

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## ISRAEL AGREES TO RESUME MILITARY TALKS WITH EGYPT; WEIZMAN DUE TO GO TO CAIRO IN NEXT DAY OR TWO

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29 (JTA)--The Cabinet decided today to resume the military talks with Egypt in Cairo and instructed Defense Minister Ezer Weizman "to make the necessary arrangements." Weizman is expected to fly to Egypt tomorrow or Tuesday.

The military talks have been in suspension since Jan. 22 when the Cabinet decided to postpone the return of the Israeli delegation to Cairo pending an end to the attacks on Israel in the Egyptian press. Those attacks, which degenerated into anti-Semitic crudities in some leading Egyptian organs, escalated after President Anwar Sadat's sudden recall of the Egyptian delegation to the political committee talks in Jerusalem on Jan. 18. But the Egyptian press has toned down considerably during the past week.

Although Anis Mansour, editor of the Cairo weekly "October," referred to Premier Menachem Begin in the current edition as "an old time terrorist" who extends one hand in peace while the other holds a concealed weapon, Begin apparently decided to ignore the personal insult.

Cabinet Secretary Arye Naor told reporters after today's Cabinet session that Begin had asked the ministers not to take account of the latest attack. Begin said the Cabinet must distinguish between insults to the Jewish people and invectives against himself which he called "an occupational hazard" of being Premier.

It was learned today that when the talks resume, Weizman will be seconded in Cairo by Gen. Avraham Tamir, chief of planning, and Gen. Mordechai Gazit, chief of intelligence. Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur is not expected to participate in the second round of talks nor will Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zippori. Both had attended the opening sessions earlier this month.

## Flexibility On Rafah Settlements

The talks will be resuming against the background of an important speech by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan last night in which he seemed to indicate some flexibility on the issue of the Rafah silent settlements. Dayan told an audience at Kfar Vitkin that the settlements should not be allowed to stand in the way of a peace settlement and indicated that if Egypt was prepared to negotiate a separate agreement with Israel, a solution would be found for the settlements in northern Sinai.

But Dayan's spokesman, Naftali Lavie, denied this morning that the Foreign Minister was ready to dismantle the settlements. He claimed that, on the contrary, Dayan stands by Israel's peace plan under which the settlements would remain under Israel's control although nominally under Egyptian sovereignty. He said that represented Israel's maximum concession.

## Begin Cites The Crucial Issue

Meanwhile, Begin indicated last night that the crucial issue when the military talks resume will be the demilitarization of Sinai. Addressing

some 300 Jewish leaders from the United States and Canada participating in the Israel Bond Organization's Prime Minister's Mission, he repeated his charge that the Egyptian military establishment had attempted to water down a pledge by Sadat that would leave all of eastern Sinai a demilitarized zone after peace is established.

He said he and Sadat had reached such an agreement at their private meeting in Jerusalem last Nov. 20. But while Sadat promised that Egyptian forces would not advance beyond the Gidi and Mitla passes, over 200 kilometers from the international border with Israel, Egypt's War Minister Mohammed Gamassy came to the Cairo talks with a map that would put the Egyptian army only 40 kilometers away from the Israeli lines. Begin expressed hope that Sadat's original intentions would prevail during the second round of talks.

## SADAT, CARTER TO REVIEW MIDEAST SETTLEMENT PROCESS AT THEIR CAMP DAVID MEETING NEXT WEEKEND

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29 (JTA)--In another spectacular move with powerful psychological implications in the Arab-Israeli political drama, the White House announced yesterday that President Carter has invited President Anwar Sadat of Egypt to meet with him here next weekend for an "extensive review" of the Middle East settlement process.

The Egyptian leader and Mrs. Sadat will arrive here Feb. 3 and the meetings will take place Feb. 4 and 5 at Carter's retreat at Camp David in Maryland. The White House said Sadat may remain "another day or two" in the United States after the meetings.

With U.S. officials having been urging "quiet diplomacy" on the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations and to keep the talks out of the media limelight with its attendant publicity, the question was raised at the White House how the Sadat-Carter session is consistent with the U.S. view on how the negotiations should be conducted.

