat at a circular table in the main dining room of the Mena House which is serving as conference headquarters. In addition to Meguid and Ben-Elissar and their aides, the United States was represented by Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs Alfred L. Atherton. United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim was represented by Gen. Ensio Siilasvuo, commander of UN peace-keeping forces in the Middle East. There were five empty chairs at the table reserved for the Arab states, the Soviet Union and the Palestine Liberation Organization which, so far, are boycotting the Cairo talks.

All of the participants, in their opening remarks, expressed the hope that the other parties invited would reverse their decision not to attend and that a comprehensive settlement would eventually emerge from these deliberations.

Urges Momentum Be Maintained

Atherton urged that the momentum created by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat be maintained. He termed this conference as "an integral and contributory step" toward a reconvened Geneva conference "and the negotiation of a comprehensive peace." He pledged U.S. readiness "to facilitate, support and encourage" the negotiations. "Our respective governments and peoples are expecting to achieve solid results at this meeting and we should not fail them," Atherton said.

Ben-Elissar regretted the absence of "Syria, Lebanon and Jordan and the appropriate repre-

sentatives of the Palestinian Arabs." He pointedly avoided any reference to the PLO. "Let us resolve that the absence of certain states will not be permitted to frustrate our sacred common effort for peace," he said.

The conference room and table were devoid of flags or other national symbols and the chairs were unlabeled. This was apparently the result of an agreement reached during closed-door deliberations last night at which Israel reportedly balked at the label "Palestine" on the chair reserved for the Palestinian representative.

But outside the Mena House, the flags of all eight invited countries and the red, green and black Palestinian colors were displayed. An Egyptian spokesman said it was "natural" that these flags would be flown for the duration of the conference. The show of flags outside the hotel was not regarded as having any political significance and no Israeli objections were reported.

Divine providence was invoked by both the main protagonists in their opening statements. Meguid began with the traditional "In the name of Allah" and Ben-Elissar prayed that "God grant us wisdom to succeed...above all for the sake of generations to come." After the opening session the conference participants adjourned for private discussions reportedly devoted to preparing the agenda.

For all of its momentous historic significance, the conference was overshadowed today by the surprise news that Israeli Premier Menachem Begin flew today to the United States for a meeting with President Carter on Friday. (See related story from Tel Aviv.)

40-YEAR-OLD PRECEDENT

CAIRO, Mena House Hotel, Dec. 14 (JTA)--If, despite the mood at the opening session, the Mena House talks end without real progress but the participants want to pretend otherwise, they would do well to recall how this was done by Ramsay MacDonald and Zaghoul Pasha more than 40 years ago. The two men met here in the same hotel to discuss Egypt's desire for freedom from British rule. Their talks were fruitless because the British Prime Minister was already preparing to resign. This transcript of their talks tells the rest of the story:

MacDonald: "Shall we make an announcement saying that the door of negotiations was left open instead of negotiations have come to an end for one reason or another?" Zaghoul: "I don't see much difference." MacDonald: "Oh yes there is. It's much nicer for people to read that the door is left open than to say negotiations have failed." Zaghoul: "Right. I agree."

**SPECULATION THAT BEGIN'S TRIP TO U.S.
IS EFFORT TO GET CARTER'S APPROVAL OF
ISRAEL'S PEACE PROPOSALS TO EGYPT**

By Yitzhak Shargil and Tuvia Mendelson

TEL AVIV, Dec. 14 (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin left for the United States early this morning accompanied by his top legal, political and military advisors, for a meeting with President Carter in Washington on Friday. The meeting was requested by Begin, who said it was urgent, when Secretary of State Cyrus Vance arrived in Israel last Saturday night. Carter responded favorably Sunday and set the meeting date for Friday when Vance will have completed his current tour of Middle East capitals.

Begin's trip was announced here only after midnight last night. The Premier's surprise departure for the U.S. on the day of the opening of the Cairo conference and the tight secrecy that surrounded his plans raised a storm of speculations as to the meeting's purpose. (See related story from Washington)

Neither the Premier nor Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan who saw him off at Ben Gurion Airport cast much light on that score. It is widely believed here that Begin is taking the peace proposals that Israel will submit at the Cairo conference to Carter in an effort to ensure American support for Israel's positions.

His entourage includes Attorney General Aharon Barak, the government's top legal advisor; Avner Yehuda, the Premier's political advisor; Gen. Ephraim Poran, his military aide de camp; and Shmuel Katz, his information advisor. Barak's inclusion aroused the greatest interest. Begin told reporters at the airport that Barak was needed in Washington because there were legal problems of prime importance in the peace-making process and it was necessary to have a legal expert at his side during important talks. He said that he had informed President Anwar Sadat of his trip to Washington.

