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BEGIN, SADAT MEET AT EGYPTIAN EMBASSY FOR LAST-MINUTE DETAILS

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, March 25 (JTA) -- Israeli Premier Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat were scheduled to meet at the Egyptian Embassy in Washington tonight to nail down the remaining differences between them before tomorrow's signing of a peace treaty.

Begin, who announced the meeting during an appearance today on CBS-TV's "Face The Nation" did not specify what the discussion would deal with except to say it was about "several problems" connected with the peace treaty. Begin requested the meeting with Sadat.

However, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, who was interviewed shortly afterwards on ABC-TV's "Issues and Answers," said the one remaining issue is the need for Israel to be assured it would receive oil from the Sinai fields it is giving up to Egypt under the treaty. "My personal view is that we, Israel, really cannot sign the treaty without this issue being resolved and settled." But he expressed the belief that "it will be resolved."

The only issue mentioned by Begin was his proposal that Sadat come to Jerusalem and he go to Cairo for additional signings of the peace treaty. Sadat has said that the Washington ceremony will be sufficient. Begin said today that President Carter had told him that Sadat had agreed to the additional ceremonies.

Begin reiterated today what he said after his meeting with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance last night in New York, that the treaty would be signed as scheduled at the White House tomorrow. He said his discussion with Vance had cleared up last minute hitches, but did not say how.

U.S. Assumes Some Responsibility

Dayan said that Carter had given assurances that the U.S. assumed some responsibility for seeing that the peace treaty is implemented, but the assurances did not include a defense treaty. "They are assurances and I think they are satisfactory," he said, "but not as binding and not as extreme as we would have liked them to be." He said should a violation occur the U.S. could take "political measures, economic measures, and - very far-fetched - military measures."

Begin, in his interview, proposed that after the treaty is signed both Egypt and Israel open their borders to each other. "Let Egyptians come to Israel and they will have free access to their holy shrines, to Al Aksa Mosque," he declared. "We shall go to Egypt. I suppose we will run to the pyramids in which our forefathers invested labor." The Premier said if this happens "other nations in the Middle East will see that we can live together."

When Begin was asked about the possibility of freeing prisoners after the treaty, he replied, "We don't have prisoners of war. We have so-called security prisoners, who carry out terrorist attacks. We shall consider any possibility provided the security of Israel is not affected."

CABINET APPROVES MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING

By Gil Sedan and Barbie Zellner

JERUSALEM, March 25 (JTA) -- The Cabinet

today approved the United States-Israeli memorandum of understanding which is designed to provide U.S. political assurances on the implementation of the peace treaty with Egypt.

Approval at the seven-hour session came after the memorandum was agreed upon by Premier Menachem Begin and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance at a meeting in New York last night. Acting Premier Zevulun Hammer consulted Begin by telephone during the Cabinet meeting.

The memorandum was approved by the nine Cabinet members who stayed in Israel, acting as a ministerial defense committee although the actual committee, with the exception of Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, was on its way to Washington for the peace treaty signing ceremony. They are expected to approve the memorandum after they arrive in Washington. No details were given here regarding the contents of the memorandum. Neither Begin nor Vance gave any details after their meeting in New York.

Sharon did not go to Washington because of his dissatisfaction with the treaty. He had voted for the treaty in the Knesset last Thursday after earlier opposing it in the Cabinet vote. In a television interview over the weekend he said Israel was making one-sided gestures toward Egypt, such as permitting political activity in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the moving of army command posts out of Gaza. "And if I were to tell you what I know, apart from what everyone read in the papers, the picture would look much worse," Sharon said.

This issue was also discussed at the Cabinet meeting. A resolution was adopted and forwarded to Begin but it was not made public.

Tensions On The West Bank

The Cabinet also discussed the tension on the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Following the meeting, Hammer was asked what the Cabinet would do if Gush Emunim should try to establish new settlements without authorization.

"I don't see any special point in such settlements," Hammer said. He said the Cabinet will be discussing the problem of autonomy and of settlements for the next month. "I don't see any special value in demonstrating right now," he said. "But if somebody tries to establish the settlements, we shall have to act accordingly."

