FRIDAY, FEB. 27, 1981

REAGAN - TOP PRIORITY

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we have, No. 1, a moral commitment for the present to see that the State of Israel has a right to continue living as a nation. I believe that, and think that we're morally bound to do that, But beyond that, I think it's also a two-way street." He explained, "I think Israel, being a country sharing our same ideals, I think democratic approach to things, with a combat - ready and even a combat - experienced military ... force in the Middle East that actually is of benefit to us. But I also feel that morally the United States should do everything it can in an even - handed manner to bring peace to the Middle East. Now this, based on our first commitment means that we have to get over the hurdle of those nations in the Middle East that refuse to recognize the right of Israel to exist. Peace will come when that first step

Now a few of them have, as Egypt is taken. did; and (President Anwar) Sadat who I think is one of the great statesmen for doing that." The President questioned the Palestine Liberation Organization's claim to legitimacy as

representing the Palestinian people. He said he knows that the Palestinians have to be part of any

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settlement. "I think in arriving at that, here again there is the outspoken utterance that Israel doesn't have a right to exist; there is the terrorism practiced by the PLO. Ineverthought that the PLO had ever been elected by the Palestinians. Maybe it is recognized by them as their leadership, but I've never seen that that's been definitely established. But again, it starts with acceptance of Israel as a nation.

ASK REAGAN TO OBSERVE HOLOCAUST WASH. (WNS) --

President Reagan has been asked to hold this year's observance of the "Days of Re-memberance" of the Holocaust in the White House and personally address it. The re-quest was contained in a letter to the President from four Senators and five members of the House, all members of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

brance' will be held this year from April 26 - May 2.

"For millions of Americans of all faiths, the Holocaust is an event of deep emotional significance and the effort to commemorate it is a deeply spiritual one," the letter to the President said. "It would be uniquely appropriate for you, as our President, to lead the nation in expressing remem-

CRITICISM OF SETTLEMENTS TEL AVIV (WNS) --

ISRAEL REJECTS U.S.

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir has firmly rejected United States objections to the Jewish settlements being built on the West Bank. He told a student audience at Bar Ilan University that Israel would not have signed the peace treaty with Egypt or Camp David acthe cords if they had contained any mention of halting Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

In Washington, State Department spokesman William Dyess tracts of pur-Such unidressed through negotiations. As such, they (the

settlements) are unhelpful to the peace process and ill advised." The statement added that both President Reagan and Secretary of State Haig "have indicated that the continued creation of settlements can only harm the prospects for negotiations." At Bar Ilan, Shamir stressed that Israel's "security calls for an Israeli presence in the whole of the Land of Israel, and that includes Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip."

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