

DIFFER ON NORMALIZATION PROGRESS

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Israel's Ambassador to Egypt and Egypt's envoy in Israel differ on the progress of normalization between the two countries. Speaking on a radio program marking the first anniversary of the opening of the Israeli Embassy in Cairo, Israeli Ambassador Eliyahu Ben-Elissar said that step-by-step progress has been made, but at a slower rate than Israel had hoped.

As an example, he noted that more Egyptians would like to visit Israel as tourists or on business than the Egyptian government is prepared to allow. But Egyptian Ambassador Sa'ad Mortad expressed satisfaction with the tempo. He noted there were still differences between the two countries such as the new law declaring all Jerusalem Israel's capital, the West Bank settlements and Israel's treatment of some

Arab mayors and Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Prof. Shlomo Shamir, of Tel Aviv University's Shiloah Center for Middle East Studies, said that both successes and failures were due to the differing importance the parties placed on the normalization process. While not as important to Egypt, Israel viewed normalization as a sign of Egypt's intentions toward Israel, Shamir said. He said the greatest achievement of the past year was the breaking of the Arab world's "taboo" against any relations with Israel. Noting that the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty has created "a new political fact," Shamir stressed, "You have to compare now with the situation before. The Egyptians have advanced light years, even though they have not gone as fast as we would have liked to hope."

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Secretary of State Alexander Haig said he plans to visit the Middle East soon to help achieve progress in the autonomy talks between Israel and Egypt.

JEWISH LEADERS CAUGHT IN MADRID

PARIS (WNS) -- The attempted insurrection by Spain's rightist Civil Guard caught half a dozen world Jewish leaders in Madrid. The Jewish leaders, including Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives; Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the WZO - American Section and Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, were in Madrid for a session of the presidium of the Brussels Conference of Soviet Jewry.

They had just concluded a press conference on the plight of Soviet Jewry when the Parliament building, 100 yards from their hotel was taken over by the rebels. "Spanish security agents told us we would be safer in our rooms," Dulzin said later. "It took us a few minutes to find out what had happened. From our fourth floor windows

we could see the Civil Guards surround the Parliament building. Cars were driving constantly up to the hotel and late at night the national police started moving into the square which separated us from the Parliament. At no time was there any panic and at 5 p.m. we even all trooped down into the hotel dining room for dinner."

Throughout the night the hotel served as the headquarters for the army general and senior civil servants who negotiated the surrender of the rebels.

Before the attempted coup, the presidium cabled Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev asking him "to reaffirm that change of policy which you began" in allow-

ing "Jews applying for permission to emigrate to Israel to do so." The cable said, "We are gratified by the recent release of Iosif Mendelevich and it is our expectation that his release will be followed by the release of all those who have been imprisoned or exiled essentially because they insisted on their right to go to Israel."

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SPELLMAN SEAT IS DECLARED VACANT

WASH. (WNS) -- House Speaker Thomas O'Neill (D.Mass.) has announced he will declare vacant the seat of Rep. Gladys Spellman (D. Md.) who was re-elected to her fourth term last November despite being stricken by a massive heart attack four days earlier. The 63-year-old Mrs. Spellman has been semi-conscious ever since.

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