

# JTA daily news bulletin

Continues elsewhere. Recirculation only by express arrangement.

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency / 165 West 46th Street / New York, New York 10036

Vol. XLVI - 62nd Year

Tuesday, May 29, 1979

No. 102

## BEGIN, SADAT DECLARE OPEN BORDERS ESTABLISH SYMBOLIC AIR CORRIDOR BETWEEN ISRAEL, EGYPT

Two Leaders Will Meet Again in July  
By David Landau, Gil Sedan and Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, May 28 (JTA) — The process of normalizing relations between Israel and Egypt took a giant step forward during a weekend of ceremonial pomp and color highlighted by the return of El Arish to Egyptian sovereignty after 12 years of Israeli administration and the declaration by Premier Menachem Begin and President Anwar Sadat that the borders between their two countries are now open.

The two leaders travelled by helicopter from El Arish to Beersheba where both addressed the students and faculty of Ben Gurion University. From there they embarked on a 45-minute flight in Sadat's Presidential jet over parts of the Negev and Egyptian-controlled Sinai. The flight, originally to have lasted 90 minutes and to have circled both Tel-Aviv and Cairo before returning to Beersheba, was shortened because of the late hour. But it served its purpose to symbolize the open borders and the future air corridors for tourism and commerce between Israel and Egypt.

Dayan Will Meet Egyptian Leaders in Cairo June 4

During the circular flight, Sadat decisively quashed the recent misunderstanding over the open borders issue when he told the pool reporters including the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent, that he had personally overruled his Foreign Minister, Boutros Ghali who had counseled delaying the effective date. Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan will go to Cairo next Monday, June 4 to discuss the technical details involved in opening the borders and other issues pertaining to normal relations, with Ghali and Egyptian Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil. Begin and Sadat arranged to meet again in Alexandria in the first week of July.

The three days of festivities marked an historic juncture in the history of the Middle East and was characterized by genuine warmth between Begin and Sadat. Both men met privately in El Arish Sunday morning, 48 hours after the Israeli flag was hauled down and the red, white and black flag of Egypt was raised over the town of 41,000, the administrative capital of Sinai. In the afternoon, they addressed a gathering of Israeli and Egyptian war invalids in the local movie house, the only auditorium suitable for the occasion.

It was there that Begin announced that he and Sadat had agreed that "the borders are open as of now" and that they would meet in Alexandria in a month's time. He also announced, to rousing applause, that, at the request of President Sadat, "As soon as I return to Israel, I shall take steps to set free a number of (Palestinian) prisoners whose release will not impair the security of Israel."

Later, during their flight over Israeli and Egyptian territory, Sadat pledged that the open borders would be implemented "as fast as possible." With Begin at his side, he said, "We have agreed on the principle that whenever we can give the peace process a momentum we shall do it." He said it will now be up to the ministers of both countries to negotiate the details of accelerated normalization. "We have agreed together today,"

Sadat said, nodding toward Begin, "It is now the duty of the ministers to make the preparations for this."

Sadat Reveals Dispute With Ghali

He revealed that he had been at odds with Ghali and the Foreign Ministry over the open borders issue which was the reason for the contradictory statements emanating from Cairo during the past week. Ghali had said the borders would not be opened until 15 months after the return of El Arish and later reduced it to nine months. "My Ministry of Foreign Affairs opposed the idea," Sadat said. "But I gave my promise to Premier Begin (in Cairo last March). When the Minister (Ghali) was asked, he put forward his ministry's point of view. But I gave my promise. There has never been any misunderstanding at all. We had a very long discussion in Egypt before I came (to El Arish) and it was either I convince them or they convince me. Well, fortunately, I convinced them."

Asked if his relations with Begin were "improving with every meeting," Sadat replied, "Yes, for sure. For sure, yes." One reporter asked if he thought Begin would tone down his statements regarding settlements on the West Bank. Sadat replied, "Let us hope so, let us hope so." He said he found Begin's speech earlier in the day at Ben Gurion University "a good speech." (See separate story.)

Begin, for his part, said both he and Sadat were "barn optimists" and that the day had been a "wonderful day." When those remarks, in Hebrew, were translated for Sadat, the Egyptian President nodded vigorously in approval.