## Sees No Inconsistency

Presidential news secretary Jody Powell said he saw "no inconsistency." He noted "that is why" the meetings will be held at Camp David, which is in a secluded area, and that it is a "careful methodical approach" that is being taken. However, it is fully expected among reporters here that the world media will be converging on that mountain retreat and the focus of attention will be on the Egyptian version of what the settlement elements should be.

Powell said that the meeting is part of the "continuing process of negotiations." He pointed out that Premier Menachem Begin of Israel was here in December and is expected to be in Washington again in April in relation to a visit to the United States while Israel celebrates its 30th anniversary.

While Carter and Sadat had met in Aswan earlier this month, that meeting was necessarily brief, Powell observed. Carter, Powell added, felt it was desirable to follow up the Aswan meeting with more extensive talks. Last Monday, Carter, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski decided that it would be "useful" for the two Presidents to confer in Washington. Sadat had been saying before Vance returned from his Middle East trip that he might visit the U.S. to explain

his case to the Americans.

In an attempt to offset the obvious advantages that would accrue to the Arab political position, the Carter Administration has put out word to selective reporters that Carter will ask Sadat to avoid sudden decisions like cancelling the political talks and be patient in the intricate political process. Sadat's visit to the U.S. is part of his global campaign to press his peace initiative. In addition to his visit here, the Egyptian leader will also hold summit meetings in Britain, France, West Germany, Austria and Morocco on his way back from the U.S.

**SADAT IN OPEN LETTER TO U.S. JEWS  
URGES THEM TO CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE;  
SCHINDLER REPLIES THAT ACCEPTING  
EGYPT'S DEMAND IS NOT THE ONLY WAY**

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Jan. 29 (JTA)—Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in an open letter published today to the American Jewish community has urged it to "contribute" to the peace process in the Middle East and by implication support his demands for an Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement.

In a reply, Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said today that American Jews want peace but do not agree "that the only appropriate response to your (Sadat's) initiative is an unqualified acceptance of Egypt's full demands."

Sadat's letter, copyrighted by the Miami Herald which had asked him to speak directly to the Jewish community, was also carried in other newspapers, including the New York Daily News and the Washington Star. The Daily News also ran a copyrighted answer from Schindler.

In his letter, Sadat said, "I believe that the American Jewish community shares a historic responsibility for erecting a formidable edifice of peace." He said he believes "all people of Jewish faith should bear a special responsibility in reviving this spirit of accommodation and meaningful existence. They are most qualified to play a pivotal role in eliminating human suffering and misery. The sad experience they went through in the past in some parts of the world and the lessons of history render them more sensitive to the need for the eradication of all manifestations of injustice and mercy."

**Stand Should Be Rational**

Sadat said "The Jewish community in the United States can contribute immensely to this process in a manner that would reinforce our belief in the oneness of the human cause.... We expect you to support what is right and to correct what is wrong. Your commitment should be to the rule of legitimacy and the sublime norms of humanism. You should not be counted upon to support the perpetuation of injustice or the suppression of legitimate aspirations."

Sadat said that American Jews should not be taken for granted by anyone, but their "stand should be based on rational and objective grounds that could be understood and appreciated by all parties to a given dispute."

The Egyptian President said he wants Israel to live side by side with Egypt, Syria and the Palestinians. He said he still believes in the need for establishing peace. "However, I must tell you in all earnestness and in the spirit that prompted me to undertake my mission that the behavior of the Israeli government in the past few weeks has been

negative and disappointing," Sadat declared. "In all objectivity, I feel that my visit to Jerusalem, with all that it symbolized has not been responded to in a forthcoming manner."

**Rejects Sadat's View On Israel**

In his reply which praised Sadat's peace efforts, Schindler said he was "especially touched by your (Sadat's) recognition of the special vocation of the Jewish people born as it was of our martyrdom: to end human suffering, to seek justice, not only for ourselves, but for all humankind.... American Jews serve not themselves alone. They enlist in every cause which promises to heal the bruised and lift the fallen, wherever and whoever they may be."

Schindler, however, said he cannot accept Sadat's statement that Israel has not responded to him. "Indeed, it seems to me that Israel has made far-reaching territorial concessions--involving great national risks--in demonstrating its own commitment to peace," he declared.

