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BEGIN PROPOSES 'SELF-RULE' FOR WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP ARABS; JERUSALEM TO REMAIN UNITED CITY; WILL DISCUSS DETAILS OF PROPOSALS WITH SADAT By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Dec. 18 (JTA)--Israeli Premier Menachem Begin said today that he will propose to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat that the Palestinian Arabs on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip be given "self-rule." The Premier also stressed that Jerusalem will remain a united city and the capital of Israel with each religious group having control over its holy places

But, Begin, in an interview on CBS-TV's "Face the Nation," refused to give any details of his proposals until he discusses them with Sadat in Egypt late this week or early next week He also refused to say whether President Carter, with whom he had met with for four hours at two meetings on Friday morning and last night, had approved of the proposal although he noted that Secretary of State Cyrus Vance had said the Pres ident considers Begin's efforts "constructive." (See related story from Washington.)

The Israeli Premier stressed that he didn't ask Carter for a "commitment," but had sought the President's "goodwill and understanding" which he had received. "I am leaving (Washing-

ton) a happy man, "Begin said.

Most of the talks had centered on "the guestion of what is going to happen with the Palestinian Arabs, "Begin said. He then revealed that he from Arabs, "begin said. He men revealed that he proposed to give the "Palestinian Arabs self-rule for the first time in history." He noted they had never had "autonomy" or "self-rule" since they had been governed by the Turks, the British, Jordan and now Israel. He added that Israel's rule was probably the most benevolent but it was still a military government. "We will make it possible for the Palestinian Arabs to have self-rule. They will conduct their own affairs," Begin explained. "We will have our security."

Will Not Deal With PLO

Asked what would happen if under self-rule the Palestinians elected Yasir Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Begin again reiterated that Israel will not deal with the PLO. But he said he doubted that the Palestinians in a democratic election would elect destructive people such as Arafat or that such people would be willing to run in the elections.

Begin said that if he and Sadat come to an agreement he hopes that Carter would then invite both of them to Washington. He said the world would then have a Christian President, a Moslem President and a Jewish Premier declaring "peace unto you." He used the Latin, Hebrew

and Arabic words for the phrase

When it was pointed out that both Sadat and the Saudi Arabians have stressed that East Jerusalem must be in Arab hands, Begin said, "I feel strongly about Jerusalem, too," noting it was the capital not only of Israel but of the Jewish people." Jerusalem is one city, the capital of the State of Israel, with complete access to the holy shrines of all religions," the said. He noted that during the 19 years of Jordanian rule Jews were denied access to the Old City and the Western Wall.

Begin said that "we may have a proposal" that will include autonomy for each religious group of its own holy shrines. But he was even more reticent on going into details over this than he had been over his proposal for self-rule for the Palestinian Arabs.

The Premier rejected a suggestion that his proposal would mean that there will no longer be any new Jewish settlements on the West Bank. He said once an agreement has been reached, Jews should have the right to settle in Samaria and Judaea as they do now and West Bank Arabs should be able to settle in Israel.

Still Wants Comprehensive Accord

Begin stressed again that Israel still wants a comprehensive agreement with all the neighboring Arab states. But he said if Egypt wants a separate agreement as a first step to a comprehensive agreement, Israel will consider it. He noted on previous occasions, Syria and Jordan have followed Egypt's lead

in this, although it may take some time.

Begin said he and Sadat wanted to work out an agreement that would last beyond their tenures in office. He said that Sadat told him he would not run for re-election in 1981 and he certainly did not expect to be Premier by then. On other topics, he said that Israel did not ask for a mutual security treaty with the United States and would not initiate such a move. Begin also said he did not believe international guarantees were reliable and reiterated his rejection to having Soviet involvment in the Mideast negotiations.

A SABBATH IN CAIRO: CHEERING CROWDS WELCOME ISRAELIS By Maurice Samuelson

CAIRO, Dec. 18 (JTA) -- Thousands of excited Egyptians shouting "Begin Shalom, Sadat Shalom" greeted the Israeli delegation to the Cairo peace conference as they arrived last night for prayers at the city's central synagogue, the Shaar Shamayim Synagogue on Adly Street.

It was the first time that Eliahu Ben-Elissar, Israel's chief negotiator, and his fellow Israeli nego-tiators had made a public appearance. The unanimous and enraptured reaction by the Egyptian public upon seeing them showed the enormous popular support for President Anwar Sadat's bid for peace with Israel. This support had been shown until now only to Sadat himself on his return from Jerusalem.

But last night's historic scenes near the synagogue and wherever the Israeli delegation went--unprecedented since the creation of the Jewish State--was a foretaste of what Israeli Premier Menachem Begin himself will receive when he rides through this city or whatever city he and Sadat will meet in some time this week.

The cheering and applause on Adly Street broke out as soon as Ben-Elissar, Meir Rosenne and Maje Gen. Avraham Tamir, appearing in uniform here for the first time, stepped from their black government limousine.

At first, Ben-Elissar merely waved and turned to enter the synagogue. But he suddenly turned round and crossed to the opposite pavement where the crowd was standing about eight deep. Immediately the happy crowd surged towards him and after a few -2-

moments Egyptian and Israeli security men shepherded him back towards the synagogue.

