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BEGIN'S LETTER TO SADAT MADE PUBLIC

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 11 (JTA) — Israel today released the official text of the letter Premier Menachem Begin sent last week to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in response to the Egyptian leader's letter to Begin asking for "clarifications"

which would enable the autonomy talks to resume. The letter, part of which was previously leaked to the press, blames Cairo for the failure to resume the autonomy negotiations and blames Egypt for violating the Camp David accords.

Begin, in his letter, pointed to Egypt's vote in the United Nations July 29 for a resolution demanding that Israel withdraw from all territories it has occupied since June 1967, including Jerusalem and that this start by Nov. 15, 1980. "Where is this, Mister President, written in the Camp David agreement?" Begin asked.

In reply to Egypt's reported support for Palestinian self-determination and an independent Palestinian state, Begin again stated that none of this was mentioned in the accords. As for Israeli settlements in Judea and Samaria and the Galan Heights, he said, they are legal and legitimate and an integral part of Israel's security. None of them will ever be removed, Begin stated.

Begin attacked Butros Ghali, Egyptian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, for pressuring African countries not to renew their diplomatic relations with Israel. This was an act of hostility, Begin noted, as was the personal attack in the Egyptian news media comparing Begin to Adolf Hitler.

On the sensitive question of Jerusalem, Begin wrote: "I have never misled you nor anybody else. Time and again I repeatedly said that Jerusalem in its entirety is the capital of Israel, a city reunited and indivisible for generations."

Begin concluded his 14-page letter by noting that Sadat has already suspended the autonomy talks four times. He called on Sadat to refrain from any further suspensions. "Let us renew the negotiations despite of differences of opinion," Begin declared. Meanwhile, according to reports from Cairo today, Sadat was working on a new letter of response and the indication was that the talks will not be resumed soon.

RIFT BETWEEN BEGIN AND SHARON ENDS PEACEFULLY AFTER SHARON APOLOGIZES

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Aug. 11 (JTA) — A rift between Premier Menachem Begin and Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, which threatened a major Cabinet crisis, ended peacefully yesterday after Sharon apologized to Begin for having said last Friday that the Premier cannot decide issues simply on the basis of a majority versus a minority number of ministers. There are those ministers, Sharon said, whose opinions are worth more than that of other ministers.

Begin, who turned pale at that remark, advised Sharon to remember that Israel is still a democracy and was not ruled according to George Orwell's "Animal Farm" in which a bureaucrat remarks that "all animals are equal, but some are more equal than others." Sharon refused to let Begin's remark pass and retorted, "Don't you dare

talk to me in that fashion." The verbal duel didn't end there. Sharon went on television to complain that Begin is slandering ministers and is making decisions in a "facile and off-hand fashion." The Premier, in turn, threatened to resign.

Background Of Confrontation

The verbal confrontation took place against the background of an effort by Begin to reshuffle his Cabinet following the resignation of Ezer Weizman as Defense Minister last May and the resignation of Shmuel Tamir of the Democratic Movement as Justice Minister. Begin has been acting as Defense Minister. Sharon said after Weizman resigned that he wanted that post but other ministers blocked his appointment because they opposed his hard-line views.

Begin himself has also been disinclined to approve Sharon for the Defense Ministry post. The Premier was quoted as having said when Sharon first indicated he wanted the Defense Ministry post that if Sharon becomes Defense Minister he would encircle the Premier's office with tanks. Sharon protested this remark and Begin said he had made this remark in jest. Sharon, a hero of the Yom Kippur War, complained bitterly about that remark, saying, "For almost 20 years I was entrusted with hundreds of tanks and tens of thousands of soldiers and no one thought I would use those tanks against anyone but Israel's enemies."

Begin's threat to resign, which would then make President Yitzhak Navon invite him to try and form a new government with the chance of reshuffling the Cabinet and dropping certain ministers, did not meet with a favorable response on the part of other ministers. It was noted that even if Begin resigned and formed a new Cabinet Sharon would still have to be a member. Circles close to Begin said the Premier would prefer that Sharon resign, but agreed that chances for that are dim.

