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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT
(WHORM): SUBJECT FILE

Withdrawer

DLB 4/29/2010

File Folder CO074 (ISRAEL) (033231) (2)

FOIA

S10-306

Box Number 96

SYSTEMATIC

550

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
90344	BRIEFING PAPER	DUPLICATE OF #90286; ISRAEL AS A STRATEGIC PARTNER	1	8/26/1981	B1
90345	BRIEFING PAPER	DUPLICATE OF #90287; STATUS OF SAUDI AWACS PROPOSAL R 5/22/2023 DEPT. OF STATE WAIVER	1	ND	B1
90346	BRIEFING PAPER	DUPLICATE OF #90306; LEBANON	1	ND	B1
90347	BRIEFING PAPER	DUPLICATE OF #90305; THE THREAT TO ISRAEL	1	ND	B1
90348	BRIEFING PAPER	DUPLICATE OF #90307; SINAI WITHDRAWAL AND THE MULTINATIONAL FORCE AND OBSERVERS (MFO)	1	8/25/1981	B1
90349	BRIEFING PAPER	DUPLICATE OF #90309; NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL R 5/22/2023 DEPT. OF STATE WAIVER	1	8/25/1981	B1
90350	BRIEFING PAPER	DUPLICATE OF #90285; MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	1	8/27/1981	B1

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing

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90352	BRIEFING PAPER	DUPLICATE OF #90288; THE ISRAELI ECONOMY R 5/22/2023 DEPT. OF STATE WAIVER	1	ND	B1
90353	BRIEFING PAPER	DUPLICATE OF #90290; U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL R 5/22/2023 DEPT. OF STATE WAIVER	1	ND	B1
90354	BRIEFING PAPER	DUPLICATE OF #90289; MIDDLE EAST NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE (MENWFZ)	1	ND	B1
90355	BRIEFING PAPER	ISRAELI EFFORT TO PRESSURE SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRANTS TO SETTLE IN ISRAEL R 5/22/2023 DEPT. OF STATE WAIVER	1	ND	B1
90356	PAPER	BIO	2	8/27/1981	B1 B3
90357	PAPER	BIO	2	8/26/1981	B1 B3

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90358	PAPER	BIO	2	8/26/1981	B1 B3
90359	PAPER	BIO	2	8/26/1981	B1 B3
90360	PAPER	BIO	1	8/19/1981	B1

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FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 11, 1981

8:30 a.m. Breakfast with Secretary Haig, at Blair House

10:30 a.m. Meeting with The Honorable Henry Jackson,
TENT. United States Senator from Washington,
at Blair House

11:30 a.m. Meeting with Rev. Jerry Falwell and
other religious leaders (10) at Blair
House

2:00 p.m. Meeting with Mr. Lane Kirkland, President,
AFL-CIO, at Blair House

3:00 p.m. Depart Blair House via motorcade enroute the
Washington Monument Grounds
Arrive the Washington Monument Grounds

3:05 p.m. Departure Ceremony at the Washington
TENT. Monument Grounds

3:15 p.m. Depart the Washington Monument Grounds
TENT. via U.S. Presidential Helicopters
enroute Andrews Air Force Base

3:25 p.m. Arrive Andrews Air Force Base
TENT.

3:30 p.m. Depart Andrews Air Force Base
via U.S. Presidential Aircraft
enroute New York-LaGuardia Airport
(Marine Air Terminal)

4:25 p.m. Arrive New York-LaGuardia Airport
(Marine Air Terminal)

4:35 p.m. Depart airport via motorcade enroute
APPROX. the Waldorf Towers

5:10 p.m. Arrive the Waldorf.
APPROX.

Private evening.

