

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## HISTORIC TURNING POINT -- A NEW ERA BEGINS

### PEACE TREATY BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT ENDS 30 YEARS OF HOSTILITY

Carter: "... the first step of peace ... on a long and difficult road."

Begin: "We must never forsake that vision, that human dream, that unshakeable faith."

Sadat: "A new dawn is emerging out of the darkness of the past."

#### CEREMONY HEARD AROUND THE WORLD

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, March 26 (JTA) -- Israel and Egypt signed their historic peace treaty on the White House lawn shortly after 2 p. m. local time today before some 4,000 invited spectators. In the ceremony televised around the world, Premier Menachem Begin of Israel and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt solemnly affixed their signatures to the documents of peace and President Jimmy Carter signed as witness on behalf of the United States.

The treaty documents were signed in three versions -- English, Hebrew and Arabic. Begin and Sadat began by signing the texts of the agreed minutes which contain clarifications of the peace treaty. After each signed, Carter signed as witness. They next signed the "agreed letter" covering the timetable toward moves for autonomy on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Finally, all three leaders signed the body of the treaty. All of the documents together had the thickness of a yellow pages telephone directory.

#### A Victory Of A Peace Campaign

For Israel, its first treaty of peace with an Arab state came just two months shy of 31 years after its rebirth as a sovereign nation. For the first time, an Arab government formally recognized Israel as a sovereign Jewish State. The three leaders -- Carter, Sadat and Begin -- hailed the momentous event, each in his own words.

Carter, who was the first to speak after the signing, declared: "Today we celebrate a victory -- not of a bloody military campaign, but of an inspiring peace campaign. Two leaders who will loom large in history -- Anwar al-Sadat and Menachem Begin -- have conducted this campaign with all the courage, tenacity, brilliance and inspiration of any generals who ever led men and machines on the field of battle."

Sadat, who followed Carter, said, "This is certainly one of the happiest moments of my life. It is a historic turning point of great significance for all peace-loving nations. Today, a new dawn is emerging out of the darkness of the past. A new chapter is being opened in the history of co-existence among nations, one that is worthy of our spiritual values and civilization."

Begin declared in his speech, "Despite the tragedies and disappointments of the past, we must never forsake that vision, that human dream, that unshakeable faith. Peace is the beauty of life; it is sunshine, it is the smile of a child, the love of the mother, the joy of the father, the togetherness of a family; it is the

advancement of men, the victory of a just cause, the triumph of right. Peace is all these and more ..."

#### Begin Praises Carter And Sadat

The Israeli Premier referred to Carter as "an intransigent fighter for peace" and of Sadat he said, "In the face of hostility and adversity you have demonstrated the human quality that can change history: civil courage. Now it is the time for all of us to proclaim to our peoples: no more war, no more bloodshed, peace unto you, shalom, salaam forever." Begin donned a skullcap for his petoration, a reading in Hebrew, of Psalm 126.

Sadat said of Carter, "To me, he has been the best companion and partner along the road to peace with his deep sense of justice and genuine commitment to human rights, we were able to surmount the most difficult obstacles."

The Egyptian leader, in his speech, omitted a passage addressed to Carter that appeared in his prepared text: "No one is more entitled to your support and backing than the Palestinian people. A grave injustice was inflicted upon them in the past. They need a reassurance that they will be able to take the first step on the road to self-determination and statehood. A dialogue between the United States and the representatives of the Palestinian people will be a very helpful development."

One impression was that Sadat deliberately avoided that passage while another version had it that he inadvertently passed over it. From the context of his address, however, it appeared that Sadat sought to avoid controversy on this occasion.

Begin introduced the only moment of levity when he said he agreed with Sadat that Carter was an "unknown soldier" in the cause of peace, adding, to laughter and applause, "as usual, with an amendment." Begin was applauded 11 times in the course of his address and Carter and Begin were each applauded five times.

While Sadat did not mention Begin by name, there were warm references in his remarks to the "hundreds of thousands of Israelis who remained unwavering in their commitment to peace" and to "hundreds of dedicated individuals on both sides (who) have given generously of their thought and effort to translate the cherished dream into a living reality." (See separate stories for excerpts from the speeches of Carter, Sadat and Begin.)