The Premier also reiterated that Israel was striving for a comprehensive peace settlement and expressed the hope that other Arab countries will join in negotiations at Cairo or elsewhere. U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis left for Washington on the same plane. While en route to the United States, Begin sent a message of good wishes to the Cairo conference. His message stated: "People everywhere hope and pray that Cairo will be a foundation of true peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors, the peace which is necessary for Israel and her great Arab neighbors."

Speculation On Peace Proposals

Speculation was rife that Dayan was also about to leave today for a secret meeting at some undisclosed location with a top level Egyptian official, probably Acting Foreign Minister Butros Ghali. Dayan flatly denied this at the airport. "I do not intend to leave the country," he said. Begin added that Dayan's reply "needs no seconding from me."

But Haaretz claimed today that Dayan will hold secret talks with an Egyptian delegation while the Cairo conference is underway. The paper said those plans were approved by Cabinet members in consultations last night with Begin and that Begin's trip to the U.S. was approved at the same time.

Yediot Achronot said Begin was taking maps to Washington indicating the lines to which Israel was prepared to withdraw in the occupied territories and the areas where Israel's presence would be maintained. According to that report, Israel will be ready to evacuate almost all of Sinai to a point east of El Arish but would retain its presence at Sharm el-Sheikh and the Rafah salient. Yediot said Israel's plans for the West Bank—Samaria and Judea—called for local autonomy with a certain affiliation to Jordan while Israel retained overall military control of the territory.

Notes Fateful Historical Period.

Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, addressing a local editors' luncheon in Jerusalem today, said that Carter will be pleased with what Begin has to tell him. He said the Premier was going to Washington with specific "thoughts, advice and proposals." He noted that "we are at a fateful historical

period." Weizman hinted that some compromises were in the wind when he observed that "doves and hawks are all birds, their only difference is that they fly at different speeds. One can now say that we (hawks) decreased our speed."

Weizman said he saw a number of possible security guarantees in case of a settlement, including a U.S. military presence. He said Israel was prepared to take security risks, but could not afford to take inordinate risks. He reminded his audience that in the euphoria over the current peace initiative, it should be remembered that at the presently only one Arab country was willing to sit and talk about peace.

Dayan, addressing a forum on political and social questions in Tel Aviv last night, said that Israel must now come to grips with the question of its future borders and peace agreements with Egypt and Jordan. He said there was no certainty that an agreement would be reached with Egypt, but nevertheless, by going to the Cairo conference, Israel reached the point where it would have to make concrete proposals. He said the proposals Israel makes must also be acceptable to the U.S.

But Dayan opposed territorial compromises on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. "No unauthorized Arab will be ready to sign any map which gives a part of these lands to Israel, even if it is a remote village," he said. "They will sign a cease-fire line, but no one will say of his own free will, 'I agree that this section belongs to the Jewish State.'"

Dayan also said that Syria appeared not to want to make peace with Israel, that recent developments proved that the U.S. and the Soviet Union cannot cooperate over the Middle East and that he would "prefer that Israel receives much less money from the U.S. so that Washington would respect the Jewish State more than it does."

WHITE HOUSE SAYS CARTER, BEGIN WILL DISCUSS WAYS TO ACHIEVE SETTLEMENT

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14 (JTA)—Authoritative sources here differed today in their assessments of the meaning and purpose of Israeli Premier Menachem Begin's surprise trip to the U.S. for a meeting with President Carter at the White House on Friday. In announcing the visit last night, the White House said the President and Premier would discuss "the latest developments in the search for peace in the Middle East" and exchange views on "how best to continue the movement" towards "a just peace settlement."

Israeli sources said today that the two leaders will seek to "closely coordinate" American and Israeli policies looking toward a final peace settlement. An informed American source said Begin was prepared to present Carter with the draft of a peace treaty that Israel will offer President Anwar Sadat of Egypt at the Cairo conference and later to the other Arab states. His purpose, this source said, was to involve the President in the process. The source spoke of "a moment of decision" and claimed that Israel was offering concessions of "historic" importance.

But senior U.S. officials cautioned against viewing Begin's sudden journey as signifying either a crisis or "an indication of some momentous breakthrough." They said his visit represents "a process of consultation and positive development." Undersecretary of State Philip Habib, who was in Damascus yesterday with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, reportedly remarked that Begin wants to discuss "bold" and "positive" Israeli responses to

Sadat's peace initiative. Vance, who is in Saudi Arabia today, will return to Washington in time for the Carter-Begin meeting Friday.