Overnight: The Waldorf

TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 15, 1981

8:00 a.m. Breakfast with Israeli Bonds participants,
at hotel

9:30 a.m. Depart the hotel via motorcade enroute
LaGuardia Airport (Marine Air Terminal)

10:05 a.m. Depart New York - LaGuardia Airport
TENT. (Marine Air Terminal) via U.S. Presidential
Aircraft enroute Warner Robbins Air Force
Base, Georgia

Noon Arrive Warner Robbins Air Force Base,
TENT. Georgia

12:10 p.m. Depart Warner Robbins Air Force Base
TENT. via U.S. Presidential Helicopters enroute
Plains, Georgia

12:40 p.m. Arrive Plains, Georgia
TENT.

Welcoming Ceremony and Committee

1:00 p.m. Private luncheon with The Honorable Jimmy
TENT. Carter and Mrs. Carter, at their residence

3:00 p.m. Depart Plains, Georgia via U.S. Presidential
TENT. Helicopters enroute Warner Robbins Air
Force Base

3:30 p.m. Arrive Warner Robbins Air Force Base
TENT.

3:40 p.m. Depart Warner Robbins Air Force Base via
TENT. U.S. Presidential Aircraft enroute New York-
JFK Airport

5:35 p.m. Arrive New York - JFK Airport
TENT.

Farewell Committee

6:00 p.m. Prime Minister departs New York and
the United States via El Al #002.

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 12, 1981

Private day.

9:00 p.m. Meeting with Conference of Presidents of Major
American Jewish Organizations, at the hotel

Overnight: The Waldorf

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 13, 1981

Noon Appearance on NBC - MEET THE PRESS
Program, at studio

1:15 p.m. Luncheon meeting with Mr. Eric Spectrum and
Herut Party members, at the hotel

4:00 p.m. Meeting with Christian leaders, at the hotel

4:30 p.m. Meeting with The Honorable Sol Linowitz,
at the hotel

5:30 p.m. Address Herut Party members, at the hotel

_____ p.m. Presentation by Synagogue Council, at the hotel

Overnight: The Waldorf

MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 14, 1981

9:00 a.m. Meeting with invited columnists and editors,
at the hotel

11:30 a.m. Meeting with The Honorable Jeane Kirkpatrick,
Permanent Representative of the United States
to the United Nations, at the hotel

12:30 p.m. Luncheon with Israeli Bond Participants,
at the hotel

4:00 p.m. Meeting with The Honorable Henry Kissinger,
at the hotel

5:30 p.m. Reception hosted by The Honorable Edward Koch,
Mayor of New York, at _____.

Dress: Business Suit

_____ p.m. Address Jewish Council, at _____.

Overnight: The Waldorf

MEMBERS OF THE OFFICIAL ISRAELI PARTY

His Excellency Menachem Begin
Prime Minister of Israel

His Excellency Yitzhak Shamir
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Mrs. Shulamit Shamir

His Excellency Dr. Yosef Burg
Minister of Interior, Police, and
Religious Affairs

His Excellency Ariel Sharon
Minister of Defense

His Excellency Ephraim Evron
Ambassador of Israel to the United
States

Mrs. Rivka Evron

Mr. Yehiel Kadishai
Director of the Prime Minister's
Bureau

Mr. H. Kubersky
Director General, Ministry of Interior

Major General Auraham Tamir
Assistant to the Minister of Defense
for National Security

Major General Yehoshua Sagi
Director, Military Intelligence, I.D.F.

Brigadier General Ephraim Poran
Military Secretary to the Prime
Minister

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Matti Milo
Daughter and Son-in-law of
Prime Minister Begin

Delegation -1-

MEMBERS OF THE ACCOMPANYING ISRAELI PARTY

Mr. Uri Porat
Adviser to the Prime Minister
(Press and Communications)

Mr. Hanan Bar-On
Deputy Director General
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Yehuda Avner
Adviser to the Prime Minister

