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ASSASSINATION OF SADAT THROWS MIDEAST INTO TURMOIL, UNCERTAINTY; FOCUS OF CONCERN IS THE FUTURE OF THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI PEACE PROCESS

By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- The Middle East was thrown into turmoil and uncertainty today by the assassination of President Anwar Sadat. The 62-year-old Egyptian leader was gunned down by a group of Egyptian soldiers as he was watching a military parade in Nasser City. Mansour Hassan, a senior official of the ruling National Democratic Party, told reporters in Cairo hours later that Sadat died in a hospital and that his funeral would be held in a few days.

There was no immediate official reaction by Israel. (The Cabinet met this evening. In Washington, President Reagan issued a statement this afternoon in a nationwide television and radio address. See pages 2, 3 and 4 for related stories.)

Initial reports received in Jerusalem said only that Sadat had been wounded. But in official circles and among the Israeli populace the news caused deep and visible shock. Inevitably, the focus of concern was the effect Sadat's death will have on the Israeli-Egyptian peace process. Sadat was the first and only Arab leader to sign a formal peace treaty with Israel and establish normal diplomatic and trade relations with it.

Under the Egyptian Constitution, Vice President Hosni Mubarak will become acting President of Egypt until Parliament nominates a successor to Sadat. Mubarak, who reportedly narrowly escaped bullets as he stood next to Sadat on the reviewing stand today, is said to have shared Sadat's pro-Western views and to support the peace process with Israel. Mubarak, 53, is a former Air Force commander.

Speculation Over Role Of USSR, Libya

Many Israelis speculated today that the Soviets or Libyans or both were behind the assassination. Just two weeks ago Sadat expelled the Soviet Ambassador to Cairo, most of the Soviet diplomats and some 1,000 Soviet experts and technicians. Libya's ruler, Col. Muammar Qaddafi, was an avowed opponent of Sadat and had threatened many times to topple the Egyptian leader by armed force, if necessary.

But in Beirut, a previously unknown group calling itself the "Independent Egyptian Liberation Organization" claimed responsibility for the assassination in a series of telephone calls to news agencies.

Interior Minister Yosef Burg, Israel's chief negotiator in the autonomy talks with Egypt, said "time will tell if any state--a state in Africa or a state in Asia--inspired the attack" on Sadat.

Calls To Halt Withdrawal From Sinai

Even before Sadat's death was confirmed, Israeli groups opposed to the peace treaty with Egypt demanded that the government immediately suspend all preparations for Israel's final withdrawal from Sinai, scheduled for April, 1982. Prof. Yuval Neeman, leader of the ultra-nationalist Tehiya faction, claimed that the attack on Sadat proved that

the Middle East was "not ripe for peace" and called on the government to cease the withdrawal process.

Yitzhak Regev, chairman of the settlers council in Yamit in northern Sinai, made a similar demand. Political observers here believe Sadat's assassination will strengthen the long simmering movement to stop the withdrawal from Sinai, one of the key requirements of the peace treaty.

Need For Strong Israel Stressed

Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, addressing a group of paratroopers when the news of an attempt on Sadat's life was first received stressed the need for a strong Israel in face of political upsets such as were occurring in Egypt. Sharon noted that Israel was located in probably the most unstable region in the world. "Only today we have witnessed dramatic events which may bring about developments in Egypt," he said.

Former Premier Yitzhak Rabin, a leading member of the opposition Labor Party, said he believed the Reagan Administration's preoccupation with Saudi Arabia and lesser interest in the Camp David agreements possibly contributed to the unrest in Egypt which culminated in the attack on Sadat. Former Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, who also spoke before the confirmation that Sadat died, said the assassination attempt was "part of what is going on in Egypt" and should not be expected to lead to changes in Cairo's foreign policy.

Sadat died, ironically, on the eighth anniversary of the outbreak of the Yom Kippur War which gave Egypt its first military success in battle with Israel and was believed by many to have created the psychological climate that enabled Sadat to initiate peace with the Jewish State.

Up From The Ranks

Sadat, who was born in a tiny village in the Nile delta, the son of a minor civil servant, followed a military career in his youth. He was one of the group of young military officers that included Gamal Abdel Nasser, who overthrew King Farouk in 1952.