Schindler said that Sadat's "impatience" leaves the impression he disdains "the negotiating process in its entirety, preferring a prior agreement or an imposed solution. Our experience living in a democracy has persuaded us that there can be no agreement without compromise, no settlement of disputes without mutual concessions."

The Jewish leader said American Jews share the commitment to peace expressed in Sadat's letter. "But we are troubled by the implication it contains that the only appropriate response to your initiative is an unqualified acceptance of Egypt's full demands."

Schindler stressed that "American Jews support Israel because the Jews are a people, one people... because Israel offers a home, a refuge, a place of dignity to every Jew... because a strong and free and democratic State of Israel is essential to the security of our country, America."

Schindler, who met with Sadat at Aswan Jan. 10, said that "I look forward to your impending visit to our shores. Perhaps we can continue our dialogue then. Of this I am certain, that though we have not yet found a common way, we do share a common purpose... peace with justice...."

**Letter Termed Misdirected**

In a statement issued today, Burton M. Joseph, chairman of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, said Sadat's open letter was "misdirected" since Jews "are private citizens of the United States and like all Americans are concerned with world peace." Joseph said the opening of direct talks between Egypt and Israel "has precluded a return to that era when private intermediaries were the only source of contact between the peoples of those nations."

Joseph said the questions asked by Sadat of American Jews have been "satisfactorily answered by Israel." He said Israel has demonstrated "flexibility" on the West Bank and has shown it is not interested in territory.

**BEHIND HUMPHREY'S LETTER TO BEGIN**

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29 (JTA)—Media reports that the late Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, in a letter dated Jan. 11 to Premier Menachem Begin, sought to convince the Israeli leader to be more flexible toward the Egyptian view regarding a Sinai settlement, has been described by Humphrey's intimate political associates as "unfair" and "misleading." The associates, in discussing the letter with the

Jewish Telegraphic Agency, asked not to be identified. Humphrey's letter, written two days before his death, first appeared publicly in truncated form in The New York Times Jan. 25. The Israelis were upset by this because it seemed to show that Humphrey, an old friend of the Jewish State, was leaning on Israel.

Humphrey's associate said the Humphrey letter was not trying to pressure Begin to do what he did not want to do but to strengthen his hand in the face of the opposition to his views within his own Herut Party. In addition, JTA was told, Humphrey disagreed with President Carter in a telephone conversation in which the President was critical of Begin's views.

The media reports did not accurately reflect the letter, JTA was informed, because they claimed in one major instance as having Humphrey urging Begin alone to show "tolerance" when, in fact, the letter urged "all parties to show tolerance" in the Mideast negotiations.

#### Another Mistaken Impression

Another mistaken impression circulated was that Humphrey did not write to President Anwar Sadat of Egypt but only to Begin and that this, therefore, was "significant." An associate noted that interpretation was decidedly beside the point of the Humphrey letter's purpose. Sadat, the associate observed, is in a position to make his own decisions in Egypt while Begin, in a democratic society, faces severe opposition in his own party.

According to one associate, Carter telephoned Humphrey in Waverly, Minn., on Jan. 9, four days before the Senator died, and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance telephoned him on Jan. 11, the date of the letter by Humphrey. Carter, the JTA was told, wanted Humphrey to get in touch by letter with Begin because it appeared that the Premier's political opponents in Herut were having an impact upon him that would harden his position in the negotiations with Sadat. Vance reportedly made the same points. According to this version of the events, both Carter and Vance were reportedly not trying to put pressure on Begin to take a course to which he objected.

However, another associate directly involved with the letter said Carter told Humphrey that Israel was "potentially the stumbling block" in the Sinai negotiations. Humphrey, this associate said, disagreed with the President and said he would not interject his views regarding what the Israelis should or should not offer to Egypt. It would have been uncharacteristic of him to have done so, the associate emphasized.

In fact, it was said by a friend of Humphrey, Begin had fully discussed the question of Sinai with both Carter and Vance during his December visit to Washington before the Christmas weekend Somalia meeting and they had indicated to him that his position was not unreasonable. Humphrey also said the same about Begin's idea. It was only after Carter met with Sadat at Aswan earlier this month that Carter objected strenuously to the settlements, the associate said. In his conversation with Carter—their last—Humphrey refused to say that Begin's view was "unreasonable."

