

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## BEGIN APPEALS TO KNESSET TO ACCEPT SUMMIT ACCORDS; SEES POSSIBLE PEACE TREATY WITH EGYPT BY YEAR'S END

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 25 (JTA)—Premier Menachem Begin appealed to the Knesset today to accept the Camp David agreements in all their parts and held out the prospect of a full peace treaty with Egypt by the end of the year, or possibly sooner. He told the MKs who packed the chamber in a special session convened this morning that their choice was between giving up negotiations for a peace agreement or accepting the Camp David accords.

Begin made it clear that aspects of the accords were extremely painful, notably the decision to remove the Israeli settlements in Sinai. The Cabinet yesterday approved a proposal that the Knesset empower the government to take that step if, during the negotiations with Egypt, agreement is reached on all other problems.

"With a heavy heart, I shall recommend to the Knesset to pick the choice of negotiations," Begin said. He assured the MKs that on the West Bank there would be no referendum, no Palestinian state and no negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The Knesset met today to hear Begin's report on the Camp David summit. The general debate, to be followed by a vote, was postponed until Wednesday to give the various parties, particularly the National Religious Party, additional time for internal debate on the issue. The Labor Alignment, the largest opposition faction, has already voted overwhelmingly to approve the Camp David agreements. Alignment chairman, Shimon Peres, who also addressed the Knesset, was sharply critical of the agreement but indicated that Labor would support it because the alternative was worse.

Begin faced the most furious outburst from opponents within his own party, led by Herut die-hard Geula Cohen. She refused to let the Premier start his statement, rising repeatedly to shout interruptions in order, she said, "to defend the country from Menachem Begin." Her near-hysteria alarmed Knesset members and when she would not be calmed down she was asked to leave the chamber.

### An Agreement To End Belligerency

Begin told the Knesset that while the written agreement signed at the close of the Camp David talks set a three-month deadline for an Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, he hoped a treaty could be signed in two months. He stressed that the Camp David accords mean there will be no more partial steps or interim agreements.

"This time it is a peace agreement which will bring to an end the state of belligerency" with Egypt, he said. He spelled out the security arrangements in Sinai and said they were satisfactory. He promised that Israel would not dismantle its air bases in Sinai until the two new air fields the U.S. has pledged to build for Israel in the Negev are completed and operational.

With respect to the settlement freeze on the West Bank over which differences have developed

between himself and President Carter, Begin said he had ascertained that Israel's commitment was only for the three-month period of negotiations with Egypt, not the five-year transitional period in that territory provided in the Camp David framework.

He said he had consulted in that matter with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Defense Minister Ezer Weizman who participated in the Camp David talks and was convinced that his interpretation is the correct one. He said he would write a letter to that effect to Carter this week.

Responding to a question from Labor MK Yossi Sarid, Begin denied a report in Newsweek magazine that he had agreed to talk to PLO members in the course of negotiations over the West Bank and Gaza. He said, however, that if a PLO supporter was elected to the West Bank self-governing body, Israel would accept him if he did not engage in terrorist activity.

Begin assured the Knesset that there were no secret agreements at Camp David although there were certain documents he would not mention for "psychological and political reasons." One of them, apparently, was an Egyptian document presented to President Carter on the first day of the summit which almost resulted in its breakdown.

Begin disclosed that he had threatened not to sign the accords if President Anwar Sadat of Egypt had gone ahead with his intention to send him a "letter of disagreement" making certain demands on the status of Jerusalem. These apparently included that assertion that East Jerusalem is part of the West Bank. Begin reported that he also rejected a proposal to fly the flag of an Arab country over the Temple Mount which contains Moslem shrines.

### Report Direct Egypt-Israel Contacts Underway

(According to reports from Cairo, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat told reporters late today that Vice President Hosni Mubarak, who will be acting President while he is on leave, "will be starting this day the establishment of direct contact between Egypt and Israel." He did not make clear with whom the contacts would be made.)

(But he told the reporters the Camp David agreements "are solving the problem of the Middle East that has lasted 30 years with four wars and hatred and bitterness." He added that "all this is turning now to friendship and good neighborliness." Sadat spoke to reporters after an address carried by Cairo television in which he said the peace talks would start when the Knesset approves the Camp David agreements.)