Sadat side-stepped a question about the compatibility of strategic interests between Israel and Egypt in the face of Soviet inspired subversion in the region. He said he did not discuss those problems with Begin. "We are dealing mainly with the Arab-Israeli conflict... we're really very busy with the most important negotiations that we are going to start regarding the full autonomy... I was very happy in El Arish and Beersheba today (but) I am looking forward to the day when we reach agreement on the autonomy for the Western Bank and Gaza."

Israel Frees 16 Prisoners

Sadat said he had not discussed the precise number of Palestinian political prisoners to be released by Israel as a goodwill gesture. "The number is left to him (Begin). I am sure he will be very generous," Sadat said.

Less than 24 hours later, Israel announced the release of 16 Arabs who had been jailed on suspicion of terrorist acts. The group included ten persons detained on administrative orders but not sentenced and six who were sentenced to terms ranging from 2-5 years imprisonment. Seven of those released immediately crossed into Egyptian territory at El Arish. The others have remained on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. There was speculation that an additional group of prisoners will also be released in accordance with Begin's pledge.

With respect to air corridors, symbolically established by their flight, Sadat stressed that Israel's national airline, El Al and Egypt's airline, Mistr Air, would not be the first to use the corridor. He said that "perhaps" TWA, an American com-

pany) would operate the service initially. Later, specialists from Israel and Egypt would meet together to negotiate a civil aviation agreement, Sadat said.

#### AT BEN GURION UNIVERSITY: SADAT STRESSES FUTURE, BEGIN, ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

By Gil Sedan

BEERSHEBA, May 28 (JTA) -- Egyptian President Anwar Sadat urged moderation rather than "self righteousness" as the means of assuring "comprehensive peace in the Mideast." Sadat spoke at Ben Gurion University here. He began his brief speech noting the common heritage of both Islam and Judaism, which originated with the common forefather—Abraham.

Sadat noted that Jews and Moslems have had good relations through many generations, even at times when the relations between Jews and non-Jews elsewhere deteriorated. "It is the responsibility of those among us who are endowed with vision, to revive such spirit today," Sadat said. In an implied reference to the forthcoming autonomy talks, Sadat said the challenge now is not one of scoring a point here and there, rather building a viable structure for peace. "Fanatism and self-righteousness are no answer to the complex problems of today. The answer is tolerance, compassion and magnanimity. We will be judged not by the hard positions we took, but by the wounds we heal, the souls we save and the suffering we eliminate."

Sadat made a point of noting once again that the progress made so far, was but the first step toward a "comprehensive peace." It was a giant step... but it must be followed up and completed. Events of the recent past have shouted away all concepts of security based on territorial expansion and denial of national rights. The real key to security is genuine acceptance, without reservation. I have no doubt that you will demonstrate in the months ahead, the willingness to live in peace with all your neighbors, including the Palestinian people, Sadat declared.

In reply, Premier Menachem Begin also recalled the heritage of the Jewish people, returning to their homeland after 19 centuries. Unlike Sadat, however, Begin stressed the positive prospects lying in the future. Practical steps have already been taken of normalization, he said, noting that Israeli ships have passed through the Suez Canal and the transfer of El Arish to Egyptian sovereignty. "I am convinced that both countries are determined to carry out faithfully all the commitments under the peace treaty," he said.

#### Begin Cites Israel's "Good Faith"

To the applause of the audience, Begin sent in his name and in the name of Sadat, "Thanks and greetings to President Jimmy Carter who rendered to us historic services in bringing about this historic achievement."

In an indirect response to Sadat, Begin said: "Israel has already given proof of her good faith." He noted that the Jordanians refused the invitation to join the autonomy talks. "If we acted by the letter itself we could have asked to postpone the negotiations until Jordan joined the talks. But we do not say so. Notwithstanding the fact that Jordan refuses to join the talks, we have already started to negotiate, with the purpose of reaching an agreement," Begin said. He noted that the "constructive idea of autonomy is ours. At Camp David it was accepted by both the Egyptian and the American delegations. It is a progressive, noble idea." He condemned the "genocidal PLO", ex-

plaining the need for Israel to be in charge of security in the occupied territories.

#### President Navon Welcomes Sadat

President Sadat was officially welcomed to Beersheba by President Yitzhak Navon of Israel who urged him to speed up the normalization process and thereby "correct the distorted image of Israel as reflected in the Egyptian press." Navon also stressed the great sacrifice made by Israel in relinquishing a territory of such strategic importance as Sinai. "But the price was a small one to pay for the advent of peace," he said.