Actually, Begin has indicated he would prefer that the Agriculture Ministry post Sharon now holds go to Knesset member Michael Dekel, head of the Betar settlement movement. In addition, Begin has indicated he would like to have Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir of Likud, as Defense Minister, Energy Minister Yitzhak Modai of the Liberal Party as Foreign Minister and Minister-Without-Portfolio Moshe Nissim of the Liberal Party as Justice Minister. Nissim was appointed as Justice Minister yesterday in place of Tamir. Sharon was the only minister to vote against his appointment.

CARTER SEEN GETTING MAJORITY OF JEWISH VOTE DESPITE HIS PRESENT DIFFICULTIES WITH JEWISH COMMUNITY

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Aug. 11 (JTA) — Two leading Jews in the Carter Administration said today that they believed that despite President Carter's present difficulties in the Jewish community he will receive the vote of the majority of Jews in the November election. "When November comes and their choices are clear, President Carter will be reelected," Secretary of Commerce Philip Klutznick said.

Klutznick and Alfred Moses, a special assistant to Carter and his liaison with the Jewish community, spoke at a press conference for the Jewish media at the Carter-Mondak headquarters for the Democratic National Convention which opened today.

Klutznick, who is on leave as president of the World Jewish Congress, said that after President

Carter is renominated Wednesday night the Administration "hopes to remove some of the misapprehensions that seem" to have developed about the President within the Jewish community.

Although Klutznick did not say how this would be done, Moses later told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that a committee to deal with Jewish voters would be set up soon. He also said that Carter plans to host Jewish leaders at the White House Aug. 26 and 28 and to make a major address to the biennial convention of B'nai B'rith International in Washington in September. Republican candidate Ronald Reagan and independent

Sees No Pressure On Israel

When asked about the fear in the Jewish community that if reelected, Carter as a second-term President would feel free to pressure Israel and support the Palestinians, both men rejected this. "The notion that a man changes" because he is free of reelection worries is an "ignoble thought," Klutznick said. He said he did not believe that the Administration would change over the next four years.

Klutznick noted that the Jewish community has "mistrusted Presidents since Truman." Moses added that Jews can remember the arms embargo put on Israel by Truman, Eisenhower's threats during the 1956 Suez War, the fact that very little arms were sold Israel during the Kennedy Administration, President Johnson's slowness to act when the Strait of Tiran was closed in 1967 and his slowness to support Israel in the Six-Day War, "the dragging of feet" by the Nixon Administration to rearm Israel during the Yom Kippur War and President Ford's "reassessment" in 1975.

"None of this happened under the Carter Administration," Moses declared. "This Administration and this Congress" have provided the military needs so that Israel can now defend itself against any combination of enemies over the next five years, he stressed. He said Israel has received \$10.5 billion during the last three-and-a-half years, half the total U.S. aid it has received in its history.

Moses declared that the last four years "were the best" in terms of U.S. support for Israel despite a few votes for or abstentions in the United Nations on resolutions dealing with Israel. Moses said that if the resolution now being prepared by the Islamic states in the UN requesting the Security Council to condemn Israel for officially proclaiming united Jerusalem the capital of Israel continues to contain proposals for sanctions against Israel, the U.S. will veto it.

He said that although the proposed Democratic Party platform contains a provision calling for moving the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, the Carter Administration will follow the Camp David agreement calling for no unilateral moves on Jerusalem but a negotiated agreement between the parties involved.

Issue Of Orthodox Jews

When asked why Orthodox Jews should support the Democratic platform since the Republicans oppose abortions and the Equal Rights Amendment and support aid to parochial schools, Moses urged, "look at the whole range of issues that concern us as Jews" when judging the two parties. He said if this is done, Orthodox Jews will see that the Democrats provide more programs that concern the quality of their life.

Klutznick said he believes that good Jew-

ish education cannot be provided by private funds alone, but that some way must first be worked out to solve the question of the Constitutional separation of church and state. He said the preservation of the Constitution is more important to minorities than even the issue of aid to parochial schools. Klutznick said he has been invited to meet with Orthodox Jewish leaders in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn this Thursday. He did not identify the leaders.

Klutznick said he was concerned about the "deterioration of European support" for Israel as evidenced by the fact that the U.S. was only one of four countries at the recent world conference of the United Nations Decade for Women which rejected the 100-point "plan of action" because it included a paragraph that listed Zionism as one of the world's worst evils, along with colonialism and apartheid.