He succeeded to the presidency of Egypt following an internal political struggle in the aftermath of Nasser's death in 1970 and soon set about changing the late President's pro-Soviet policy. In 1972, Sadat expelled 20,000 Soviet military advisors and other personnel that Nasser had brought into Egypt following the Six-Day War.

Some Historic Moves

In 1975, Sadat surprised the world by unilaterally reopening the Suez Canal, shut down since 1967. In November, 1977, he made his historic visit to Jerusalem, initiating the peace process with Israel. It led to the Camp David agreements, concluded with Israel and the U.S. in September, 1978. The Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty was signed in Washington in March, 1979.

While Sadat succeeded in his peace moves with Israel, he was unable to convince fellow-Arab rulers to join the process. The pro-Western regimes in Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf principalities remained hostile to Camp David. The "rejectionist front" -- Syria and Iraq -- branded Sadat a traitor to the Arab cause. Iran, under the Ayatollah

Ruhollah Khomeini, also became a bitter enemy of Sadat. Libya became his most implacable foe.

Sadat remained immensely popular with Egyptians, but there were rumblings of discord among Moslem fundamentalists in that country, pro-Soviet and other dissenting groups. Sadat made little headway in solving Egypt's severe economic problems but his closer ties with the United States promised investment as well as military aid.

In recent months, Sadat cracked down with an iron hand on his internal political opponents. Several thousand, including some leading Egyptian journalists and intellectuals, were imprisoned as Sadat acted to end growing strife between Moslems and Coptic Christians.

REAGAN PRAISES SADAT AS A MAN WHO WAS NOT AFRAID TO MAKE PEACE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- President Regan, praising the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat as a "humanitarian unafraid to make peace," said that the American people were "horrificed" by the "cowardly" murder of the Egyptian President.

"America has lost a close friend, the world has lost a great statesman, mankind has lost a champion of peace," Reagan declared as he appeared on the north portico of the White House accompanied by his wife Nancy.

The President, who apparently knew of Sadat's death earlier, did not make a statement until it was officially announced in Cairo today by Vice President Hosni Mubarak. Reagan also praised Sadat as a man of "courage" who sought to bring peace to the world. He noted that Sadat was "admired and loved" by the American people.

Ghorbal: Egypt Will Continue Sadat's Policies

Just a few minutes before the President's nationally televised appearance, Egyptian Ambassador Ashraf Ghorbal appeared in front of his Embassy here confirming Sadat's death and declaring that Egypt would continue to follow Sadat's path under the "leadership" of Mubarak.

Ghorbal said Egypt would fulfill "its international obligations" and will continue to involve themselves in the Camp David peace process working in close partnership with the U.S.

Jewish Leaders Express Grief And Shock

American Jewish leaders, meanwhile, expressed grief and shock at the assassination of the Egyptian leader. Maynard Wishner, president of the American Jewish Committee, said that "with the rest of the world, we mourn the death of a man of courage and peace. We condemn those responsible for this dastardly act of assassination, the tragic consequences of which can only be to further destabilize the Middle East."

Henry Siegan, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, said he hoped the United States would "fully absorb the implications of this latest evidence of the tragic instability endemic" to the Mideast and that "we pray that the progress" toward peace between Egypt and Israel "will not be undone" and will remain Sadat's "great legacy" to Egypt and to the world.

Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the World Zionist Organization -- American section, called the assassination a "catastrophe," praising

"the influence and example of this brave leader and farsighted seeker of peace." She said the killing was "a gun-punctuated reminder" of a region "where the fate of nations hangs on the trigger finger of the assassin."

Maxwell Greenberg, chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said Sadat "pursued" peace vigorously until he was "cut down by terrorists whose very act underscores the destructiveness of hate and the fragility of peace." He urged, in addition to suitable mourning, dedication "to the eradication of terrorism."

'A Singular Figure'

Jack Spitzer, president of B'nai B'rith International, described Sadat as "a singular figure" who had the courage and vision to seek peace with Israel "and to continue on that path despite enormous opposition throughout the Arab world." Spitzer said "We can only hope that President Sadat's successor will honor his memory and his dream by continuing to build the structure of peace" that he began.

Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, in a telegram to the Egyptian Ambassador to the U.S., Ashraf Ghorbal, said the death of Sadat "is a loss to the world of a great statesman and a man of incredible vision and bravery."

Shirley Leviton, president of the National Council of Jewish Women, said Sadat's "action brought a ray of hope into efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East." She added that his death "is a matter of grave concern to all peace loving people."

Frieda Lewis, president of Hadassah, described the slain Egyptian President as "a noble and courageous leader of his people who chose to pursue the path of peace regardless of the risks and the obstacles, because he kept before him the vision of a better world for all people."

Moved Dream Closer To Reality

Morton Mandel, president of the Council of Jewish Federations, said that the Jewish Federations of North America "have always dreamt of a time when Israel would truly be free of the threat of war and instead could cultivate the pursuits of peace. President Sadat in his efforts helped move that dream closer to reality."

Joseph Tabachnik, president of the Chicago Board of Rabbis, called Sadat "a great world leader. His words, 'no more war', rang out with prophetic force as he signed the Camp David accords. We pray that the Egyptian people and the Israelis will continue the peace process which will serve as a memorial to this great leader."

Rabbi Joseph Sternstein, president of the American Zionist Federation, said the "tragic assassination" highlighted the "fragility" of international pacts in the context of autocratic regimes, adding that Sadat "will be remembered as a man of peace."

Harold Jacobs, president of the National Council of Young Israel, said "Once again, the forces of violence and terrorism" have cut down "another Arab friend of the United States. He expressed hope the murder would not undermine the Camp David accords."

Rabbi Sol Roth, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, called Sadat "a great statesman" who made "a primary contribution to the cause of peace in the Middle East." Calling the assassination "a terrible shock," he said he hoped and prayed "this terrible act" will not affect the peace process ... but will bring the nations of the area closer to the goals of peace.

Ivan Novick, president of the Zionist Organization of America, called Sadat "an extraordinary example of Arab moderation" by his acceptance of the reality of

Israel. Novick said the United States must understand that if a strong nation like Egypt "can be threatened by fanatic terrorist elements," the United States must "exercise extreme caution before relying on less stable and more vulnerable nations, such as Saudi Arabia."

Howard Squadron, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said the murder was that of "a man of peace, courage and vision," embodying "the spirit of reconciliation and rapprochement among nations."

Rabbi William Berkowitz, president of the Jewish National Fund, said the "shocking death" dramatized "how fragile" the peace is between Egypt and Israel. He said "now the whole world is wondering if Egypt" will continue in the path of peace and reconciliation begun "heroically" by Sadat.

Rabbi Benjamin Kreitman, United Synagogue of America executive vice president, said it was hoped that those who take on the mantle of Sadat's leadership "will follow in his footsteps and seek to carry on" the peace process he started.

A similar hope that Sadat's successors would "continue in the courageous paths to peace" initiated by Sadat was expressed by the American Professors for Peace in the Middle East.

Roselle Silberstein, president of American Mizrahi Women, said Sadat's assassination "is a global tragedy" and that his death "puts the entire Middle East into a new perspective." She added that "We will pray to see Mr. Sadat's dream of peace fulfilled. Only then can his death be given meaning."

Nathan Peskin, executive director of The Workmen's Circle, said Sadat's assassination "is particularly regrettable in view of his stabilizing influence in the Middle East, in world affairs and as a statesman whose guiding hand will be missed."

Slain By Ungodly Men

Julius Berman, president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, said the Orthodox Jewish community "is shocked and saddened that the hands of ungodly and undisciplined men of violence have felled one of the great architects and champions of world peace." Berman added that Sadat "was a daring and courageous statesman of unusual courage and stature who stood as a wall against the forces of nihilism and darkness."

Donald Slaiman, president of the Jewish Labor Committee, called the assassination of Sadat "a tragic loss for the cause of peace and underscores that those who appease terrorism are undermining the survival of organized society."

BEGIN HOPES THE PEACE PROCESS WILL CONTINUE AS SADAT 'WOULD WISH WITH ALL HIS HEART'

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin said tonight, "We hope that the peace process, despite the cruel act of its enemies, will continue as we know President Sadat would wish with all his heart." With those words, the Premier, looking weary and haggard, ended his official announcement to the press on the death of President Anwar Sadat of Egypt who was assassinated this morning.