Dr. Reuven Hecht
Adviser to the Prime Minister

The Honorable Jacob Nehushtan
Minister, Embassy of Israel

Mrs. Devorah Nehushtan

Mr. Yosef Ben Aharon
Director, Bureau of the Ministry of
Foreign Affairs

Colonel Ilan Tehila
Military Secretary to the Minister of
Defense

Mr. Gilad Stern
Assistant to the Minister of Interior

Mr. A. Rotem
Head of the Prime Minister's Security

Dr. Marvin Gottesman
Personal Physician to the Prime
Minister

Mr. Yaacov Saar
Official Photographer

MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN PARTY

The Honorable Leonore Annenberg
Chief of Protocol of the United States

The Honorable Walter H. Annenberg

The Honorable Samuel W. Lewis
American Ambassador to Israel

Mrs. Lewis

Mr. Thomas Nassif
Deputy Chief of Protocol

Mrs. Lois Evans
Assistant Chief of Protocol
for New York (NEW YORK ONLY)

Ms. Gahl Hodges Bothe
Protocol Officer

Mrs. Connie Connor
Protocol Officer

Mr. Patrick Daly
Protocol Officer

Ms. Mary Masserini
Protocol Press Officer

Mr. William Sittmann
Protocol Officer

Mr. James T. Payne
Protocol Logistics Officer

Ms. Linda Dewan
Staff Assistant (Visits)

Ms. Brenda Connors
Protocol Assistant (NEW YORK ONLY)

Mrs. Sandi Root
Protocol Secretary

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DECLASSIFIED

903415 2

Authority State Waiver

BRIEFING PAPER

BY dr NARA DATE 5/22/2023

2

STATUS OF SAUDI AWACS PROPOSAL

The Administration submitted to the Congress August 24 its proposal to sell to Saudi Arabia airborne early warning and aerial refueling aircraft and F-15 enhancement items. The \$8.5 billion air defense package consists of the following items:

- Five E-3A Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) Aircraft and associated support, spares, training and ground environment improvements (\$5.8 billion).
- 101 ship-sets of conformal fuel tanks (CFTs) for F-15s (\$110 million).
- Six KC-707 tankers (with an option for two more) (\$2.4 billion).
- 1,177 AIM-9L (Sidewinder) air-to-air missiles (\$200 million).

We recognize that Saudi acquisition of this equipment is of concern to Israel. The air defense package has been designed to meet legitimate Saudi defense requirements. Sale of the E-3A AWACS aircraft and enhanced F-15s to Saudi Arabia will only marginally improve Arab military capabilities vis-a-vis Israel. With or without the improvements, Israel will continue to be capable of decisively defeating any potential combination of Arab opponents, on all fronts, at any level of hostilities.

We have received four types of assurances from the Saudis, covering physical security, data sharing, restrictions on third party transfers, and restrictions on the area of operation.

The 20-day informal notification period will not begin until September 9 when Congress returns from recess. During the 30-day formal notification period which follows, both houses would have to pass resolutions disapproving the sale in order to block it.

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90346	BRIEFING PAPER DUPLICATE OF #90306; LEBANON	1	ND	B1

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BRIEFING PAPER

Normalization of Relations Between Egypt and Israel

Egyptian-Israeli normalization since the signing of the Peace Treaty in March 1979 generally has proceeded well. Israel has attached great importance to the pace of normalization as a tangible measure of Egypt's commitment to their new relationship. The Egyptians have not expanded cultural contacts or tourism to the degree Israelis would like. For its part, Israel has insisted that there not be any linkage between other developments in the region, (East Jerusalem, its settlement policies, or positions in the autonomy negotiations) and the pace of normalization. Sadat is trusted, but the Israelis worry about the commitment to normalization of those in the bureaucracy and the intelligentsia.

Sadat was very embarrassed by the Israeli raid on the Iraqi nuclear reactor which occurred only three days after his meeting with Begin and discomfited by subsequent events in Lebanon. The normalization process, however, has continued, and Begin and Sadat met in Alexandria August 25-26. This moderation is largely attributable to Egypt's desire to avoid any actions which could jeopardize completion of Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai next April.