As the treaty signing ceremonies were getting underway here, an explosion rocked a section of the Old City of Jerusalem, injuring 13 persons, most of them tourists. It occurred in a narrow alley near the Lion's Gate through which Israel forces stormed the Old City during the Six-Day War in 1967.

Meanwhile, Syria and the Soviet Union released a joint communique in Damascus and Moscow today warning that the Israeli-Egyptian treaty would increase tensions in the Middle East. The communique followed three days of talks in Damascus between

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and President Hafez Assad of Syria. It said that both Syria and the USSR "firmly reject separate deals and the attempts of imperialism to expand its military presence in the Middle East region under the guise of the Israeli-Egyptian treaty" which was "directed against Arab interests." The two countries called for united efforts by all Arab states against the treaty and for implementation of last November's Baghdad summit decisions which include political and economic sanctions against Egypt if it signed a treaty with Israel.

#### Anti-Peace Treaty Rally

The ceremonies on the White House lawn were held under sunny skies but a chilly wind snapped the American, Egyptian and Israeli flags.

Throughout the ceremony, some 2000 demonstrators, many wearing Arab head-dress, shouted anti-treaty slogans from Lafayette Park across Pennsylvania Ave. The demonstrators, organized by an Arab student group, yelled such things as "Shah is gone -- Sadat is next" and "Self-determination for the Palestinians." The demonstrators were surrounded by battalions of police who kept them within the confines of the park for which they had a permit.

Their imprecations could be heard on the White House lawn. Also heard were the bells of St. John's Episcopal Church, near the park, which rang constantly in celebration of the peace treaty.

#### Transition From War To Peace

The treaty marked a transition for Israel from a state of war to a state of peace with its largest and most powerful Arab neighbor after four full-scale wars, and a war of attrition. Egypt is the only one of 22 Arab nations thus to make peace with the Jewish State. But its population of 40 million equals the combined populations of the other 21 countries.

Egyptians were saying in Cairo that not since Sherif Hussein of Mecca has any Arab taken a political action of such historic implications as has Sadat. Hussein's act was to cast the lot of the Arabs with the Allies in World War I.

Although the road to peace between Israel and Egypt was a tortuous one, fraught with obstacles and crises, the process was not unduly long in the perspective of nearly 31 years of war and belligerency. Only 17 months ago, the Carter Administration was thinking in terms of a renewed Geneva conference and a Soviet-American solution to Middle East problems. But Sadat demolished that strategy with his historic trip to Jerusalem in November, 1977.

#### EXCERPTS FROM SADAT'S SPEECH

WASHINGTON, March 26 (JTA) -- Following are excerpts from Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's address:

Today, a new dawn is emerging out of the darkness of the past. A new chapter is being opened in the history of co-existence among nations, one that is worthy of our spiritual values and civilization. Never before had men encountered such a complex dispute which is highly charged with emotions. Never before did men need that much courage and imagination to confront a single challenge. . . .

Men and women of good will have labored day and night to bring about this happy moment. Egyptians and Israelis alike pursued their sacred goal undeterred by difficulties and complications. Hundreds of dedicated individuals on both sides

have given generously of their thought and effort to translate the cherished dream into a living reality. But the man who performed the miracle was President Carter. Without any exaggeration, what he did constitutes one of the greatest achievements of our time. . . .

We are also heartened by the understanding of hundreds of thousands of Israelis who remained unwavering in their commitment to peace. The continuation of this spirit is vital to the coronation of our effort.

We realize that difficult times lay ahead. The signing of these documents marks only the beginning of peace. But it is an indispensable start. Other steps remain to be taken without delay or procrastination. Much will depend on the success of these steps. We are all committed to pursue our efforts until the fruits of the comprehensive settlement we agreed upon are shared by all parties to the conflict.

Let there be no more war or bloodshed between Arabs and Israelis who lived together in peace and harmony for centuries. Let there be no more suffering or denial of rights. Let there be no more despair or loss of faith. Let no mother lament the loss of her child. Let no young man waste his life on a conflict from which no one benefits. . . .