### Peres Praises Government, Criticizes Accords

Peres had some praise for the government: He admitted that he had not believed that the present government would have the courage to make the vital and difficult decisions that it did. "The government was forced to go back on its previous undertakings and to abandon its ideologies," Peres said.

But he was bitterly critical of the Camp David agreements themselves which he characterized as "worse than the Rogers Plan." He noted that the plan, proposed in 1969 by the then U.S. Secretary of State William P. Rogers, had allowed for Israeli airfields in Sinai and an Israeli presence at Sharm el-Sheikh. It was rejected by the Labor-led government.

Now, Peres charged, "the government which had refused to sign a general declaration of principles on the future of the West Bank (last January) has signed a much more specific and more dangerous document." He chastized the Likud government for describing the Sinai settlers as obstacles to peace. "He charged that, despite Begin's denials, he had in fact acknowledged the future existence of a Palestinian state through his autonomy plan and his recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians as stated in the Camp David framework on peace in the Middle East.

However, Peres said, there was no choice but to vote for the Camp David agreements. "Had the summit broken down, Israel would have been totally isolated and the one Arab leader who wanted peace with Israel (Sadat) would have been destroyed," Peres said.

There were no other speakers today and the Knesset adjourned until Wednesday. The Cabinet will also convene Wednesday for an extraordinary session at which Begin promised to make further clarifications of the Camp David undertakings. This was demanded by several ministers, including Minister of Energy Yitzhak Mordechai who did not participate in yesterday's Cabinet meeting because, he said, he lacked sufficient information.

#### 1000 MARCH ON JERUSALEM TO PROTEST AGAINST THE SUMMIT ACCORDS

By Barbie Zelizer-Meyouhas

JERUSALEM, Sept. 25 (JTA)--More than 1000 demonstrators from all over the country gathered tonight in the capital to alert the Knesset not to sign the Camp David accords. They included settlers from the Rafah salient, Jordan Valley, members of the Greater Israel movement, Gush Emunim and other opponents.

The demonstrators reached Jerusalem in the early afternoon by means of a long parade of tractors and other agricultural transport vehicles. Before the long uphill march to the capital was staged, one participant wryly noted, "We aren't planning on stopping traffic, but tractors travel very slowly."

However, if they were planning on causing traffic tie-ups in the capital they were soon disappointed. Police erected roadblocks at all entrances to the city and forbade the entrance of all heavy agricultural equipment, notably tractors and bulldozers. The 20 or so tractors that did manage to get in were quickly directed to the parking lot of the Binyanei Haoma convention hall, with more than 1000 demonstrators following.

The demonstrators arriving from the Rafah salient were ceremonially received with bread and salt, in order to differentiate and ridicule the welcoming given Premier Menachem Begin on his return from Camp David. A few instances of violence broke out between the demonstrators and police, with some protestors consequently taken into custody.

"Whoever says yes to the Americans today will be forced to say yes to them tomorrow over much greater demands," Knesset member Yigael Cohen-Orlitz told the assembled. "This is the danger in agreeing to remove settlements in the Rafah salient."

At about 6 o'clock in the evening, the demonstrators began moving en masse to the Western Wall, where they intended to pray that the accords would not be agreed upon by the Knesset. En route, the 1000 persons caused considerable traffic disruptions. On Wednesday they plan to return to Jerusalem in order to continue their vigil,

this time outside the Knesset building, where the vote on the accords will be in process.

#### Begin To Resign If Accords Are Rejected

Earlier in the day, members of the National Religious Party met with Begin to hear from him reports about the Camp David accords. The meeting, held in Jerusalem, lasted approximately one hour. While NRP members hoped to hear from the Premier that the implications of the accords are not as fateful as their Gush Emunim colleagues have made them out to be, the effect of such an attempt at pacifying the NRP members will not be clear until after the NRP faction and executive meeting tonight and the central committee meeting tomorrow.

"If the Knesset cancels the Camp David accords, I will go to the President and submit my resignation," Begin repeated to the assembled NRP delegates. "This is not a threat, but rather a logical conclusion from the consequent situation."