Begin met with reporters after Cairo officially confirmed that Sadat died of his wounds. He read the statement twice -- once in Hebrew and once in English -- in a low voice filled with emotion.

He said the Egyptian leader had fallen "victim to a criminal assassination. President Sadat was

murdered by the enemies of peace ... I therefore lost today, together with the people of Israel, not only a partner in the peace process but a friend." He offered his condolences to the President's wife, Jihan Sadat, and their family.

Begin referred to Sadat's historic visit to Jerusalem in November, 1977, which initiated the peace process as "one of the great events of our time." The Egyptian leader, he declared, had paid no heed to the abuse heaped upon him as he walked "the difficult road to peace" with Begin and President Carter at Camp David. Millions of peace-lovers around the world rejoiced at the Camp David accords and at the signing of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, Begin said.

A government spokesman announced later that the Cabinet would meet in special session tomorrow to discuss the political implications of Sadat's death.

ISRAELI NAVY MISSILE BOAT RUNS AGROUND ON SAUDI ARABIAN COAST By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- An Israeli Navy missile boat ran aground on the Saudi Arabian coast 10 days ago triggering an alert in Saudi and Israeli armed forces. But the vessel was freed after 62 hours by Israeli salvage crews who were not interfered with by the Saudis.

At the time of the mishap Israel rushed word to the Saudi government through the U.S. Embassy that the presence of the boat in their waters was due to mechanical breakdown and not hostile intent.

Israeli military correspondents were aware of the incident several days ago but it was not made public, reportedly at the request of the Saudis. Riyadh apparently wanted to avoid embarrassment in other Arab states for remaining passive while Israelis performed salvage work on the Saudi coast.

According to military sources here, the French-built missile boat sailed from Haifa last month on a routine voyage to Eilat via the Suez Canal. While in the Gulf of Aqaba 50 miles south of Eilat the electric generating system failed knocking out the craft's radar and gyro compass. The vessel veered off course by 90 degrees and raced at about 27 knots toward the Saudi coast, grounding on a coral reef within sight of a Saudi military position.

Saudi troops were rushed to the scene but did not open fire. Israel Army headquarters and the Defense Ministry promptly explained the situation to the Saudis through the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv but at the same time let the Saudis know that all measures would be taken to protect the boat and its crew.

Other Israeli naval craft were dispatched to the scene along with work barges and rescue craft. Heavy equipment including missiles and launchers were removed from the vessel to lighten her. Divers blasted the coral reef to free the keel and the boat was finally refloated and towed to Eilat.

According to reports today, a military board of inquiry ordered by Defense Minister Ariel Sharon immediately after the grounding has not yet completed its investigation. The story was first leaked by the U.S. Some officials here said this was intended by the Reagan Administration to demonstrate that the Saudis were "reasonable" and "cooperative" and thereby bolster its case for the sale of AWACS reconnaissance planes to Saudi Arabia.

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REMINDER: There will be no Bulletin dated Oct. 9 due to Yom Kippur. There will also be no Bulletin dated Oct. 12 due to Columbus Day, a postal holiday.

REAGAN CONFERS HONORARY CITIZENSHIP ON WALLENBERG

WASHINGTON, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- President Reagan said yesterday that Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who is credited with saving the lives of 100,000 Hungarian Jews in World War II, may still be held in a Soviet prison. "Wherever he is, his humanity burns like a torch." The President made these remarks as he conferred honorary citizenship on Wallenberg, the second person ever granted this honor. The first was Sir Winston Churchill.

Like Churchill, the wartime British Prime Minister, Wallenberg exemplified compassion, Reagan said at a White House ceremony attended by the missing diplomat's half-brother Guy von Dardel and half-sister Nina Lagergren. He said that the U.S. had asked Sweden in 1944 to cooperate in protecting Hungarian Jews who faced extermination at the hands of the Nazis. "The United States supplied the funds and the directives, and Raoul Wallenberg supplied the courage and the passion," Reagan said.

The President said that Wallenberg's seizure by Soviet troops in 1945 at the end of the war was "in violation of diplomatic immunity and international law." He was referring to the fact that the Swedish government gave Wallenberg diplomatic status in 1944 and assigned him to Budapest where he issued Swedish passports and pressed Hungarian authorities to improve the treatment of Jews and Roman Catholics.