Presidential News Secretary Jody Powell, in making the announcement last night of Begin's visit, said there are no plans for President Anwar Sadat of Egypt or other Arab leaders to come to Washington. While Israeli sources said that the Premier will seek to coordinate Israeli policy "closely" with U.S. policy, they gave no inkling of modifications that would have to be made by one or the other and, as would appear likely, by both since up to now the Carter and Begin policies have been wide apart on certain territorial issues and the Palestinian question.

Begin: On Mission In Service Of Peace

Early this afternoon, Begin arrived at Kennedy Airport in New York and said he had come with a "feeling of a mission in the service of peace." At a brief airport press conference, Begin also expressed his gratitude to President Carter for agreeing to see him on such short notice. The El Al plane which brought the Premier and his party to the U.S., was about 15 minutes late because of the rain.

Begin also told reporters he hoped that his visit to Washington "will be a contribution to the peace-making process because it is the President who made the greatest contribution to the events which took place and made possible the Cairo conference." He said that "we are now at a propitious time to make real efforts to establish peace in the Middle East."

The Premier was greeted at the airport by Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz; Chaim Herzog, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, and Uri Ben Ari, the Consul General of Israel in New York. Begin is due to fly to Washington tomorrow afternoon. Carter is sending Air Force One, the official Presidential plane to bring him to Washington. His one-day stay in New York was described as a rest stop ordered by Begin's doctors. But the Premier reportedly plans to meet with Jewish leaders and other friends there. He is staying at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

Carter will hold a press conference tomorrow and Begin has one scheduled in Washington for Friday afternoon after his meeting with the President. He will be in Washington Saturday and Sunday for further talks and returns to Israel Monday.

MENTEN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 14 (JTA)—Dutch multi-millionaire art collector Pieter Menten, 78, was sentenced today by a special war crimes tribunal of the Amsterdam District Court to 15 years in prison for having participated in the mass murder of 20 to 30 persons, mainly Jews in the Polish village of Podhorodze in July 1941. The court did not find conclusive evidence of Menten's participation in the mass murder in the nearby village of Uryce on Aug. 27, 1941, although it did not exclude his participation. The villages are now in the Soviet Union.

The public prosecutor had demanded a life sentence. The trial took 26 sessions and is the longest trial in Dutch history. Menten and his lawyer, Louis van Heyningen, have maintained that the charges against Menten are part of a Soviet conspiracy for which they used agents in Holland and elsewhere in the free world. The court rejected this claim.

The court was presided over by Johan A. Schroeder, whose reading of the verdict took nearly

two hours. The Menten trial received unprecedented publicity in the Dutch press. Menten can appeal to the Supreme Court within a fortnight.

SEVERAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES PREPARING TO RESUME DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ISRAEL

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Dec. 14 (JTA)—A number of African countries are preparing to resume diplomatic relations with Israel should the Cairo talks show some progress on the way to peace. African diplomats in Paris told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that several countries, including the Ivory Coast, Senegal and Kenya, have indicated their willingness to start negotiations with Israel "as soon as some progress is made" in Cairo. The diplomats say these negotiations should be relatively simple as there are no major obstacles on the way to a resumption of normal relations.

Practically all the African countries broke off diplomatic relations with Israel at the time of the Yom Kippur War. In spite of this, Israel has maintained economic relations with most of them and Israeli leaders have conferred with several African Presidents. Foremost among these have been Senegal's Leopold Senghor and the Ivory Coast's Houphouët Boigny. Kenya's President Jomo Kenyatta has steered a steadfast pro-Israeli course and helped Israel carry out the rescue at Entebbe Airport in Uganda on July 4, 1976.

African diplomats say that after Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's trip to Jerusalem last month, several countries in West Africa told Egypt they intend to resume relations with Israel. Egypt, these sources say, has asked them to postpone any concrete steps in this direction until after peace is concluded. After an exchange of informal notes, the Africans said they will hold off till "some concrete progress" is made on the way to peace.

The sources say the African countries will negotiate with Israel on an individual basis and not as a bloc. The negotiations will probably take place within the framework of the United Nations in New York.

GUSH DELEGATION ARRIVES IN THE U.S.

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Dec. 14 (JTA)—A four-member delegation of the ultra-nationalist Gush Emunim movement in Israel has arrived here to launch a campaign "to inform and convince the American people of the rightful ownership of the Jewish people to the whole of the land of Israel."