With Begin making it clear that he intends to enforce coalition discipline on the Knesset vote, which would ensure that La'am and NRP ministers vote for the government or resign, the NRP members did their best in gaining reassurances of some kind from the Premier.

Some of them pressed for the implementation of a referendum on the potential removal of settlements from the Rafah salient. To this, Begin replied that the extended time factor involved made this unrealistic.

#### IRAQ BLASTS SUMMIT ACCORDS

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 25 (JTA)--Iraq today strongly attacked the Camp David accords which it termed a framework "for a humiliating capitulation treaty" that confirmed the trend toward "liquidation of the Palestinians' existence." Addressing the 33rd United Nations General Assembly on the opening day of its general debate, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, Saadoun Hammadi, said his country, as part of the Arab nation, "emphatically rejects" the Camp David agreements.

Hammadi was the first Arab to address this General Assembly. His country's position represents that of the rejectionist Arab front which includes Syria, Libya, South Yemen and Algeria. He insisted that the crux of any Middle East settlement was the question of Palestinian self-determination and charged that the Camp David summit "remained silent on the future of occupied Arab Jerusalem and the Golan Heights."

He called on the UN and its member states to work for the immediate and complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab territories.

Hammadi also accused Israel of having military and nuclear ties with South Africa. He urged the UN to take measures to stop the alleged cooperation between Israel and the Pretoria government.

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NEW ORLEANS (JTA)--Hy Lampert, head of the Canadian B'nai B'rith delegation to the biennial convention of B'nai B'rith here, announced that the Canadian B'nai B'rith Leadership Mission scheduled to visit Israel next March 5 will also visit Cairo. Frank Diamant, executive vice-president of the Canadian B'nai B'rith, said "efforts have already been initiated with the government of the Arab republic of Egypt which we hope will lead to high level meetings between the Canadian B'nai B'rith Mission and government officials in Cairo."

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JERUSALEM (JTA)--The Jewish Agency will celebrate its 50th anniversary next year.

## NAVON TO VISIT U.S. IN NOV.; CARTER MAY VISIT ISRAEL BY YEAR'S END

JERUSALEM, Sept. 25 (JTA)--President Yitzhak Navon of Israel will visit the United States for 10 days in November and President Carter may visit Israel at the end of the year, it was learned today. Prime Minister James Callaghan of Britain is also expected here at the end of the year. The dates for both visits are expected to be set next month.

Navon will be traveling in the U.S. as the guest of American Jewry. He will be the featured speaker at the annual General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations (CJF) which opens in San Francisco Nov. 8. He will also visit other Jewish communities across the country. It was reported that he may visit President Carter but no confirmation has been received from the White House.

## CARTER EQUATES PLO WITH KKK, NAZIS

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25 (JTA)--President Carter has defended the establishment of an information office in Washington by the Palestine Liberation Organization while equating the PLO with the Ku Klux Klan, the Communist Party and Nazis. At the same time, Carter appeared to imply that Israel does not grant full religious freedom to the Palestinian Arabs in the occupied territories.

Carter's remarks were made in response to questions from an audience of 900 people in the western Pennsylvania industrial town of Aliquippa last Saturday. An official transcript of his remarks was released today by the White House.

The President gave his views on the PLO information office after Dan Cláncmavitz, of Hopewell Township, Pa., said he has a sister in Israel and "the PLO has set off bombs within 100 yards from where she works and where she lives." He wanted to know how "the U.S. could let the PLO" open an office in Washington and "distribute propaganda" in view of its terrorist activities.

The PLO's office "is obviously no threat to our nation's security" nor to "the well-being of the people who live in Israel," Carter replied. "My own guess is that they will learn more about our country being here and what we stand for than we learn from them."

The President noted "there are many groups like this that cause us concern. The Ku Klux Klan, for instance, the Communist Party, the Nazis. It would be nice for us if they would just go away." But it is part of our system of government to let them have the right to speak.

Stressing that he has a "commitment" to Israel "not to negotiate nor have private meetings with the PLO until after that organization recognizes Israel's right to exist and espouses UN Resolution 242," the President said there was no need to "fear" the little office in Washington. "I believe we can handle the PLO not by stamping them out but by the American people."