See U.S. Hand Strengthened

Sponsors of the measure to make Wallenberg an honorary U.S. citizen said it would strengthen the U.S. hand in seeking information about Wallenberg's condition and demanding his release if he is found to be alive. Soviet officials claim that he died in prison in 1947, but there have been repeated accounts from former Soviet prisoners that he is still alive. If so, he would be 69 years old. Sweden still lists Wallenberg as missing and rejects the Soviet account that he died of heart failure and the Soviet contention that he was detained, as a suspected spy, as a result of the excesses of the Stalin era.

Reagan's action followed a joint resolution passed by both Houses of Congress last month which called on the President "to take all possible steps to ascertain from the Soviet Union the whereabouts of Raoul Wallenberg and to secure his return to freedom." The resolution described Wallenberg as "a prisoner in the Soviet Union since 1945."

At a reception last night sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League to mark Reagan's conferring honorary citizenship on Wallenberg, former Vice President Walter Mondale said that Americans had not acted as Americans should have during the Holocaust. He said that if they had acted as did Wallenberg, they could have saved hundreds of thousands of lives and perhaps millions.

Two days of ceremonies in honor of Wallenberg will end tonight when members of the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington and the Lutheran Place Memorial Church will hold a candlelight ceremony across the street from the Soviet Embassy.

This afternoon, von Dardel and Ms. Lagergren are scheduled to be present at the District of Columbia Building when Mayor Marion Barry declares today Wallenberg Day in Washington.

HOUSE UNIT POSTPONES VOTE ON MEASURE DISAPPROVING AWACS SALE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- The House Foreign Affairs Committee today postponed its vote on a resolution disapproving the sale of five AWACS reconnaissance planes and other advanced weaponry to Saudi Arabia until tomorrow morning because of the attack on Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

Because of early conflicting reports as to Sadat's condition, opponents of the arms sale were at first reluctant to agree to the postponement which was proposed by Reps. Joel Pritchard (R. Wash.) and Paul Findley (R. Ill.). Both support the \$8.5 billion sale.

Reps. Benjamin Rosenthal and Steven Solarz, New York Democrats, expressed fear that the Administration was resorting to delaying tactics. Rosenthal said the Administration has continuously tried to keep the House committee from voting on a resolution of disapproval. But when Rep. William Broomfield (R. Mich.) and other Republicans on the committee supported the postponement request, the Democratic majority went along.

Broomfield said that the White House had asked for the postponement. Solarz noted at that point that the House was working against a deadline on the resolution which must be adopted by the end of this month by both houses of Congress if the AWACS sale is to be blocked. He suggested that the Administration temporarily withdraw its official letter of notification of the sale. But Solarz found no supporters for that proposal.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA ISRAELI SECURITY AGENT WOUNDED AS SADAT IS HIT BY ASSASSINS

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- An Israeli security agent was slightly wounded today when Egyptian soldiers opened fire on President Anwar Sadat as he was reviewing a military parade in Nasser City, it was disclosed here today by a high ranking official in Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir's entourage.

The official also said that Israel's Ambassador to Cairo, Moshe Sasson, was in the reviewing stand along with Sadat and other Egyptian officials and foreign dignitaries but he was not hit. The official said that quiet prevailed around the Israel Embassy in Cairo following the shooting of Sadat and others on the reviewing stand.

The official refused to comment on the tragic event and the implication this may have on the Egyptian-Israeli peace process. He conceded, however, that it "can change many, many things." Other Israeli officials in New York also refused immediate comment on today's event, awaiting final confirmation about the fate of Sadat.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin assured the Aguda Israel that his government would honor all the promises he made to the ultra-Orthodox party as a condition for its support of his coalition. Begin met Monday with the party's four-man Knesset faction after the Aguda's ruling Council of Sages displayed impatience over the government's alleged delays in implementing their demands.

The Sages reportedly concentrated on the controversial archaeological dig at the City of David in Jerusalem. They are demanding that the government invoke Article 45 of its coalition agreement which would give the Chief Rabbinate Council sole legal authority to determine whether the excavations involve the desecration of an ancient Jewish cemetery, as the Orthodox establishment contends.