The four Gush leaders, Hanan Porath, Zvi Slonim, Mitchell Heifetz and Jacob Dovev, issued a statement at a press conference at the Roosevelt Hotel here today welcoming the "dialogue which recently developed between Israel and Egypt," but reiterated at the same time the Gush's adamant rejection of any territorial concessions to obtain peace. The statement also called for a large-scale settlement plan "to retain the integrity of the land of Israel."

The statement also read in part: "The final borders (of Israel) must do justice to the historical Jewish right to the land and the area within its boundaries must be such as to enable absorption of the majority of the Jewish people. The land of Israel includes Judea, Samaria, the Golan and areas in Sinai...." The statement continued: "In the land of Israel there is room for only one national home and entity, namely that of the Jewish people." During their U.S. visit, the Gush leaders plan to establish a network of communications for their organization to increase aliyah to Israel.

EBAN TELLS CHICAGO JEWISH LEADERS THAT SADAT DID NOT COME TO ISRAEL 'TO MAKE THINGS EASIER FOR US'

CHICAGO, Dec. 14 (JTA)—Nearly 1,000 men and women, all Chicago Jewish leaders, pledged gifts which brought the 1978 Jewish United Fund-Israel Emergency Campaign (JUF) to \$9.485 million, after hearing Abba Eban, Israel's former Foreign Minister, caution that President Anwar Sadat of Egypt "did not come to Israel to make things easier for us." He said Sadat "brings us nearer the moment of truth, the negotiating hour." Eban added: "Now it is time for Israel to determine the permissible limits of peace."

The Israeli diplomat spoke at a special gifts dinner Monday night at Chicago's Palmer House. The dinner was chaired by Edgar L. Cadden, 1978 JUF general chairman, and Alexander S. Knopfler, special gifts chairman.

Eban noted that "without Egypt, the Arab world cannot make war; without Egypt, the Arab world cannot make peace." He stressed that "only by reason of Egypt's strength do Arabs have power and voice. We must decide—do we want peace, or do we want Arab unity?"

Continuing, Eban declared: "The peace slogan should not be 'unity,' but 'leadership,' because Arab unity in the past has been the formula for war, whereas every forward movement for peace from 1949 on has stemmed from individual Egyptian initiative. If peace with all Arab states is possible, there is nothing wrong with peace with one Arab state."

1978 Is Year Of Decision

Eban emphasized that the main obstacle to peace has always been "in the view of our neighbors, Israel is a symptom of discontinuity—there was no provision for non-Arab sovereignty" in the Middle East. He said 1978 "will be the year of decision," adding, "We must make a total effort in that, the decisive year—the crucial year." He said "there are many storms ahead and we must ask the Jewish people everywhere for their solidarity with Israel."

Cadden warned that "if this campaign is inadequate, we create hardships for today and tomorrow." He said "our fund-raising achievements in the past 30 years are unequalled and we must take care of our task. To give less is unconscionable. To give the same is really to give less."

James P. Rice, JUF executive vice-president, and Knopfler were hosts at a press conference yesterday morning. Eban acknowledged that the policies of former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger set the stage for the Cairo initiative. "The disengagement pacts of 1973-74 were the bridge from war to peace in the Middle East," he said.

But he warned that the Cairo conference would fail until both the Arabs and Israel were willing to compromise on the West Bank. "I don't think Israel and Egypt can reach agreement without the principle of regarding the West Bank territory as negotiable," Eban said. He added that he was confident that Premier Menachem Begin would moderate his stand against giving up any of Judea and Samaria.

Eban also stressed that a peace agreement between Israel and Egypt "is almost equal to a total settlement because the momentum thus generated would make it very difficult for other Arabs not to join."

ANTI-BOYCOTT REGULATIONS CRITICIZED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14 (JTA)—Proposed regulations dealing with the anti-Arab boycott law

"seriously undermine" Congressional intent in passing the law, Rep. Joshua Eilberg (D.Pa.) charged today. In a strongly worded protest to the Commerce Department, Eilberg said the proposed regulations "might allow widespread evasion of the purpose of the law." The regulations are scheduled to go into effect Jan. 18.

Eilberg called on Secretary of Commerce Juanita M. Kreps to review the guidelines before they take effect. "As things stand now, the Department, in writing regulations for Congressionally authorized exceptions to the rules, has turned the exceptions into the rules," Eilberg wrote to Ms. Kreps.

He cited three sections of the proposed regulations, which, he said, are "contrary to the clearly stated intent of Congress when it enacted the anti-boycott legislation." Eilberg said that Congress sought to prohibit a U.S. citizen from aiding a foreign buyer who makes a purchase based on boycott-related considerations.