In his response, Sadat departed from his prepared text to reply to Navon's reference to Sinai. Referring to his visit to Israel and speech before the Knesset in November, 1977, the Egyptian leader declared, "I did not come to the Knesset to secure additional land. Territories will not ensure security. I came rather to open a new page between our two countries. With brotherhood, friendship and neighborliness, we will succeed in bringing peace closer."

#### AUTONOMY TALKS OFFICIALLY OPEN

#### VANCE SEEMS TO LEAN TO EGYPTIAN VIEWS

By Barble Zelizer

JERUSALEM, May 28 (JTA) -- Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, who spoke for the United States at the formal opening of the Egyptian-Israeli talks on Palestinian autonomy in Beersheba Friday, appeared to the Egyptian position than the Israeli on that sensitive issue. In his speech, Vance employed the nomenclature of Egypt's Defense Minister, Kamal Hassan Ali, referring to the "self-governing authority" to be established under autonomy on the West Bank and Gaza Strip rather than to an "administrative council" which is the term used by Israel.

The opening session was marred by the last minute decision of Egyptian Premier Mustapha Khalil not to attend. Hassan Ali spoke for Egypt and Interior Minister Yosef Burg, head of the Israeli negotiating team, for his country. The session was devoted to speeches, not negotiations. The latter are expected to begin when the two sides meet again in Alexandria June 6-7.

#### Controversial Issues Avoided

All three diplomats spoke with restraint. Hassan Ali avoided any reference to the establishment of a Palestinian state. Burg, for his part, did not explicitly demand the right of continued free settlement and land expropriation by Israel. The differences between the Egyptian and Israeli were most apparent however in their references to Jerusalem. Burg spoke of the city as "the eternal capital of Israel" while Hassan Ali noted that "Arab Jerusalem" is to be subject to the "principle of inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory taken by war" according to Security Council Resolution 242. He stressed that all Israeli actions taken to change the area's status are "null, and void." But he did not specifically demand that East Jerusalem which he referred to as "Arab Jerusalem," be incorporated under the future autonomous authority.

It was Vance's remarks that aroused the greatest interest in Israel and consternation in some quarters here. Following are excerpts from the Secretary of State's speech:

"The range of issues involved in the Palestinian problem is far too complex to be resolved all at once. The only realistic approach therefore is to establish a transitional period, during which time the decisions that need to be made can be dealt with in a measured and logical way. The approach was agreed by Egypt and Israel at Camp David and

they have invited other parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict to support it and join the negotiations.

"We regret the absence of the Kingdom of Jordan and of Palestinian representatives from these proceedings today. If we do not agree with their decision not to attend at this time, we nevertheless respect their right to have a different

view. We want to make it clear that the invitation to them to join us remains open. At the same time, their absence need not check the progress of these negotiations. We are determined to proceed and to show that these negotiations can make progress towards the objectives which Jordan and the Palestinians hold no less than those of us at this table.

#### Stresses Rights Of Palestinian People

"I want to assure you in the strongest possible terms that the United States understands the deep emotion and interests on all sides that are touched by the process which begins today. For Egypt and the Arab world, the primary focus is upon the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. No peace can either be just or secure for any participant, if it does not resolve this problem in its broadest sense. In the United States, we believe that the Palestinian people must have the right for themselves and their descendants to live with dignity and freedom, and with opportunity for economic fulfillment and political expression.

"For Israel, meanwhile, a lasting solution to the Palestinian question and the wider Arab-Israeli conflict will be possible only if there is genuine acceptance of its right to live in peace and security. We must also go beyond these negotiations to the broader aspects of the Palestinian problem. We must make a start to deal with the problem of Palestinians living outside the West Bank and Gaza. They, too, must know that an accepted and respected place exists for them within the international community.

#### Israel's Security Central Feature

"Second, the security of Israel is equally a central feature of the Camp David framework. As we seek ways to resolve the range of issues of the West Bank and Gaza, we must recognize that Israel's security is of critical importance to the success of these negotiations because of the special geographic and demographic factors involved. The negotiators must be sensitive to these concerns, and imaginative and far-sighted in proposing ways to meet them.