## Remarks On Freedom Of Religion

The President's remarks on freedom of religion came when a questioner, saying he spoke for the "Orthodox Christians" in the occupied areas, accused the Carter Administration of lacking "the courage to stand up to Menachem Begin and the American Jewish community" and urged stopping aid to "the Israelis until they give back all territories stolen from the Orthodox Christians and others in occupied Palestine."

Denying his Administration was "timid or

cowardly," Carter noted that "We raised for the first time in any Administration the basic problem of the Palestinians who live in the region as you described without regard to the religious affiliation of the people involved."

Although the question did not mention restriction of religious practices, the President said that under the Camp David agreements the people in the "Palestinian area" will "have a chance to administer their own affairs, including the right to worship." The President also said that "we're making great strides toward realizing the hopes that you have just outlined to terminate military rule and give people a chance to worship as they please." Israel in both law and practice does not place any restrictions on religious freedom inside Israel or in the administered territories.

## NO DATE YET FOR RELEASE OF CARTER. BEGIN LETTERS ON SETTLEMENTS FREEZE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25 (JTA)--Presidential News Secretary Jody Powell said today that he did not have a date as yet for letters by President Carter and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin to be released on the differing views between them on the moratorium of Jewish settlements on the West Bank. When a reporter said that Begin, after searching his notes said his recollection was correct that the freeze is for only three months and not a five-year period as Carter seemed to claim, Powell said he did not have an immediate answer.

Israeli sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the letters on the West Bank settlements and on the U.S. military airfields in the Negev will not be forthcoming until after the Knesset votes this week on the summit accords. These sources also said that the language for the letters will be negotiated between Israeli and American officials in Jerusalem.

As to Carter's feelings regarding Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's Middle East trip, Powell emphasized that the purpose of the five-day mission was to answer the questions by the leaders of Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Syria and to "encourage their understanding and support" for the Camp David accords. "No one expected immediate action by Jordan or Saudi Arabia," Powell said. He said "our hope" on the talks by American officials with other Arab states is that "they will indeed participate" in Mideast negotiations with Israel.

The State Department announced earlier that Alfred Atherton, the President's special ambassador for the Mideast who was with Vance and is now in Kuwait, will be going to Amman, Jerusalem, Cairo, unnamed North African cities, Bonn and some other European capitals to seek support for the Camp David agreements. Atherton is scheduled to return to Washington early next month.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--President Yitzhak Navon has received a cable from Pope John Paul I wishing Navon and the people of Israel prosperity and happiness. Although it is customary for a new Pope to send good wish cables to heads of states, Jerusalem noted with satisfaction that the cable was addressed to "President Yitzhak Navon, the President of the State of Israel." This was especially gratifying since the Vatican has not recognized the State of Israel and there are no diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Israel. In his cable, the Pope said that like his predecessors he, too, felt goodwill and appreciation toward Israel. He expressed confidence that Catholics in Israel would fulfill their duties to the State and in this way contribute generously to the prosperity and well-being of Israel.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES IN SEARCH OF SENSATIONALISM

By Murray Zuckoff

NEW YORK, Sept. 25 (JTA)--For 13 days the news media found itself in desperate straits. Close to 400 correspondents assigned to cover the historic Camp David summit talks found themselves encamped in Thurmont, Md. some six miles from Camp David being spoonfed non-substantial reports about the summit's goings-on by Presidential News Secretary Jody Powell.

But correspondents being what they are--creative writers, by and large--and under pressure from their editors to come up with stories to match the hyped-up headlines that had been written without the benefit of facts, worked feverishly to produce "factual," if not "actual," reports to match the headlines. They interviewed each other, created likely scenarios, padded plots with subplots and "learned" that there were behind-the-scenes crises and frantic maneuverings by the three principals.

Thus, the summit talks were on the verge of breaking up; Egyptian President Anwar Sadat was packing it in; Israeli Premier Menachem Begin and Sadat were glowering at each other; President Carter was twisting Begin's arms, and Sadat's arms at regular and precise intervals; that King Hussein of Jordan was coming to Camp David; and/or that the principals were holding secret rendezvous, albeit calling it accidental encounters of a second kind. Speculation and theorizing ran rampant, and the more devoid of reality they were the more "factual" they became in the daily dispatches for many of the correspondents. In fact, many of these "factual" reports were subsequently denied by Begin and Sadat.