"But the proposed regulations," he said, "apparently would allow a U.S. citizen to lend invaluable assistance in the form of management, procurement, and other pre-award services before a foreign buyer makes his purchase." In addition, Eilberg said, Congress exempted from the anti-boycott law any U.S. citizen on foreign soil who imports goods "for his own use."

Eilberg said the regulations proposed by the Commerce Department define goods "for his own use" as goods for manufacturing other products, and goods for resale to other persons. "Clearly, Congress did not mean this broad a definition of 'for his own use,'" Eilberg told Ms. Kreps.

Eilberg also attacked the proposed regulations for including a "risk of loss" clause, declaring that, under this provision, "a seller's liability for his goods would not end when he delivers his merchandise to a carrier chosen by the purchaser, as is the case in normal commercial transactions."

"Instead," the Congressman said, "the seller's liability would continue until his goods reached and passed through customs in a foreign port of entry. Insistence on such a clause would have the chilling effect of preventing blacklisted companies from fairly competing for business in the Arab world," he said. Eilberg asked the Secretary of Commerce for a "prompt response indicating the action you intend to take in this matter."

NAVON WILL NOT RUN FOR CHAIRMAN OF JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE

JERUSALEM, Dec. 14 (JTA)—Knesseter Yitzhak Navon will not present his candidacy for the chairmanship of the Jewish Agency, he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Navon further said he will not seek to be a member of the Jewish Agency Executive. He did not elaborate on the reasons for his decision, but said he reached it after "considerable thought."

Navon disclosed his decision to the Secretariat of the Labor Zionist Movement in a meeting attended by Mrs. Golda Meir and Labor chairman Shimon Peres. The participants reportedly asked Navon not to publicize his decision, hoping he would change his mind, or alternatively allow the party to find an alternate candidate. Labor will now have to find a candidate to match the tough competition of the Likud candidate, Jewish Agency treasurer Leon Dulzin.

TEL AVIV (JTA)—A course on Ladino will be offered at Bar Ilan University, believed to be the first and only university where this language will be studied.

200A daily news bulletin

Published by the 200A News Service, a subsidiary of the 200A Corporation, New York, N.Y. 10001. Published daily except on Sundays and public holidays. Copyright © 1964 by 200A Corporation. All rights reserved.

The 200A News Service is a subsidiary of the 200A Corporation, New York, N.Y. 10001. Published daily except on Sundays and public holidays. Copyright © 1964 by 200A Corporation. All rights reserved.

The 200A News Service is a subsidiary of the 200A Corporation, New York, N.Y. 10001. Published daily except on Sundays and public holidays. Copyright © 1964 by 200A Corporation. All rights reserved.

The 200A News Service is a subsidiary of the 200A Corporation, New York, N.Y. 10001. Published daily except on Sundays and public holidays. Copyright © 1964 by 200A Corporation. All rights reserved.

The 200A News Service is a subsidiary of the 200A Corporation, New York, N.Y. 10001. Published daily except on Sundays and public holidays. Copyright © 1964 by 200A Corporation. All rights reserved.

The 200A News Service is a subsidiary of the 200A Corporation, New York, N.Y. 10001. Published daily except on Sundays and public holidays. Copyright © 1964 by 200A Corporation. All rights reserved.

The 200A News Service is a subsidiary of the 200A Corporation, New York, N.Y. 10001. Published daily except on Sundays and public holidays. Copyright © 1964 by 200A Corporation. All rights reserved.

The 200A News Service is a subsidiary of the 200A Corporation, New York, N.Y. 10001. Published daily except on Sundays and public holidays. Copyright © 1964 by 200A Corporation. All rights reserved.

The 200A News Service is a subsidiary of the 200A Corporation, New York, N.Y. 10001. Published daily except on Sundays and public holidays. Copyright © 1964 by 200A Corporation. All rights reserved.

The 200A News Service is a subsidiary of the 200A Corporation, New York, N.Y. 10001. Published daily except on Sundays and public holidays. Copyright © 1964 by 200A Corporation. All rights reserved.

The 200A News Service is a subsidiary of the 200A Corporation, New York, N.Y. 10001. Published daily except on Sundays and public holidays. Copyright © 1964 by 200A Corporation. All rights reserved.

The 200A News Service is a subsidiary of the 200A Corporation, New York, N.Y. 10001. Published daily except on Sundays and public holidays. Copyright © 1964 by 200A Corporation. All rights reserved.

The 200A News Service is a subsidiary of the 200A Corporation, New York, N.Y. 10001. Published daily except on Sundays and public holidays. Copyright © 1964 by 200A Corporation. All rights reserved.