Some doubt has also been cast that Humphrey in fact actually dictated the entire letter that was sent to Begin. According to a Humphrey associate, he dictated the substance of his thoughts to his Washington office by telephone Jan. 11 and his office drafted it "probably with the assistance of the State Department." However, before it was

issued to the Israeli Embassy an advisor suggested changes to Humphrey and he accepted them. One was that Egypt should have "sovereignty" and not "control" over Sinai.

#### Extract Of Humphrey's Letter

Following is an extract of Humphrey's letter:

"I want to take this opportunity to compliment you on your courage and leadership in the current initiatives in the Middle East. I also want to pay tribute to the people of Israel who have opened up their arms to Anwar Sadat in a magnificent gesture of peace and honor.

"However, my friend, we cannot let this cup pass from our lips without doing what needs to be done. As you have said on numerous occasions in the past, everything is negotiable. As you know, nobody appreciates the concerns Israel has over her security better than I. A reasonable man like President Sadat must also understand security requirements as being a fundamental element of any nation's sovereignty. Above all, our government understands your security requirements.

"This brings me to the issue of the existing Israeli settlements in the Sinai. I realize these settlements are important within the context of Israel's present security needs. However, there must be some way to work out a program for governing these settlements during a transition period to eventual, full Egyptian sovereignty much as there should be a palatable and workable solution for the West Bank.

"In the case of the latter, maybe what there needs to be is a formula in which we give the Palestinians some time to work out their own difficulties. It is absolutely clear that we are not accepting an independent and potentially antagonistic Palestinian state, nor will any of Israel's neighbors. There is an obvious danger in the ultimate political objectives of such an entity. Those who want to see these difficult issues resolved recognize that it is going to take time and 'give' on the part of all parties, even beyond existing stated positions.

"I write this letter only after giving these matters considerable thought, and I also believe that key members of the American Jewish community would share my views on these issues.... These are my views, and I offer them not only as a sincere and devoted friend of Israel, but as your good friend as well...."

#### Jewish Leader Denies Role In Letter

(In New York, Burton M. Joseph, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said that a news story in Friday's Maariv linking him with the Humphrey letter "is a complete and total fabrication."

(Joseph, in a letter of protest to Shalom Rosenfeld, editor of Maariv, which he made available to the JTA, also asserted: "There is absolutely no foundation to your report that I was asked by President Carter or any member of the Administration staff to intervene with the late Senator. Mr. Humphrey was a cherished friend. But he did not consult with me as your story alleges in connection with this letter nor did I have any prior knowledge that such a letter was being written."

(He concluded by stating that the Maariv story "is made up of whole cloth" and "does me and the Jewish community in America great injury and disservice."

(The Maariv article claimed that its correspondent had asked Joseph whether he was a partner in the preparation of the Humphrey letter and Joseph said he would neither confirm nor deny this.)

## COURT RULING ON NAZI MARCH IN SKOKIE DENOUNCED BY JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

CHICAGO, Jan. 29 (JTA)—More court challenges appear certain against the ruling last Friday by the Illinois Supreme Court that American Nazis have the constitutional right to display the swastika during protest marches in the heavily Jewish community of Skokie, a Chicago suburb, where 7000 survivors of the Holocaust now live.

The long-delayed ruling removed only one of the obstacles to a planned march by the National Socialist Party of America in Skokie. Other barriers are a series of ordinances adopted by the Skokie Village Council banning marches in military-style uniforms and requiring protesters to post a heavy bond before a demonstration. The State Supreme Court ruling, which overturned a lower court decision, was hailed by the Nazis and by the American Civil Liberties Union, which has represented the Nazis, and denounced by Skokie officials and Jewish organizations.

The State Supreme Court ruled that "the display of the swastika, as offensive to the principles of a free nation as the memories it recalls may be, is symbolic political speech intended to convey to the public the beliefs of those who display it."

The lower court had ruled that the swastika could be banned on grounds that it constituted "fighting words" that might provoke violence. Skokie residents have warned they will not be passive if the Nazis march. However, the State Supreme Court disagreed, saying display of the swastika could not be banned "solely because that display may provoke a violent reaction by those who view it." The court said Skokie residents could ignore the march if they considered it offensive.