While 94 national delegations voted for the "plan of action" only the U.S., Canada, Israel and Australia voted against it while most of the West European delegations abstained. But, Klutznick added, the U.S. is still the strongest country in the world and the "only hope" is a continuation of the position taken by the Carter Administration. "We have a tough few years ahead," he observed.

Iranian Jews Being Admitted To The U.S.

On a non-campaign issue, Moses said that since April, Jews and other Iranian minorities have been admitted to the United States despite a ban on Iranians coming here. He said one problem was that among those admitted some were suspected of planning to stay here permanently rather than just the six months allowed on a visitor's visa. He said this has been overcome by allowing Consulates abroad to grant a "humanitarian parole" to those who qualify through application to the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Since April, 105 of 111 Jews who applied were admitted by the INS, Moses said.

HISTORIC FINDS AT ANCIENT SITE

TEL AVIV, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- Excavations at the ancient site of Antipatris, east of Petach Tikva, have uncovered a number of historic finds, it was announced by Prof. Moshe Kochavi of Tel Aviv University's archaeological department who headed the excavation team. The finds included a perfectly preserved household with wine jars, oil lamps, food and utensils all in place, as if a housewife had neatly arranged the pantry just before a disaster occurred, Kochavi said.

The disaster was the destruction of the town in 70 CE by the soldiers of Roman Emperor Vespasian (69-79 CE) who were there to restore order after the populace organized resistance against the Roman occupiers. The household found was the remains of a house that collapsed after it was set afire. The town of Antipatris was built by King Herod in 9 BCE on the site of the previous Hellenistic town of Pegai which was populated largely by Jews. The name Pegai is a distortion of the Hebrew word Afek which subsequently became the Arab village of Fejja.

The entire Afek site is among the rare places in Israel that provide artifacts of uninterrupted human occupation for more than 5000 years. The site contains a vast Canaanite palace which was in use between 1800 and 1500 BCE. It was destroyed by Egyptian occupation forces. The remains of a large hall, 33 by 66 feet and walls six feet thick, were uncovered by the excavation team. Kochavi and his team, which has included American students and professors, have been excavating the site since 1972. A three-volume account is soon due to be published dealing with the finds at Afek-Antipatris.

LEADING SENATOR INVESTIGATING 'BILLYGATE' DENOUNCES LIBYA'S ALLEGATION OF A ZIONIST CAMPAIGN

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- "The Libyan government's charge that Zionism is responsible for the U.S. Senate's investigation of Billy Carter's influence for Libya with the White House and that its dealings with President Carter's brother was related only to business transactions came under scathing denunciation today from a leading Senatorial investigator.

Sen. Robert Dole (R-Kans.), who originally called for a Senate investigation of "Billygate" and is a member of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee scrutinizing it, described the Libyan statements as "obviously absurd" but form "a commentary" on the Carter Administration in that the Libyans "felt" they had "an opportunity to influence our government" through Billy Carter.

The White House, acting on a request from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency for comment on Libya's smear of Zionism, said last Friday that the Libyan statement is "completely unfounded and an obvious attempt to shift the blame to others."

Sad Commentary On Administration

Responding also to JTA's request, Dole said: "Statements by the Libyan government concerning the Billy Carter investigation and any alleged Zionist conspiracy are obviously absurd and are hardly worthy of comment. But I will say this -- it is a sad commentary on the current Administration that the Libyans -- one of the most ruthless anti-Semitic regimes in history -- felt that they had a friend in the President's brother and an opportunity to influence our government. This, in my opinion, is the real tragedy of the Billy Carter affair. America is now seen by many as an uncertain ally for Israel and as a potential friend for Libya."

Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi said in Tripoli yesterday, according to published reports received here, that Libya's relationship with Billy Carter and the \$500,000 loan to him, of which \$220,000 had been paid, was related to business transactions. Qaddafi also said the White House had shown "great concern" in repairing relations with Libya the past six months through the Libyan Embassy in Washington but that Billy Carter had no part in these talks.

Qaddafi's description of Billy Carter's services as commercial came a week after the businessman who advised Billy Carter in negotiations on a Libyan oil deal said that the prospects of a lucrative oil contract for the President's brother was proposed by Libyan political leaders and viewed in Libya as a political rather than a commercial matter.