Finally the fruits of the 13 days of labor at Camp David were revealed to the entire world: the night of Sept. 17 when Carter, Begin and Sadat sat in the East Room of the White House and signed, in front of television cameras, two historic "frameworks" for peace; and the night of Sept. 18 when Carter, again before television cameras, addressed a joint session of Congress and outlined the elements of what he termed a bright moment in human history. On both nights, too, the entire world viewed Sadat and Begin embracing each other and shaking hands and watched Begin and Sadat embracing Carter. The factual and the actual now seemed to blend in reality.

### Blowing The Story

But there was the rub. The media, which should have returned to its metier--reporting the objective facts--blew the real story: that Egypt and Israel were in 98 percent agreement regarding the "Framework for the Conclusion of a Peace Treaty Between Egypt and Israel" and that only two percent required clarification.

This reality was underscored by Carter in his summation of the framework when he said: "This document encompasses almost all of the issues between the two countries and resolves these issues. A few lines remain to be drawn on maps and the question of the settlements (in Sinai) is to be resolved. Other than that, most of the major issues are resolved already in this document."

With a genuine gopher's eye view of history, many columnists and editorial writers took the route of presenting their readers with dire, Cassandra-like forebodings about the "pitfalls" and "calamities" regarding the two percent and minimized the 98 percent.

Many editorial writers and columnists also

riveted their gaze on the seeming "differences of interpretation" of some elements of the frameworks between Begin and the White House rather than on the fundamental agreements between the three principals and the acknowledgements by White House spokesmen and Begin that the "differences" may be genuine misunderstandings on a few points that would be clarified satisfactorily in a few days.

### Paranoia In Print

The Washington Post, for example, in an editorial last Wednesday, moaned that the 98 percent agreement is meaningless without completing the two percent. By yesterday, the Post was on the verge of hysteria. In an editorial entitled "Spoiling Camp David," an editorialist-oracle drooled:

"What worries us right now, to be blunt about it, is the threat posed to the Camp David accords by Menachem Begin. It may seem ungracious, in this moment of celebration, to identify him in a prospective spoiler's role. Yet what is one to make of the way he has been acting a good part of the time since the summit 'frameworks' were signed? He has stressed not the three partners' common enterprise but the putative victories he gained on this or that point and the losses inflicted on others."

Exactly where and when did Begin do this? Never mind the facts. The oracle had spoken and then added a caveat: "Prime Minister Begin has succeeded in raising the destructive suspicion that he might like to render it politically impossible for Jordan and the Palestinians to join the negotiating process offered in the West Bank 'framework.'" This "destructive suspicion," entirely in the mind of the editorial writer, is the earmark of paranoia better suited to the analyst's couch than to the paper on which it was written.

### A Monumental Development Minimized

The media, by and large, blew the big story, the real story, because it saw no headlines in agreements: accords, especially if television has already recorded the drama and history instantaneously with the actual event, lack the exploitative and sensationalistic enticement which so many journalistic hookers require to peddle their wares. Disagreements can be embroidered, enhanced, dramatized, exacerbated, and wowed. They lend themselves to think pieces, analyses, commentaries and formulas. But agreements? The media Draculas are not content unless they can taste blood. It seems that there is nothing loftier and more creative than to pose, compose and dispose of conflicts which are basically those of the media's own creation.

Yet the real drama in the Camp David accords, the genuine history, the monumental development was precisely in the agreements achieved. That Israel and its most powerful Arab neighbor could reach 98 percent agreement after 30 years of intermittent wars, hostilities, suspicions and mutual re-cremations was a qualitative leap forward in the Middle East peace process, as was the fact that the frameworks concretized a perspective of multi-lateral relations between Israel and Egypt and pinpointed specific steps toward involving the West Bank and Gaza Strip residents in determining their own future.

Fortunately, however, the peace made possible by the summit accords is an objective process that cannot be derailed or obscured by cynical headline writers or destructively suspicious editorial writers.

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There will be no Bulletin dated Oct. 2 and none dated Oct. 3 due to Rosh Hashanah. To all our subscribers, Shana Tova.