Meanwhile, King Hussein's supporters on the West Bank have for the first time publicly condemned the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and the autonomy plan. At a meeting in East Jerusalem last Thursday they issued a statement charging that the autonomy plan will perpetuate "Israeli occupation." They said they would work for an independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the Palestinian Liberation Organization and called on all Arab states to punish Egyptian President Anwar Sadat for his "betrayal of the Arab and Palestinian cause."

Among those participating in the meeting were Anwar el-Hatib, who was governor of the Jerusalem district under the Jordanian regime, and Sheikh Saad A-Din Almi, Mufti of East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

However, Sadat is apparently ready to make a strong attempt to win West Bank support for the autonomy plan once the treaty is signed. The Israeli Arabic language newspaper Al Kuds said last Friday that an Egyptian delegation will come

to the West Bank soon to meet with important figures.

Meanwhile, security was extremely tight in Jerusalem today following an explosion near Zion Square Friday afternoon which killed one man and injured 13 others. The dead man was identified as Yisrael Yaacov, 72, of Jerusalem. The PLO in Beirut claimed responsibility for the bombing.

THE MOOD IN WASHINGTON

THE COUNT-DOWN BEGINS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 25 (JTA) -- On the eve of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty signing tomorrow, the mood in political Washington is epitomized in phrases such as, "This is Jimmy's show," as President Anwar Sadat of Egypt said, "Peace at last" and, "Will this thing stick — will it bring more peace or more trouble?"

Against a background of intensifying hostility by the anti-Sadat forces in Arab and Communist capitals, the treaty signing at the White House will be under skies that are predicted partly sunny or partly cloudy as nature astutely kept pace with the global political climate.

President and Mrs. Anwar Sadat were resting at the Egyptian Embassy today following their unexpectedly early arrival last evening. Sadat told Vice President Walter Mondale who welcomed them that he has come in the "holy pursuit of peace."

Premier and Mrs. Menachem Begin arrived late today from New York. Last night in New York, after a 75-minute meeting with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to tie up "loose ends" to the treaty package, Begin smilingly paraphrased Shakespeare to reporters, saying, "The question is, to sign or not to sign. And we sign."

President Carter, who is receiving vast credit for his initiatives that led to the treaty signing, was back in Washington after addressing a town meeting yesterday in the western Oklahoma town of Elk City, keeping a commitment from his election campaign of returning there to speak.

Thousands At Signing Ceremonial

The signing itself on the lawn in front of the White House facing Pennsylvania Avenue is to have a still undetermined number of invited spectators — perhaps as many as 4000. All 531 members of the U. S. Congress and Washington's entire diplomatic corps have been invited along with hundreds of others, including leaders of the American Jewish community.

While no representatives from the Soviet bloc and few Arab diplomats are expected to appear, interest will center on how many of the Third World countries will be represented.

Tomorrow night, some 1300 of the guests will assemble under a huge tent at the rear of the White House and sit down at 130 tables decorated with forsythia, hurricane lamps and tablecloths of yellow and green on white backgrounds. The menu calls for salmon, roast beef, hazelnut mousse and three wines.

At Sadat's invitation, an Egyptian trio consisting of Omar Khorshed, playing guitar; Gaïal Said Raheem, table drum; and Mohamed Helmy Amen, electric organ, will entertain, along with violinist Yitzhak Perlman and pianist Pinchas Zukerman, vited by Begin, and Leontyne Price, invited by Carter.

To help meet the costs of the affair, the big-gest since President Nixon entertained some 400 returned Vietnam prisoners of war and their fami-

lies on the South Lawn, the White House said it has invited corporations to send representatives to the dinner at \$1000 a plate.

Hectic Weekend Activities

Meanwhile a hectic round of activities took place over the weekend. Carter, in separate interviews with Israeli and Egyptian television declared his position toward the Palestine Liberation Organization as unchanged. To the Egyptians, he said he will talk with the PLO "immediately" if it accepts United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 and recognizes Israel's right to exist. He did not say "immediately" to the Israelis.

In neither interview did Carter mention "preference," as he did last year, that the West Bank's future be related to Jordan. A top Carter Administration official, asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency about this omission, replied "Nothing has been done or decided regarding the PLO on the question you just raised."