According to Jack McGregor, described as a long-time friend and business advisor of Billy Carter, the oil deal was an apparent effort to enlist Billy's help in promoting Libyan interests in the United States. "Talks about an oil deal with Billy were handled in Libya by political officials," McGregor said. "Billy never talked to a single official from the Libyan national oil company" nor any Libyan oil ministry officials.

McGregor, an independent oil businessman, said among those who handled the oil deal talks with Billy was Ahmed Shahati, who oversees Libyan-American relations for the Libyan government.

Meanwhile, some controversy has bubbled

over the note dictated by President Carter on June 28, that appeared in his report last Monday to the investigating U.S. Senate subcommittee. This note said "I talked to Billy about his helping Libya and his refusal to sign the foreign agents permit. He has the same lawyer that represented Hamilton (White House Chief of Staff Hamilton Jordan) recently, and doesn't believe that he needs to file. This can become an embarrassing incident later on, particularly with American Jews."

Friends of President Carter and others ridiculed the notion that this meant the President was thinking in terms of the Jews being principally upset by Billygate. "If you were in the President's place, wouldn't you think the same," one White House official told JTA. "Of course, Jews would be troubled by Libya's silly leader," another friend said. "This doesn't mean anything at all insofar as the President and the Jewish community are concerned."

KNESSET UNIT REJECTS NEWSPAPER REPORT ON SECURITY SERVICE CHIEF

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- The Kneset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee today unanimously rejected allegations by the Washington Star that Premier Menachem Begin obstructed the investigation of the security service (Shin Bet) in the bombing attacks against three West Bank mayors last June. Mayor Bassam Shaika of Nablus had both of his legs amputated as a result of the bomb attack and Mayor Karis Khalaf of Ramallah lost part of his left leg. An Israeli police sapper was seriously injured when he tried to dismantle a bomb intended for Mayor Ibrahim Tawil of El Bireh.

The head of the security service testified today before the Kneset committee and said that Begin had never interfered in the investigation but had, on the contrary, ordered a comprehensive investigation of the attacks, which the Premier had described as "crimes of the worst kind."

The Shin Bet chief said he had told Begin that he wished to retire from his post after 30 years in the intelligence service, the last six as its chief, long before the attacks on the Arab mayors. He reiterated that his request for retirement had nothing whatsoever to do with the investigation into the bombings. Both government coalition and Labor Alignment opposition members in the committee said they were convinced by the Shin Bet chief's explanation.

Begin, himself, declared through a spokesman last Friday, a day after the Washington Star article appeared claiming that the Shin Bet chief was resigning because Begin was obstructing the investigation. "From the day malicious people first began spreading their lies, never was a calumny so odious."

Dan Pattir, Begin's press advisor, characterized the Washington Star story, written by David Halevy, the paper's correspondent in Tel Aviv, as "a fabrication from beginning to end. It requires an examination of motives." Halevy is active in Labor Party affairs.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Several dozen Orthodox residents of Jerusalem gathered Saturday night in downtown Jerusalem protesting against the introduction of daylight savings time -- although there was almost no public desecration of the Sabbath. The Orthodox feared that due to the fact that the Sabbath now ended later the operation of the first show in the local cinemas (which begins at 7 p.m., when there is still light outside) would cause a mass desecration of the Sabbath. But cinema owners cancelled the first show for this very reason.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW REAGAN'S CLOSEST JEWISH FRIEND BEGAN CAREER IN THE YIDDISH THEATER

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- The American Jew who is probably closest to Republican Presidential nominee as a friend and as an advisor is a silver-haired Los Angeles financier who started life in America in New York's Yiddish theater and made his fortune in southern California as a food retailer.

Theodore Cummings, whose home is in Beverly Hills, does not seek out celebrities. They come to him, like former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Sen. Jacob Javits (R, NY) did when they arrived at the suite in the Detroit Plaza Hotel where the National Coalition for Reagan was founded on the first afternoon of the Republican Party's convention last month. Cummings and Detroit's Max Fisher are the coalition's honorary chairmen -- which indicates the level of importance of both in the Republican Party's campaign this year.

"I prefer a low profile," Cummings told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency when he was asked to talk about his services and contributions to institutions in California and Jewish causes. While he responded briefly, in quiet tones, to questions about himself, much of the information about him came from others at the founding meeting attended by prominent Jewish Americans across the country.