#### EXCERPTS FROM CARTER'S ADDRESS

WASHINGTON, March 26 (JTA) -- Following are excerpts from President Carter's speech:

During the past 30 years, Israel and Egypt have waged war. For the past 16 months, these two great nations have waged peace. Today we celebrate a victory -- not of a bloody military campaign but of an inspiring peace campaign. . . .

At the end of this campaign the soil of the two lands is not drenched with young blood. The country sides of both lands are free from the litter and carnage of a wasteful war. Mothers in Egypt and Israel are not weeping today for their children fallen in senseless battle. The dedication and determination of these two world statesmen (Premier Menachem Begin of Israel and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt) have borne fruit. Peace has come. . . .

I honor these two leaders and their government officials who have hammered out this peace treaty which we sign. But most of all I honor the people of these two lands whose yearning for peace kept alive the negotiations which today culminate in this glorious event. We have won, at least, the first step of peace -- a first step on a long and difficult road. We must not minimize the obstacles that lie ahead. . . .

Differences still separate the signatories to this treaty from each other and also from some of their neighbors who fear what they have done. To overcome those differences, to dispel those fears, we must re-dedicate ourselves to the goal of a broader peace with justice for all who have lived in a state of conflict in the Middle East. We have no illusions -- we have hopes, dreams, prayers, yet -- but no illusions. . . .

There now remains the rest of the Arab world whose support and cooperation in the peace process is needed and honestly sought. . . . I am convinced that other Arab people need and want peace, but some leaders are not yet willing to honor these needs and desires. We must now demonstrate the advantages of peace, and expand its benefits to encompass all those who have suffered in the Middle East. . . . Let those who would shatter peace -- who would callously spill blood -- be aware that we three and all others who may join us will vigorously wage peace. . . .

#### EXCERPTS FROM BEGIN'S SPEECH

WASHINGTON, March 26 (JTA) -- Following

are excerpts from Israeli Premier Menachem Begin's speech:

I have come from the land of Israel, the land of Zion and Jerusalem, and here I am in humility and with pride as a son of the Jewish people as one of the generation of the Holocaust and redemption. The ancient Jewish people gave the world a vision of eternal peace and universal disarmament, of abolishing the teaching and the language of war.

Peace is the beauty of life. It is sunshine, it is the smile of a child, the love of the mother, the joy of the father, the togetherness of a family. It is the advancement of men, the victory of the just cause, the triumph of truth. Peace is all of these and more, and more.

These are words I uttered in Oslo on December 10, 1978, while receiving the second half of the Nobel (Peace) Prize. The first half went, rightly so, to President Sadat. And I took the liberty to repeat them here on this momentous, historic occasion. It is a great day in the annals of two ancient nations, Egypt and Israel, whose sons met in battle five times in one generation, fighting and falling. Let us pay in our hearts, and our heads, a great tribute to their eternal memory. It is thanks to them, our fallen heroes, that we could have reached this day.

However, let us not forget that in ancient times our two nations met also in alliance. Now we make peace the cornerstone of cooperation and friendship. It is a great day in your life, Mr. President of the United States. You have worked so hard, so insistently, so consistently, to achieve this goal and your labors and your devotion draw God's blessed fruits.

A great field commander once said civil courage is sometimes more difficult to show than military courage. You showed both, Mr. President. But now it is time for all parties to show civil courage in order to proclaim to our peoples and to others: no more war, no more bloodshed, no more bereavements. Peace unto you, shalom, salaam forever.

And it is, ladies and gentlemen, the third greatest day in my life. The first was May 14, 1948, when our flag was hoisted. Our independence in our ancestral land was proclaimed after 1878 years of dispersion, persecution, humiliation and, ultimately, physical destruction. We fought for our liberation and with God's help we won the day. That was spring. Such a spring that we can never have again. The second day was when Jerusalem became one city and our bravest and perhaps most hardened soldiers, the parachutists, embraced with tears and kissed the ancient stones, the remnants of the wall destined to protect the chosen place of God's glory. Our hearts wept with them in remembrance.