"Third it is worth restating that the UN Security Council Resolution 242 remains the basic statement of principles covering a peace settlement. The Camp David frameworks are built upon it. It establishes as the fundamental equation for peace, withdrawal from occupied territories in exchange for commitments to live at peace with Israel within secure and recognized boundaries. It is axiomatic that Resolution 242 applies to all fronts of the conflict. The negotiating history of the Resolution leave no doubt that this was the understanding of all parties when the Resolution was passed in 1967. I am convinced that a just and secure settlement of the Palestinian question is not beyond the capabilities of men and women of compassion and good will, who will set their hand to the task. I have no doubt that solutions which the majority of Palestinians and other Arabs will consider fair can be fashioned in negotiations, and in ways that answer as well the fundamental concerns for the security of Israel."

#### LATE BULLETIN

TEL AVIV, May 28 (JTA) -- A young woman was slightly injured today when a small bomb ex-

ploded on the Haifa beach of Bat-Galim. Police searched the area but found no other explosives.

#### TRADE UNION LEADER SAYS SOVIETS PROMISED RELEASE OF JEWISH PRISONERS, EASING OF EXIT RESTRICTIONS

By Lisa Palmieri-Bilig

ROME, May 28 (JTA) -- Robert Hawke, president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, confirmed here yesterday that Soviet officials told him in Moscow last week that they will ease emigration restrictions for Soviet Jews and release Jewish activists now in prison, perhaps including Anatoly Shchiransky.

Hawke described his meeting with Aleksei Shibaev, the Soviet trade union chief, to Leon Dulzim, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives. Both are here for an international meeting on the problems of Soviet Jewry. Dulzim told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he hoped the Soviet Union would abide by the statements given Hawke.

Hawke, who had come to the Soviet Union after discussing the emigration problem in Israel, first revealed the promises given him to three Jewish activists, Alexander Lerner, Viktor Bratlovsky and Vladimir Prestin. They made it public Saturday saying that if it took place it would mean "a profound improvement of the emigration policy and it should be responded to positively by the world." Among the pledges given Hawke was that no Jewish applicant would have to wait more than five years for an emigration visa.

#### See Soviet Face-Saving Move

Isi Leibler, president of the executive council of Australia Jewry and the Australian delegate to the meeting here, told the JTA that Hawke, who could conceivably be a Prime Minister of Australia soon, is a long-standing friend of the Jewish community. Leibler said Hawke first became interested in the struggle of Soviet Jewry on his first visit to the Soviet Union in 1973 right after the Yom Kippur War. At that time he had two days of discussions with Soviet officials on the Mideast. As a member of the governing board of the International Labor Organization, Hawke was again invited to Moscow last August where he spoke with Soviet officials on the problem of Soviet Jews. On his visit last week as a guest of the Soviet trade union, he also held some 15 hours of talks with refusniks.

Observers here noted that by making the pledge to a non-American and a non-Jew, the Soviets could appear not to be giving into pressure from the United States for concessions on emigration. The pledge was announced only three weeks before President Carter is scheduled to meet Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev in Vienna to sign the SALT II treaty. The Carter Administration has also been reportedly urging the Soviet Union to give assurances on the easing of emigration restrictions so that the U.S. can grant the USSR most favored nation trade status in compliance with the Jackson-Vanik Amendment.

#### NEWS BRIEFS

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Israeli sources said Monday they could neither confirm nor deny a report that United States spy satellites have revealed that the Syrians have moved Soviet-made SAM anti-aircraft missiles into Lebanon. Israel has warned in the past that the use of SAM missiles in Lebanon by Syrian forces would be seen by Israel as a change in the status of the Syrian forces supposedly there to end the civil war.

## ZOA URGES CARTER NOT TO PRESSURE ISRAEL BLASTS VANCE'S REMARKS

CHICAGO, May 28 (JTA) -- The national executive committee of the Zionist Organization of America concluded a two-day meeting here last night with the adoption of a statement urging President Carter not to pressure Israel to accept a "PLO state." The resolution was also highly critical of remarks made in Israel by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

The statement, issued by ZOA president Ivan J. Novick and executive committee chairman Alleck A. Resnick, called on Carter to make it clear "Israel will not be pressured to accept a PLO state, now or in the future." Referring to Vance's remarks in Beersheba Friday, the ZOA said the Administration "directly and by implication" had invited the Palestine Liberation Organization to participate in the negotiations on autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It called the remarks "ill conceived, unwarranted and a counterproductive intrusion... that could severely jeopardize the peace process."