The Egyptians nevertheless see normalization as implicitly linked to Israeli actions, even though the Camp David Accords make no such connection. Many Egyptian officials believe the pace of normalization should be related specifically to progress in the autonomy negotiations, but Sadat, thus far, has decided otherwise on most occasions. If Sadat decides to slow significantly normalization, it is not likely he would do so before the return of Sinai in April 1982.

Despite these differing perspectives, there has been a significant evolution in the bilateral relationship since the Peace Treaty was signed. Ambassadors were exchanged in February, 1980, and traffic across the interim border at El Arish was begun. Direct air flights between Tel Aviv and Cairo began in March, 1980, and have expanded to seven round-trip flights weekly. Trade, commercial and cultural agreements were concluded, quickly approved by the Knesset, and ratified by the People's Assembly in May of this year. Egypt supplies 2 million tons of oil annually to Israel, at a value of \$750 million in 1980. Some specific activities will inevitably be adversely affected by Egyptian concern over events such as the Israeli raids on Baghdad and Beirut. In general, however, Egypt and Israel seem to be moving toward greater cooperation, particularly in agricultural development and health projects. We will encourage and endeavor to support such cooperation.

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RDS-1 8/25/01

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BY dm NARA DATE 5/22/2020

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Authority State WaiverBY dr NARA DATE 5/22/2023THE ISRAELI ECONOMY

9

Israel has serious economic problems: Inflation is measured in triple digits. The 1981 balance of payments deficit is expected to be \$5 billion (it was \$3.8 billion in 1980). These problems reflect growing private consumption and the Israeli Government's massive deficit spending for defense, debt repayment, commodity subsidies, and social services. Higher import prices and depressed export markets have exacerbated the balance of payments problem. Only strong corrective measures can help solve these problems.

Israel's comprehensive indexing system enables the economy to function despite triple digit inflation. Political costs are high, however, and inflation is now the main economic target of the Begin Government. The Government introduced an austerity program in late 1979 to deal with the chronic balance of payments problem. That program involved real wage cuts, and thereby reduced import demand and stimulated exports. The U.S. supported that program, which succeeded in arresting the balance of payments slide and would, given time, have reduced inflation. Austerity has its political costs, however, and the program ultimately led to the Finance Minister's resignation and the June 1981 elections.

Prior to the elections, Begin's new Finance Minister, Yoram Aridor, switched economic targets to focus on inflation. Motivated in part by electoral considerations, Aridor cut sales taxes on consumer durables and cars and increased subsidies on basic commodities and energy, which led to increased imports and the beginnings of a consumer boom. As a result, inflation declined to about 3 percent in the month before the election, compared to the prior average 10 percent per month.

A policy of stable economic growth can mitigate both inflation and balance of payments problems. Such a policy will require Government budget restraint, reduction of consumption subsidies, and encouragement of the private sector. Otherwise the current anti-inflation program will lead to larger balance of payment deficits, which the U.S. will ultimately be called on to finance. Our assistance programs to date, averaging \$2.2 billion in recent years in addition to the \$3 billion Sinai redeployment package, have been critical in helping meet Israel's foreign exchange requirements. A new austerity program, because of its high political prices, can be implemented only early in the new Begin Administration.

DECLASSIFIED

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Authority State Waiver

BRIEFING PAPER

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10

BY dh PARADATE 5/22/83

U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL

We have been providing Israel with \$785 million annually in economic assistance since fiscal year (FY) 1978 and have proposed that level for FY 1982. This assistance takes the form of transfers of cash from the Economic Support Fund. Prior to FY 1981, approximately two-thirds of the total package (\$525 million a year) was a grant and the remainder (\$260 million) a long term, low interest loan. For the current year Congress mandated an all grant program as a response to Israel's concerns about its heavy external debt burden. We believe that, with sound economic management, Israel should have no difficulty in servicing its debt. We therefore have proposed a return to the 2/3 grant - 1/3 loan formula in FY 1982, but Congress will likely again mandate an all grant program.