#### PEACE CELEBRATIONS IN ISRAEL

By Gil Sedan and Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, March 26 (JTA) -- The signing of a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt was celebrated in Israel today with religious services of thanksgiving at the Western Wall, dancing in the streets of Israel's major cities and public viewing of the treaty signing in Washington which was shown outdoors on large screens set up in scores of cities and towns.

But despite the historic moment, the general mood throughout the country was subdued and even somber, reflecting the concern of many Israelis over the risks Israel is taking with accepting the treaty's terms.

Some 1200 members of youth movements, secondary school pupils and youth battalion members placed 160,000 red carnations on the graves of Israelis -- Jews, Druze, Bedouins and members of other minorities -- who fell in battle since 1948. "We humbly remember and shall never forget who gave their lives to make this day possible," the army's chief chaplain said during a ceremony at the military cemetery in Jerusalem.

All public buildings in the country flew the Israeli flag to mark the day. Special ceremonies and assemblies were held in every school, and many persons who took part in Israel's struggle for independence appeared before classes and youth groups, telling their personal stories. President Yitzhak Navon, in a special address to the nation, spoke in both Hebrew and Arabic.

#### Navon Urges Arabs To Join Peace

Navon called on Arab leaders and Arabs throughout the Mideast to end their animosity and join the peace process, and support the autonomy plan. He said that the treaty with Egypt was not a separate agreement, but rather the first in a series of similar agreements with the neighboring countries.

Navon expressed special admiration for the Egyptian people, who, he said, decided to face the future and let "the bitterness and the suffering of the past drift away with the Nile to the great sea." He also stressed the special role President Carter played in the peace process and the efforts of Premier Menachem Begin, "thanks to which we have reached the hour of a peace encounter between the national Arab movement and the national movement of the Jewish people."

Navon urged the Arab leaders to listen to the "bell of history which rings with new tunes." In traditional Arab flowery style, he added: "The procession of peacemakers marching on. Do not throw rocks at it. On the contrary, give it your blessings, and those who bless, will be blessed from above."

During the thanksgiving ceremony at the Western Wall, the world famous violinist Yehudi Menuhin played a Bach Prelude. In an interview over the Israel Army Broadcasting Service, composer-conductor Leonard Bernstein said that he was glad the peace treaty had been signed. "I have a dream that one day I shall conduct Aida near the pyramids with the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra and with the Egyptian ballet troupe," he said.

But while Israel celebrated its first treaty with an Arab nation, Arabs on the West Bank staged a general strike, declaring today as "a day of mourning." West Bank leaders bitterly condemned the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, saying that Egyptian President Anwar Sadat has betrayed them.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- President Carter's recent trip to Israel has increased his reliability in the eyes of Israelis, according to the results of a public survey released several days ago. The survey, conducted by the Information Ministry, polled a representative sample of the urban Jewish adult population in Israel. Seventy-four percent of the respondents noted that they trust Carter's policy concerning Israel, as compared to only 33 percent who responded favorably during February. According to the sample, most of the Israeli public supports a defense pact with the United States (70 percent) and American guarantees on Israel's borders during peacetime (66 percent). In addition, 62 percent trust American obligations to countries which have signed a defense treaty with it.

## JEWISH LEADERS JUBILANT BUT CAUTIOUS ABOUT PEACE TREATY

NEW YORK, March 26 (JTA) -- Jewish leaders across the country viewed the signing of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt as the beginning of a new era in the relations between Israel and its major Arab neighbor and as a momentous step forward in the quest for peace. But the jubilation of some of the leaders was tempered by caution that many obstacles remain in the path of a lasting peace in the Mideast.

Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser, executive vice president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), in remarks to the 90th national convention of the CCAR in Phoenix, Arizona, termed the signing "a milestone occasion." However, he added, "there are so many conditions, there is so much hatred being spewed forth by other governments. There is so much peril for Israel in its drawbacks from the Sinai and confrontation on its northern and eastern borders, that it would be self-deception to celebrate with unbridled joy."

A similar approach was taken by Ivan Nasrck, president of the Zionist Organization of America. While "rejoicing in the establishment of peace," he said the ZOA felt "serious reservations" about some of the treaty's provisions. He pointed out that "peace remains fragile and is threatened by Syria, Iraq and Libya recently joined by Saudi Arabia and Jordan who, allied with the Palestine Liberation Organization, reject the peace and plan war against Israel."