At the closing banquet, Rep. Philip Crane (R. Ill.), a candidate for the Republican Presidential nomination, promised the ZOA he would back a plank in the 1980 Republican platform urging the transfer of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. At the opening meeting Saturday night, Rep. Christopher Dodd (D. Conn.) was critical of the role being played by Saudi Arabia in the Middle East and noted that Congress had been assured that when it sold the Saudis F-15 jets last year it would serve to have a moderating effect. "However, the Saudis have been troublemakers in the Middle East and are supporting the countries which are opposed to the Israel-Egypt peace talks."

Dodd is being mentioned as a candidate for the seat of Sen. Abraham Ribicoff (D. Conn.) who is not seeking re-election next year. Ribicoff was one of the leaders in the Senate who pushed for providing the planes to Saudi Arabia. Nahum Shamir, the Israeli Consul General in Chicago, gave greetings to the executive committee at the opening session as did Ira D. Schultz, president of the Chicago region of the ZOA.

## ISRAEL HOLDS 23 ARAB STUDENTS FOR ALLEGED TERRORIST CONNECTIONS

By Gif Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 28 (JTA) -- Two more Arab students suspected of membership in a terrorist organization were detained by security forces here last week, bringing to 23 the number of Arab university and high school students arrested on the West Bank or in Israel proper in recent weeks for alleged terrorist connections or sympathies.

Earlier, the arrests of three Arab students at Tel Aviv University and four high school students from Um-el-Fahem village were ordered by magistrates' courts in Tel Aviv and Ramla. They are suspected of membership in a hostile organization and of planning to establish such an organization. Another 14 students were under detention as suspected members of the National Progressive Organization, an extreme left-wing group that rejects the legitimacy of Israel and supports the Palestine Liberation Organization. One of them, Ali Hass, a Hebrew University student released two days ago, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he was interrogated for 16 days about the activities of the National Progressive Organization and his political beliefs. No further legal action has been taken against him.

Meanwhile, Arab students at Hebrew University held a press conference to protest the continued closure of Bir Zeit University on the West Bank, north of Ramallah. The University was shut down by the Military Government on May 3, Israel Independence Day, following demonstrations by students. The students insist their demonstration was peaceful but the Israeli authorities described it as a riot. They said the University will remain closed until assurances are given that law and order will be maintained. The Military Government has also padlocked three high schools and a women teachers' seminary on the West Bank since the beginning of last March.

## NEWS BRIEFS

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Meshe Dayan proposed Saturday that State-owned lands on the West Bank and Gaza Strip be utilized for housing projects, not only for Jews but for Arabs now in refugee camps in Gaza and young Arab couples from Nabulus. "We are the legal government in these areas for the next five or six years and the welfare of the inhabitants is our duty," he told a political forum sponsored by the Likud faction of Likud at the ZOA House here.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency is studying means to assist the relocation of settlers from Sinai to areas not designated for resettlement under present plans. Those plans envisage large scale resettlement in the Negev for Israelis who will be evacuated from Sinai when the Israeli withdrawal is completed in three years.

At a meeting with settlers at Neviot in northern Sinai last week, Jewish Agency representatives were told by some settlement members that they wished to remain together in the future and combine agriculture with sea-shore based tourism as their livelihood. They said they would require assistance to relocate somewhere along the Mediterranean coast. The Jewish Agency representatives promised that their request would be considered as quickly as possible.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Israeli authorities have refused admittance to a United Nations committee sent to study Jewish settlement and land expropriations on the West Bank and have barred Arab public figures from going to Jordan where they might meet with the UN delegation now in Amman.

Last week, documents pertaining to Israeli settlement activities were confiscated from an East Jerusalem teacher who was about to cross the Allenby Bridge into Jordan. The teacher said he obtained them from Anwar el-Hatib, the former Jerusalem district commander during the Jordanian regime 12 years ago. Security sources charged that the Jordanian government is attempting to supply the UN committee with evidence on Jewish settlements and land expropriation on the West Bank.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Plastic irrigation pipes and other agricultural equipment left behind by Neot Sinai settlers when they evacuated their vegetable fields last Thursday were found destroyed by vandals when the settlers returned to claim their property Sunday. Several sections of cultivated land and newly planted sapplings were burned. The authorities suspect a local Bedouin tribe. The vegetable fields lie in the area adjacent to El Arish which was returned to Egyptian sovereignty Friday.

CHICAGO (JTA) -- More than 400 persons celebrated Jerusalem Day here Thursday, keyed to the theme that united Jerusalem is open to all faiths.