Emotional Scenes In Synagogue

There he was welcomed by the chairman of the Jewish community, 75-year-old Felix Iscaki, a short dapper man in a black suit and a wide brimmed black hat who offered him a sprig of myrtle branches. With the crowds still cheering their support, the Israeli delegation walked up the staircase into the 70-year-old building past its broad imposing facade.

The scenes inside, although no less emotional were tinged with sorrow. The Egyptian community, which once numbered 120,000 was represented by about 50 mostly elderly men and women, almost a quarter of the number of Jews now in all of Egypt.

As communal leaders recited the end of Sabbath prayers from the "bima," comeramen and reporters swamped the Israelis as they made their way slowly to the handsome marble steps beside the ark. Meainwhile, on the floor of the synagogue there were more touching scenes as the Egyptian Jews told their visitors about themselves and hope that their 30 years of isolation from Israel and the rest of Jewry is at last ending.

With the prayers finished, Albert Sasson, an elder of the community, greeted the Israelis/in Arabic, showering praise on Sadat. After the greeting was read out by another man in Hébrew, Ben Elissar was called up to the bima.

'From Zion And Jerusalem'

Speaking first in Hebrew he brought greetings "from Zion and Jerusalem." Amid frequent applause, he expressed his emotions and that of his fellow Israelis at the warm reception given him by the people and government of Egypt, expressing the hope that one day they would return to Cairo as ordinary visitors.

Speaking in French, the common language of most Jews here, he went on: "We are here to negotiate for an end to the war between Israel, Egypt and our other Arab neighbors. And we hope that you too will come to see us in Israel. Le Shana Habaa Biyerushalayim—Next Year in Jerusalem." One woman expressed her joy more quietly than the rest—by kissing the floor where the Israel! team had stood.

His speech ended, Ben-Elissar moved back to the main door of the synagogue where the crowds, now even bigger, had kept up its cheering and chanting throughout the whole of the service. As the Israelis came out, the crowds surged across the roads, held back only by the cars and buses into which diplomats and journalists climbed for their return to the Mena House Hotel conference center.

The Karaite Community

During the synagogue service this reporter conversed with several of the Egyptian Jews. Some had difficulty in expressing their emotions at the reunion they were experiencing. Among them were a family of Karaites, of whom there are now only 42 in Egypt. Out of the 15,000 who were here in 1948. They included Farai Menashe, secretary of the Karaite community. His wife, Lira, was holding a two-month-old boby daughter.

Most of the Jews said they had relatives

Most of the Jews said they had relatives abroad, with whom they have kept in touch. Many also told of brothers, sisters and cousins in Israel with whom they had lost contact. They avoided saying "Israel," referring to it as "chez nous"—the French for "at home."

For the Israeli visitors, including many jour-

nalists who arrived before the delegation five days ago, last night was the most exciting experience of their stay so far. Their reception inside the synagogue had been predictable. However, the outburst of mass enthusiasm on the streets outside completely bowled them over.

They joined in the shouting and clapping as the crowds danced and hammered the side of the buses taking them away. Both Israelis and Egyptians had tears in their eyes, confirming the view that the tide of peace which Sadat released in Jerusalem cannot now be reversed.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES BEGIN'S 'PLANS' EVOKE REACTIONS By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Dec. 18 (JTA)—While the full peace proposals Premier Menachem Begin brought to President Carter in Washington this weekend remained cloaked in secrecy today, strong reactions developed in Israel to the rumored plans which made headlines in the Israeli and American pressover the weekend.

These have already agitated the hard-liners of Herut, La'am (State List) and the Greater Israel Movement which comprise the bulk of Begin's Likud constituency. MK Geula Cohen, a former member of the extremist Sterm Group, said last night that she would ask for a meeting of Likud's Knesset faction when Begin returns to Israel tomorrow and urge unanimous support for full Israeli sovereignty in the Judaea and Samaria regions.

Begin is not unaware of the strong opposition within his own party to any compromise on the West Bank: For that reason, it is believed, he included in his entourage to Washington Chaim Landau, one of the most uncompromising of his veteran Herut followers. Begin reportedly wants Landau to see for himself what the situation is and be able to explain the facts later to his worried Likud colleagues.

Rumor Begin And Dayan Differ

Meanwhile, rumors continued of sharp differences between Begin and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. When the Premier invited Dayan to join his government after the elections last May, one of his reasons was said to have been that Dayan would project an image of moderation in what was widely regarded as a hard-line regime. Now, many observers say, positions have been reversed with Begin coming across as a "dove" prepared to give up more than Dayan is willing to concede.

The differences between the two men seemed to be confirmed when Begin told an Israeli television reporter on the way to Washington that he had no idea what Dayan, means when he speaks about a "functional compromise" on the West Bank. "I never used the phrase 'functional compromise' and, believe me, I do not know what it means, " the Premier said.

Dayan has been pushing that idea and has enlisted the support of some of his former colleagues in the Labor Party. Labor Alignment leade? Shimon Peres has come out in favor of such an artangement, though as a short-term solution, applicable for 5-10 years ofter which some sort of confederation would be established. But there has been no precise definition, even by Dayan of a "functional compromise."

Other Reactions Indicated

The Lobor Party itself is hardly of one view. Former Premier Golda Meir was sharply criticized yesterday by Lobor MK Yossi Sarid-for her "extremist" position on territorial withdrawals and her assertion that people should not be lured into be-

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