### Caution About Illusions

Jubilation along with caution was also expressed by Prof. Seymour Martin-Lipset, national chairman of American Professors for Peace in the Middle East. He expressed confidence that "the momentum for peace, once begun, cannot be allowed to slacken." Noting that the treaty "will inaugurate a new era of understanding for the trouble-plagued Middle East," Lipset also pointed out that "We have no illusions that this agreement will automatically temper the conflicting passions that have characterized the relations between Israel and Egypt in the past."

Dávid Smerling, president of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago and the Jewish United Fund (JUF), and James Rice, executive vice president, said that President Carter, Premier Menachem Begin of Israel and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt fulfilled the Biblical injunction to "seek peace." They also expressed the hope that the treaty will lead to peace throughout the Mideast and throughout the world.

Raymond Epstein, chairman of the Public Affairs Committee of the JUF, sent a telegram to Begin stating, "May this day, the 27th of Adar, be celebrated by future generations as Yom Hashalom." In a telegram to Carter, he praised the President for the "inspired leadership" he gave to the negotiations. In a telegram to Sadat, Epstein praised his courage and leadership and expressed hope that the people of Egypt "will long enjoy the blessings of peace."

Other statements hailing the peace treaty were issued by Bernice Tannenbaum, president of Hadassah; Morton Mandel, president of the Council of Jewish Federations; Albert Chernin, executive vice president of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council; Rabbi Ely Pilchik, president of the CCAR; Richard Maass, president of the American Jewish Committee; and Jack Gose, president of the

## United Israel Appeal of Canada

### Thanksgiving Convocations, Services

In related actions, the CCAR held a religious convocation in the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Phoenix where the convention was being held. The several hundred Reform rabbis recited prayers of peace, redemption and thanksgiving. One prayer was the traditional "Shehechiyanu," which says: "Blessed is the Lord, our God, ruler of the universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this happy day."

In Philadelphia, the Jewish Community Relations Council held a community-wide thanksgiving observance of the signing of the treaty. It was highlighted by an ecumenical religious service with participation by community leaders and dignitaries. In New York, the Jewish Community Relations Council staged an observance of peace at the Isaiah Wall opposite the United Nations.

In New York's Times Square, a series of animated messages hailing the signing of the peace treaty began flashing out to the crowds this morning from the spectacular sign on the Allied Chemical Building. Arranged by the United Jewish Appeal-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies Joint Campaign, the messages will continue appearing at approximately five minute intervals, night and day through Wednesday.

"Mazel tov, it's peace" and "Peace can be the start of something great," proclaim the messages, which feature likenesses of President Carter, President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Premier Menachem Begin of Israel, along with other appropriate symbols.

### JUST A LITTLE MISHAP

WASHINGTON, March 26 (JTA) -- Israeli Premier Menachem Begin presented President Carter today with a photo album of the President's recent visit to Jerusalem. The Premier accidentally dropped the cover of the box holding the album on Carter's foot but the mishap was greeted with jokes and added to the happy atmosphere because of the peace treaty signing ceremony later in the day. Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan pointed to the clear blue skies outside after yesterday's rain and told Carter, "I knew you could arrange everything."

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The Israel United Appeal of South Africa will hold a special "Day for Peace for Israel" Wednesday, with the participation of hundreds of volunteers and contributors in Johannesburg to mark the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. It was reported Monday by the head office of the United Israel Appeal-Keren Hayesod in Jerusalem. This is but one of a series of special activities undertaken by Keren Hayesod, in response to a call by world chairman Avraham Avi-Hai to intensify their activities to mark the historic occasion.

DALLAS (JTA) -- President Carter gave the broadcast media much credit Sunday for the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. Speaking to the convention of the National Association of Broadcasters here, Carter said he wondered "if the people of Israel and Egypt would have been as ready to accept peace with each other" if they had not been able to see each other's faces on television or hear each other's voices on radio.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Some 400 demonstrators gathered Sunday in downtown Jerusalem, asking that the government devote as much effort to social peace inside the country as to achieving peace with Egypt.