Now a California civic leader, philanthropist and an investor, having sold his retail food chain in 1959, Cummings came to New York in 1920 as an Austrian immigrant with his widowed mother. Cummings' father, an engineer, was drafted into the Austrian Army in World War I as an officer -- an unusual tribute to a Jew in those years. Captured by the Russians, he was sent to Siberia where he died. The family later moved to Holland and Hungary before emigrating to America.

Numerous Interests Cited

In New York, Cummings' first occupation was in the famous Yiddish theater of the time, working with such performers as the Adlers, Lee Strasberg and Paul Muni. Eleven years later, he moved to Los Angeles to join an uncle in the retail food business which he developed into a chain of markets in a corporate empire listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

Cummings' standing with Republican leaders was indicated last February when the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center conducted a silver tribute to his 25 years of dedication to it. The guests included Reagan, Kissinger, former President Gerald Ford, former California Governor Edmund Brown and Democratic U.S. Senator Alan Cranston.

The Center is only one of Cummings' special interests. He is a founder of the Theodore Cummings Collection of Hebrew and Judaica at the University of California in Los Angeles and is the first Jewish trustee of the University of Southern California where he fought the conditions connected with a huge Saudi Arabian grant. The American College of Cardiology presents the Theodore Cummings Humanitarian Award annually for overseas teaching. He is the head of the Los Angeles Music Center. Presidents and Governors have named him to various commissions.

It is in Cummings' devotion to the defense

of Israel that his close relationship with Reagan for about a quarter of a century appears most pronounced. "During the Six-Day War," Cummings recalled, "I called Reagan to speak at a rally in the Hollywood Bowl in support of Israel. It was a standing-room-only crowd. Reagan's speech for Israel was fantastically brilliant."

Recalls Major Actions By Reagan

In 1975, as chairman of the Regional Leadership Conference for the State of Israel Bonds, Cummings asked Reagan's help. "Reagan did two things," Cummings said. "He told us to use his name for an Israel Bond dinner and introduced an amendment in the California legislature that enabled banks and savings and loan associations to buy Israel Bonds. For the dinner, he urged political leaders to attend. By his personal effort, the non-Jewish community bought ten million dollars worth of Israel Bonds."

"There's something else," Cummings added, "When a Jew was refused membership in the Lakeside Country Club (near Los Angeles), Reagan resigned from it. He told the club why in a letter. That letter was pinned on a wall at the club and members threw darts at it."

Cummings attributes much of his deep interest in Israel to his wife Suzanne. About 40 years ago, she had an uncle who was active in the Histadrut. To raise money for it, the Workmen's Circle solicited garment industry workers to give a dollar at a time. Cummings had a different idea. With the help of film actress Trudi Marshall, Cummings sponsored a dinner and raised more than \$80,000. Other Jewish organizations asked for his cooperation and he continued his activities ever since.

A California delegate to the last four GOP conventions for Reagan in 1976 as well as this year, Cummings feels in "this critical time" Reagan can provide "a more sensible foreign policy, a sound economic policy and the strength and wisdom to make decisions. We need good leadership. Reagan can give it to us. I have all the confidence in the world in him."

REPORT EGYPT IS RECEIVING MORE FUNDS THAN EVER FROM ARAB WORLD

NEW YORK, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- Dr. Allen Pollack, president of the Labor Zionist Alliance, told a board meeting of Pioneer Women here that Egypt, far from being isolated, is quietly receiving more funds from the Arab world than ever before.

Declaring that Egypt "has no need to press for full normalization of relations with Israel," Pollack declared that the return of the oilfields in the Sinai brings Egypt substantial revenues. He also said that, in addition to the financial and material aid Egypt is getting from the United States, Egypt sees itself as having replaced Israel in a "special relationship" with the United States.

Pollack also asserted that Premier Menachem Begin has provided ammunition for the anti-Israel developments. He contended that a change in Israel's government might well provide a basis for peace on the eastern border. He indicated he based his assessment on information from a recent mission by leading American academicians who met their opposite numbers and top-level Israeli government representatives who served as a "pipeline" in Egypt, Jordan and Israel.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Joel Breslau of Washington, D.C., has been appointed chairman of the United Jewish Appeal President's Mission to Israel, Oct. 5-10 by UJA national chairman Herschel Blumberg.