### Sorry Turn Of Events

Leaders of Chicago's Jewish community reacted with disappointment to the ruling and with determination to continue opposition to it. David Smerling, president, and James P. Rice, executive vice-president of the Jewish Federation and Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago, declared in a statement: "We are disturbed at the news that the court upheld the obviously flagrant use of a symbol that meant deliberate extermination to six million Jews and five million Christian civilians."

They added that "for the courts to allow the citizens of Skokie—both Jews and Christians—who have already suffered the atrocities of Nazi Germany, to submit to further humiliation, is a sorry—almost unthinkable—turn of events." They said they hoped the village of Skokie would appeal the decision and that if the village did not do so, "there are fortunately a number of other court cases that must be decided before the Nazi march on Skokie can become a reality."

They cited the ordinances against the wearing of military-style uniforms, the \$350,000 bond posting order and a Skokie ban on the dissemination of material that could incite hatred of a race or religion. These ordinances have been challenged in federal court here and a decision is expected soon. A decision voiding the ordinances is considered certain to be appealed.

Smerling and Rice also cited another case, initiated by Sol Goldstein, a Skokie resident and Holocaust survivor, who has applied for a permanent injunction against the proposed Nazi march. Goldstein, who brought the suit as a private citizen, said it would be unrealistic to expect that residents would stand idly by if the march was

held. He said: "The swastika is a symbol of the destruction of Jews. Under this banner Jews were marched to the concentration camps and gas chambers."

Goldstein, who is chairman of a Committee on Individual Liberty and Jewish Security of the Public Affairs Committee (PAC) of the Jewish United Fund, questioned whether the State Supreme Court ruling did not, in effect, abridge the rights of Holocaust survivors by suggesting they must avoid the offensive symbol.

### U.S. Supreme Court Should Decide

Maynard Wishner, PAC honorary chairman, said "the legal issue must be considered in terms of a conflict of rights. I think that the Holocaust survivors in Skokie should be free from provocative taunting by those who, with their symbol, are applauding the commission of the most grievous crime in history; under the very eyes of the victims of that crime. This ought also be regarded as a precious human right that should not be denied the survivors."

He asked whether, as the Supreme Court ruling suggested, it was "really possible" for survivors "to avoid exposure to this march" by "averting one's eyes or stopping up one's ears when your mind and all your being knows that this display is going on down the street from where you have sought to find refuge from memories of that horror." He said he felt the question was "important enough to ultimately be decided by the highest court of our land."

In New York, Justin Finger, assistant director of the civil rights division of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Skokie village officials had two options. He said they could petition the State Supreme Court for a re-hearing or they could take an appeal directly to the United States Supreme Court.

### Would File Friend Of The Court Brief

Also in New York, the American Jewish Congress said that if the Illinois Supreme Court decision is appealed, the AJCongress will file a friend of the court brief in support of a ban on the proposed Nazi march. Naomi Levine, AJCongress executive director, said that in such a brief, "we will urge that members of the Nazi Party be barred from marching through Skokie wearing Nazi uniforms or swastikas."

Mrs. Levine said that "the flaunting of the swastika or a Nazi uniform in a community that includes so many Jewish citizens and Holocaust victims is not an expression of a constitutionally protected idea." She called it "a provocative and insulting symbol which by its very nature inflicts injury and tends to incite an immediate breach of peace." She also said that the U.S. Supreme Court has held that "insulting" or "fighting words" are not protected by the First Amendment and that "we believe the high court will reach the same decision in the Skokie case." \* \* \*

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Prof. Arie Shachar, Hebrew University associate professor of geography, has been invited to participate as a national urban policy expert in an upcoming White House conference to advise the Carter Administration on preparing legislation in the field of balanced economic growth. \* \* \*

UNITED NATIONS (JTA)—Israeli Ambassador Chaim Herzog has turned down an offer by Ze'evulun Hammer, Israel's Education and Culture Minister, to assume the chairmanship of the Israel Broadcasting Authority Board when he concludes his term of office here late this summer. Herzog plans to return to private law practice.