After saying the U. S. is in a "neutral position," he added, "As we get into new negotiations" and "as new situations arise we will have to deal with them." The impression he left is that the Carter Administration may have shifted away from a West Bank tie with Jordan which opposes the treaty and the Camp David accords.

The treaty package is made up, an Administration official said, of the treaty itself, three diplomatic economic and military annexes, two or three maps, two or three pages of minutes, several sideletters and interpretations. There are, in addition, two U. S.-Israeli memoranda, still incomplete. One deals with the U. S. oil supply guarantee for 15 years to Israel and the other on political assurances should the treaty dissolve or be violated.

The official said that nothing in the treaty package will require Congressional approval. The agreements on aid to Egypt and Israel, however, will involve Congressional approval. Presentations to Congress are expected soon.

ANTI-SEMITISM IN ITALY

By Lisa Palmieri-Billing

ROME, March 25 (JTA) -- After the neo-Nazi demonstrations March 8 by 100 teenagers at the Israel-Italy basketball match in the northern city of Varese, and a counter-demonstration by Roman Jewish youths at a match by the same Italian team a few days ago in the town of Rieti in which a large number of local people supported the Jewish demonstrators, flare-ups of anti-Semitism have been noted all over Italy. The group behind them is in all likelihood small, but well-organized and vociferous, officials said.

Signs range from Nazi graffiti on the walls — "Jews to the ovens" — to anonymous messages to newspapers and schools. In the past three days, Jewish nursery and elementary schools in Rome, housing about 1000 children, have had to interrupt classes and take the children on walks while the police searched the buildings for bombs announced by telephone calls. However, no bombs were found.

A popular afternoon paper, "Paese Sera," (Communist), printed an announcement last Thursday, phoned in by a frightened citizen who related that an anonymous phone caller had threatened "an atrocious vendetta" if the message he dictated to her was not printed the next day.

She said the caller had apparently chosen her number by chance in the telephone directory. The message announced "a month of anti-Semitic guard duty," adding, "We defy citizens to go to public places or stores of Jews."

As annoying as these isolated incidents are, what really disturbs Italian Jewish observers are the occasional newspaper articles that bear the worn-out marks of the insidious anti-Semitism of the past.

A recent example is a pseudo-scholarly article on Karl Marx's views on Shylock, published last Thursday by the internationally circulated "Corriere Della Sera," in the context of a coming production of Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice." The author said, for example, that "Marx, the Jew was rather inclined towards vulgar prejudices; for example, the constitutional miserliness of the typical, crude Jewish merchant." While apparently hinging on "facts only," the author chose to single out a Jewish intellectual's anti-Jewish prejudices.

ARABS STONE JEWS FOLLOWING RUMOR OF PRAYER ON THE TEMPLE MOUNT

By Barbie Zelizer

JERUSALEM, March 25 (JTA) -- Some 2,000 Arabs gathered on the Temple Mount in the Old City of Jerusalem, stoned yeshiva students yesterday as rumors spread that supporters of Rabbi Meir Kahane would attempt to pray on the Temple Mount. Six of the students and some 50 Arab youths were detained by the police.

The incident came on the heels of recent attempts by Jewish militant groups to pray inside the compound, which is a sacred site to both Jews and Moslems, as well as against a background of general unrest following the success of President Carter's peace mission. This was the second straight Sabbath that disturbances took place in the area.

The incident was marked by a general business strike in East Jerusalem and the Old City as well. Close to 10 a.m., hundreds of Arab youths began arriving in the Temple compound, armed with stones, rocks and iron bars. By mid-afternoon, the demonstrators had closed off the Mount to all but Moslems, and security personnel failed to gain entrance to the area.

Incident Sparked by Sermon

The stoning incident took place about 5 p.m. when a group of 20 yeshiva students were spotted on their way to the Temple Mount. Moslem youths consequently began stoning them, until police intervention put a halt to their activities. While 50 Arabs were taken into custody, the rest of the demonstrators remained in the compound overnight to continue guarding the site.

The incident and mass demonstration was apparently set off by a sermon delivered by the Sheikh of Al-Aksa Mosque, which is situated on the Temple Mount. In his traditional speech on Friday, the Moslem Sabbath, the Sheikh told thousands of worshippers that an attempt by Jewish demonstrators to pray on the site on the following day was expected. He called on them all to attend the prayer session on Saturday in order to guard the compound from them.