We have never conditioned assistance on Israeli Government willingness to carry out specified economic policies and programs. However, our aid is intended to help Israel cover short-term balance of payments deficits while the government takes steps to strengthen its financial position. The objective is to enable Israel to make do with less aid in future years without suffering a lower standard of living. In this light, we are not satisfied with the efforts that the Government of Israel is making to resolve the difficult balance of payments problems which gave rise to a need for our substantial economic assistance.

We expect to receive Israel's aid request for U.S. FY 1983 about the time of Prime Minister Begin's visit. Given the worsening balance of payments situation this year, we can anticipate that a case will be made for increasing the economic and military aid level. If the question of economic aid levels should arise, we should tell Begin that we are prepared to consider Israel's FY 1983 request in light of Israel's needs and our own (USG) budget and to review it with a high level Israeli delegation as in previous years. We hope the Israeli submission will reflect a program to attack inflation other than through increased consumption subsidies and to bring Israel's international accounts into better balance.

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90354	BRIEFING PAPER DUPLICATE OF #90289; MIDDLE EAST NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE (MENWFZ)	1	ND	B1

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70355

12

ISRAELI EFFORT TO PRESSURE SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRANTS
TO SETTLE IN ISRAEL

Background: Since the Soviet Government opened the doors to limited Jewish emigration in 1971, well over 50% of the Jewish emigrants have regularly chosen not to resettle in Israel but to immigrate instead to the U.S. and to other third countries -- usually because of close or distant relatives or close friends already living elsewhere. The Israeli Government has never been pleased with this fact, and has been under continuing pressure from its staunch Zionist circles to make sure that Jews who get out of the Soviet Union go to Israel, whether they want to or not.

In recent weeks the Israelis have taken steps to do just that, by changing the procedures they follow in Vienna (first stop for Soviet Jews leaving the USSR) to pressure Soviet Jews to settle in Israel. The Austrian Government, which provides transit facilities and assistance for the Soviet Jewish emigrants, has told the Israelis their new procedures are unacceptable as denying the Jewish emigrants their right to freedom of choice. The State Department, when informed of the new procedures by the Israeli Ambassador, did not comment on the procedures but strongly reaffirmed the U.S. Government's commitment to the right of freedom of choice for the Jewish emigrants. The USG underwrites resettlement costs for Soviet Jewish emigrants who go to Israel as well as for those who settle in the U.S.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority State Waiver
BY dh NARA DATE 2/24/2023

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TALKING POINTS

To be provided following the
Tuesday, September 8, briefing
of the President.

BIOGRAPHIES.

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90356	PAPER BIO	2	8/27/1981	B1 B3

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90357	PAPER BIO	2	8/26/1981	B1 B3

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90360	PAPER BIO	1	8/19/1981	B1

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REMARKS AND TOAST

ARRIVAL REMARKS: PRIME MINISTER BEGIN OF ISRAEL
SEPTEMBER 9, 1981

Prime Minister Begin, on behalf of the American people, Nancy and I are honored and delighted to welcome you and all those accompanying you. We are proud to stand beside you this morning, joining a tradition of hospitality for Israel observed by our Presidents for more than three decades. Your visit is testimony to the warm friendships, mutual respect and shared values that bind our peoples.

Today and tomorrow we will have the opportunity to meet, to come to know each other, and to discuss in detail the vital issues of peace and security that concern both our countries. I welcome this chance to further strengthen the unbreakable ties between the United States and Israel, and to assure you of our commitment to Israel's security and well-being.

Israel and America may be thousands of miles apart, but we are philosophical neighbors, sharing a strong commitment to democracy and the rule of law. What we hold in common are the bonds of trust and friendship, the qualities that in our eyes make Israel a great nation. No people have fought longer, struggled harder or sacrificed more in order to survive, to grow and to live in freedom.

