

CARTER INVITES
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He said it was "the judgement of those involved" that this "format" could best accomplish this goal.

Powell stressed that the "meetings are not to replace the negotiating process but to support the existing process." When asked whether progress in the autonomy talks had come to a halt, Powell stressed that "These are meetings in support of ongoing negotiations" and it is thus "a different situation than we faced in the summer of 1978" when "there was no framework for discussions, very little agreement on any issues and no peace" between Egypt and Israel.

Powell insisted several times that the autonomy talks are not deadlocked. He also insisted that the May 26 date is "a goal" not a "deadline." But, he said, "every effort will be made to indeed meet that goal and that is the clear hope of those concerned. In saying that the May 26 date was not a deadline Powell seemed to be taking the same position voiced by Premier Menachem Begin and his Foreign Minister, Yitzhak Shamir.

Speaking in Maalot to the 22nd convention of the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel, Begin said that "we are still hopeful that by the 26th of May we shall reach an agreement, provided all partners are faithful to what we agreed upon at Camp David." But,

he added, "It is not a so-called deadline or ultimate date. If proposals that contradict the Camp David accords come up, we shall continue to negotiate. Just as the negotiations for the peace agreement (with Egypt) lasted six months, not three (the original Camp David time limit). I am hopeful that with efforts exerted we shall reach an agreement."

He said Israel will not discuss any change in the status of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and as a divided city. He said Israel also cannot accept the idea that citizens of Jerusalem should participate in the voting of an administrative council for the West Bank. Begin rejected the idea of a legislative council which, he claimed, not only contradicted the Camp

David agreements, but would constitute a Palestinian state in everything but name.

He said Israel also cannot accept the idea that the movements of its army in the territories during times of danger would require prior permission from the administrative council. Shamir also stressed the May 26 date was a goal not a deadline. He made this statement March 18 as he announced that he planned to take an active part in the autonomy negotiations.

Meanwhile, President and Mrs. Carter were scheduled to host a reception at the White House before Passover to observe the first anniversary of the Egyptian - Israeli peace treaty which was signed in Washington March 26, 1979.

Some 700 guests, including Israelis and Egyptians, have been invited. Observers noted that both the announcement of the Sadat and Begin visits and the reception came on the eve of the crucial March 25 New York Presidentials primary, which did no good as Kennedy won handily.

A Passover Message

BY IRWIN S. FIELD
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN
UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

This year Passover takes on special significance for us all. The promise of peace seems brighter than at any time in recent history. All members of the UJA family can take pride in knowing they have played a part in making the dream of peace a reality for our people.

It also is significant that this year thousands of Jews, who only months ago lived lives of insecurity and even danger, will celebrate Passover in an atmosphere of freedom and reunion. Over the past 12 months we have seen the largest migration of our people since the 1930's. For many of them, this will be their first Seder.

Thousands still await the opportunity to live and participate in a free society. To them, everywhere, and to the thousands in Israel who are striving for a better future through Project Renewal programs, we in the UJA, once again, on this Pesach, reaffirm our commitment to strive to secure the present while providing for the future.

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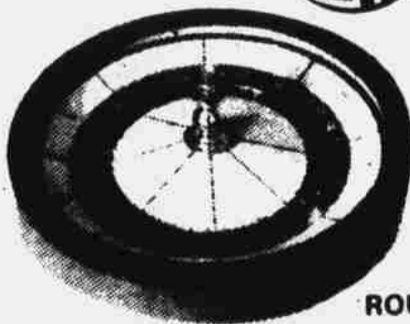
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