Although only one incident of actual violence took place, the atmosphere in the area yesterday was extremely hostile. Hundreds of policemen, border patrolmen and military personnel were stationed in the area in order to avert additional outbreaks.

SENATORS SEEK ASSURANCES ON JEWS AND OTHER MINORITIES IN IRAN

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 25 (JTA) -- Nine

Senators disclosed yesterday they have asked Iranian Prime Minister Mehdi Bazorgan for assurances on the treatment of Jews and other minorities in Iran. In a letter to him, the Senators said they "recognize and appreciate the efforts your government has made here in Washington" to meet with representatives of the American Jewish community "to discuss the future of that religious minority in Iran."

The Senators said that while statements by Ayatollah Khomeini before he returned to Iran from his exile in France provide "us with a most important source of assurance on this matter," the Senators sought reaffirmation of that position.

"We would welcome any comment or message of reassurance concerning your government's policy in this area, since it would address a fundamental and genuine concern felt by those we represent," they wrote. The letter said the Senators were pleased by actions of Iranian representatives in Washington and statements by the Ayatollah related to religious freedom but some concerns still remain.

"The communities of Bahais, Zoroastrians, Jews and Christians appear particularly vulnerable to mistreatment by some groups claiming to act with the authority of your government," the Senators stated. "We remain aware of, and must communicate to you, the concerns expressed to us about the potential for harassment of these religious groups" and the concern here over how the Iranian upheaval would affect members of religious minorities in Iran.

Sen. Donald Stewart (D. Ala.) originated the letter which was signed by Senators Jacob Javits (R. N.Y.), Birch Bayh (D. Ind.), Howard Metzenbaum (D. Ohio), Abraham Ribicoff (D. Conn.), Richard Stone (D. Fla.), Robert Dole (R. Kans.), George McGovern (D. S.D.), and Carl Levin (D. Mich.).

SIR JOHN COHEN DEAD AT 80

LONDON, March 25 (JTA) -- Sir John Cohen, the East-End Jewish Barrow boy who founded Britain's biggest supermarket chain, Tesco's, died today at the age of 80. He was a household figure, with his boxer's nose and his East-End Jewish accent.

Jack Cohen, as he was known until he was knighted, began business as a street trader after World War I and carved his way to success by ruthless price-cutting, which angered his competitors but endeared him to the housewife. He popularized trading stamps in Britain and his business recently opened its 600th store. Ten years ago he handed the chairmanship of Tesco's to one of his sons-in-law, Lesly Porter.

In World War I, he served in the Royal Flying Corps and was in Haifa when it was captured by the British. A frequent visitor to Israel, he was a generous benefactor to many Jewish as well as non-Jewish charities. His stores are major distributors in Britain of Israeli foodstuffs.

COPENHAGEN (JTA) -- The chairman of the local Jewish community, Henry Kormind, has asked the West German government to continue prosecuting Nazi war criminals without regard as to when they committed their crimes. Kormind said in his letter that many members of the Danish Jewish community had been in Nazi concentration camps and had lost members of their families in the gas chambers. He said "such crimes cannot be covered by a law providing for statute of limitations and can never be proscribed." The statute of limitations is due to go into effect in West Germany Jan. 1, 1980.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

EUROPE DISCREETLY MUM ON TREATY

By Edward Eytan

PARIS, March 25 (JTA) -- Western Europe has kept a striking silence over the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. The European Economic Community (EEC) nine member states, usually prompt to react on most international issues, have kept a discreet silence. There has been no joint communique welcoming the treaty, no messages of good wishes and no official rejoicings. This, in spite of Europe's geographic proximity to the Middle East, its heavy oil dependence on the area and its traditional close links with both Israel and Egypt.

Some individual countries, and usually at ministerial level, have expressed some satisfaction but the EEC as a body has adopted an attitude of "wait and see," with officials stressing, on the record and privately, that the treaty falls short of what they had expected.

Egyptian President Anwar Sadat has personally contacted most of West Europe's leaders to explain his decision and plead for their support. He has had over a dozen such telephone conversations with France's President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, Germany's Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, Britain's Prime Minister James Callaghan and even Austria's Chancellor Bruno Kreisky.