The United States and Israel share similar beginnings as nations of immigrants yearning to live in freedom, and to fulfill the hopes of ^{our} ~~their~~ forefathers. Americans and Israelis alike have sought to establish societies of law, to live in peace and to develop to the fullest extent the

potential of our lands. We share a devotion to democratic institutions responsive to the wills of our citizens. Our peoples embrace common ideals of self-improvement through hard work and individual initiative. Together we seek peace for all people; in partnership we are determined to defend liberty and safeguard the security of our citizens.

We know Israelis live in constant peril. But Israel will have our help. She will remain strong and secure. And her special character of spirit, genius and faith will prevail.

The prophet Ezekiel spoke of a new age when the "land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and . . . ruined cities are now inhabited . . . "

We saw how miraculously you transformed and made the desert bloom. We see how, everyday, despite the dangers, your families continue working together, to build a better place to live and prosper in peace and freedom.

Our dream, our challenge, and yes our mission is to make the Golden Age of peace, prosperity and brotherhood a living reality in all countries of the Middle East.

Let us remember that whether we be Christian, or Jew, or Moslem, we are all the children of Abraham; we are all children of the same God.

Mr. Prime Minister, you come at a time of testing and a time of hope. The challenges we face are formidable. The forces of aggression, lawlessness and tyranny are intent on exploiting weakness. They seek to undo the work of generations

of our peoples. Yet there is hope. We are fully aware of their designs -- and we are determined to oppose them. Working with all our friends in the Middle East we seek to reinforce the security of the region as a whole. As we consult together about the problems of security in the Middle East you may rest assured that the security of Israel is a principal objective of this Administration, and that we regard Israel as an ally in our search for regional peace and stability.

Equally important in our discussions during your visit is the commitment of our two countries to advance the cause of peace in the Middle East. Mr. Prime Minister, your strong leadership, great imagination and skilled statesmanship have been indispensable in reaching the milestones of the past few years on the road towards a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Prime Minister, the skill and dedication to peace of you and the members of your coalition have earned our respect and admiration. Many cynics said Israel would never make peace with Egypt. But you did. Then they said you would not honor your commitment to return the Sinai to Egypt. But you have. Now they say you cannot go forward to work out a just and durable peace with all your neighbors. But we know you will.

I look forward to receiving the benefit of your views and advice on the great tasks that remain before us. I am confident that the United States and Israel will continue

their close partnership as difficult negotiations toward peace are pursued.

Let me also thank you Mr. Prime Minister for helping our special ambassador, Philip Habib, to arrange a cessation of hostilities across your border with Lebanon. Still another considered step for peace, one well-taken.

Prime Minister Begin, I know your entire life has been dedicated to the security and well-being of your people. It was not always easy. From your earliest days you were acquainted with hunger and sorrow. But as you have written, you rarely wept. On one occasion you did. The night when your beloved State of Israel was proclaimed. You cried that night you said, because:

"Truly, there are tears of salvation . . . as well as tears of grief."

Well, with the help of God, and us working together, perhaps one day for all people in the Middle East, there will be ~~no more tears of grief~~ . . . ~~only~~ tears of salvation.

Shalom, Shalom. To him that is far off and to him that is near. And again Mr. Prime Minister, welcome to America.

STATE DINNER TOAST: PRIME MINISTER BEGIN OF ISRAEL
SEPTEMBER 9, 1981

Prime Minister Begin, it is a genuine pleasure to welcome you to the White House this evening. I should say welcome you back, because the Prime Minister is no stranger to this room. I even have the funny feeling he may have dined here more often than I have. Be that as it may, once again he is an honored guest, but this time Nancy and I have the privilege and we're just delighted.

I'm not sure whether you saw it or not, Mr. Prime Minister, but in the play "Fiddler on the Roof," one of the townspeople asked the rabbi if he had a proper blessing for the Czar.

And the rabbi answered, "Why of course: May God bless and keep the Czar . . . far away from us."