Last week, his deputy President Hosni Mubarak toured Western Europe, meeting with all those leaders again. To all he explained that the treaty is only "a first step" towards a comprehensive agreement and that what Egypt now needs is help and encouragement to break down the Arab wall of hostility and suspicion.

A few days later, the American Deputy Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, undertook a similar mission. At the onset, Christopher, according to American sources, hoped to mobilize not only political support in Europe but also some financial assistance for Egypt and help set up a program of European investments in Egypt and Israel to help alleviate America's burden. The only country which made no promises but did not reject him outright was West Germany. However, a few days after his departure, even Bonn fell in line with its European partners.

Refuses To Become Involved

Western Europe refuses to become involved in President Carter's peace plan. Its officials stress their skepticism on its chances of success and some even say that the treaty might be worse than the previous situation of no war and no peace.

The West Europeans are not prepared to invest money as part of the treaty and are not even prepared to use their influence with the other Arab states to help diminish their hostility to Egypt and Sadat. Egyptian diplomats in Paris openly blame France for this West European approach. They claim, with a certain justification, that France has used its influence to turn the tide against the treaty.

They are especially bitter because of Sadat's past attempts to cultivate cooperation with France, political consultations with its government and his own friendly ties with Giscard. As a sign of displeasure, Sadat pointedly decided to avoid a stop-over in Paris, as he was scheduled to make, while on his way to Washington for the signing ceremony.

French officials reply that France had always made its position clear and that Giscard had invariably advised Sadat to avoid a separate peace treaty. "As recently as mid-March," French

officials say, "the President (Giscard) phoned Sadat to press this point and warn him that a bilateral agreement with Israel would have dire consequences for Egypt and for the entire Middle East."

French officials openly admit that France clearly told its West European partners that it believes the treaty to be unworkable because it does not solve the Palestinian problem and because it falls far short of the comprehensive approach France has traditionally advocated. The French add that they did not have "to do much talking -- practically all the Europeans agreed with us to wait for nine months or so and see how the autonomy plan on the West Bank and Gaza Strip will be implemented and how the other Arab states will react."

Motivated By Political Considerations

Western Europe is also motivated by practical considerations. Contrary to what happens in the United States, over 80 percent of their energy comes from the Arab countries: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Libya and Iraq for oil; and Algeria for natural gas. Most of these countries have turned against Egypt and are opposed to the treaty with Israel.

While Egypt is an economic burden to those West European countries which have business deals with Cairo, all have profitable commercial exchanges with Syria and Iraq. Most European governments also continue to believe that no treaty can be a success unless the Soviet Union participates in its drafting and gives its approval.

The Soviet Union is a political reality in Europe where politicians regularly look over their shoulders toward the Ural to see what Moscow wants and how it feels. The USSR's exclusion, Europe's lack of participation and the general impression that the peace is a 100 percent American operation has further contributed to Europe's detachment and mute indifference.

For a while, public opinion has gone along with the official stand. Most European commentators voice skepticism as to the treaty's chances of success and journalists in the Middle East concentrate on reporting the Palestinian stand. Never before has the Palestine Liberation Organization been so much in the news than now.

Israeli Diplomacy Silent

Strangely, Israeli diplomacy has kept silent. No Israeli ministers or high officials have visited Europe in their turn to try and explain the necessity for the treaty or its beneficial potential. Pro-Israeli supporters and the Jewish communities have not been mobilized for this cause and generally not even informed of what Israel wants and where it stands.

Israeli embassies have received no instructions from Jerusalem and Israeli diplomats when they acted have generally done so on their own initiatives. There have been no "Peace Day" festivities in the Jewish communities, no rejoicing, and for most of Western Europe's one million Jews, peace day has been just another day in Israel's 31 year history.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- A majority of Israelis believe that true peace between Israel and Egypt can be achieved within the coming year and almost the same majority believe Egyptian President Anwar Sadat is really and truly interested in peace. A public opinion poll arranged for Yediot Achronot shows, however, that 64 percent of those polled noted that they believe the U.S. is encouraging the establishment of a Palestinian state, and 89 percent agree that a Palestinian state will constitute a threat to Israel's security.