Well, Prime Minister Begin, as you know, the Jewish people have never been far away from sorrow and oppression during their long and troubled history. Now I don't believe your own influence on Jewish history goes as far back as the time of the Czars. Not, you understand, that there would be anything wrong with that. You'll hear no criticism of age tolerated in this house.

Lately I've been heartened to remember that Moses was 80 when God commissioned him for public service, and he lived to be 120. And Abraham was 100 and his wife Sarah 90 when they did something truly amazing. And he survived to be 175. So my heavens Mr. Prime Minister, we haven't even hit full-stride yet!

But to be serious a moment, after our conversations today -- very warm and productive -- I am more convinced than ever that we are on the right road. That we really can draw closer to that Golden Age of peace, prosperity and brotherhood. And the reason I think is clear: Providence has blessed us at this critical time with two leaders -- one in Israel, one in Egypt -- uniquely capable of the great decisions required.

Prime Minister Begin, I remember reading in your book "White Nights," how as a young man, being held inside Soviet prisons, you longed to return with your people to the Middle East. Even then you told your captors there would be plenty of room " . . . for the Arabs, for millions of Jews, and for peace." And you've been working ever since to make that dream come true:

Though trained as a lawyer, you passed up the quiet life of a private attorney. From your earliest days, the spirit of freedom burned within you, leading you to make great personal sacrifices for the Jewish people;

As a political inmate in those Soviet dungeons, you learned the horrors of totalitarian abuse. You fought against Hitler. And you spent your early adult years helping create a haven for your people in a new Israel;

Devoted to democratic traditions, you served as leader of your country's loyal opposition for nearly thirty years;

Consistent in your views and skillful in presenting them, you were elected the leader of a free people, who

recently reaffirmed their esteem for you;

Called as a peacemaker, you boldly seized the opportunity for peace with Egypt and skillfully pursued it to a successful conclusion.

Mr. Prime Minister, the commitment you are making is a commitment to future generations.

In the Talmud there is a story about a man named Honi. He was getting on in age and one day a passerby saw him planting carob trees. It is said that the carob tree does not produce fruit for 70 years. The passerby commented to the old man: Certainly you don't expect to see the fruit from this tree. And the old man answered: I came into this world and people had planted trees for me. And I am planting for those who will come after me.

Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister, for planting these seeds of peace. Ladies and gentlemen I ask you to join me in a toast to Prime Minister Begin and our friends the Israeli people. And if I may refer to that rabbi from "Fiddler on the Roof" one more time: May the good Lord bless you and keep you . . . always close to us.

DEPARTURE REMARKS: PRIME MINISTER BEGIN OF ISRAEL
SEPTEMBER 10, 1981

Mr. Prime Minister, we have had two days of friendly, useful, and productive talks. I am greatly encouraged by the common purpose I have sensed throughout our discussions, and especially pleased by the friendship and complete candor that has developed between us from the very outset of our meetings. Your views have been invaluable, and your grasp of the issues that concern us is truly impressive.

We have made progress in charting the course we will be following in the peace process in the months ahead. We will work together to maintain the peace concluded between Israel and Egypt, and to build on that peace and broaden it. The United States stands ready to help advance the peace process in any way that is useful to the parties concerned.

In our discussions about the strategic situation in the Middle East, it is only natural we have found much common ground. As friends and as partners in peace, we share a determination to oppose all forces that threaten the freedom, integrity, and peace of our nations. The United States will remain committed to Israel's security and well-being. We will work together with you and with our other friends in the region to counter Soviet aggression and to strengthen the security of all countries in the area.

Mr. Prime Minister, this is the first of what I know will be many warm and productive meetings between us. I am delighted to have had this opportunity to come to know you and to discuss the partnership between our two countries.

Through our conversations, I believe we have created new bonds of understanding between the United States and Israel, and renewed and strengthened our special relationship.

I wish you a very pleasant stay in the United States and a safe return to Israel.