

WASHINGTON DATELINE

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Sisco Speaks

"The Reagan Administration is wisely not allowing itself to be diverted from its number-one priority, to deal effectively with the domestic economy. The link between domestic and external policies is inextricable. Strength at home is essential to America's strength and leadership abroad."

That was what former Under Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco told participants in a Berlitz Foreign Trade Seminar this week in Washington, D.C.'s L'Enfant Plaza Hotel.

Dr. Sisco, one of the leading American authorities on Middle Eastern affairs added: "A strong American military presence in that part of the world is the best bulwark for American Mideast diplomacy; and he welcomed the Reagan Administration moves to this end. He sees a Soviet Union under considerable constraint internally in the '80's giving the United States and the West an opportunity to stabilize relations with the USSR under conditions more favorable to us than those existing in recent years.

As to future negotiations between the Arabs and Israelis sometime after the June 30th Israeli elections, Mr. Sisco said: "The Reagan Administration will have to assess two principal strategies: whether to pursue the West Bank - Gaza Strip autonomy talks or to opt for the so-called Jordanian option, which would involve return of territory to Jordan. The two approaches are complementary. Any viable autonomy agreement must have a territorial solution as its end result; and any prior territorial agreement is likely to require some form of autonomy or self-government for the Palestinian Arabs as a first step. Transfer of territory is ultimately involved in either approach, even though the timing and route by which the transfer takes place may differ."

The two-day seminar, sponsored by the Berlitz Schools of Languages in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, was part

of the activities aimed at increasing American exports through dissemination of information about international trade.

As sponsor of the event, the Berlitz Schools of Languages were continuing a record of internationalism that goes back more than 100 years.

Dr. Sisco's background includes 25 years in the Department of State, where he negotiated the cease-fire between Egypt and Israel in 1970 and from 1974 - 76 played a major role in the "shuttle diplomacy" that resulted in disengagement agreements between Israel, Egypt and Syria.

As an educator, Dr. Sisco was President and subsequently Chancellor of The American University in Washington, D.C. from 1976 to 1981. He remains Adjunct Professor on the faculty of the School of International Service at the University, and is a regular lecturer at the Foreign Service Institute of the State Department.

Dr. Sisco is also active in business and industry as a corporate director of five major companies. He is a partner in Sisco Associates, a national and international consulting firm.

He is also a prominent radio and television foreign affairs analyst, appearing regularly on ABC's Good Morning America and on other programs produced for public television, the BBC, the Voice of America and American commercial networks. In addition, he has joined Cable News Network (CNN) as a foreign affairs expert.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Israel, Egypt and the United States opened another round of talks on the multinational peace keeping force to patrol Sinai after Israel's final withdrawal next April. Although the talks are taking place in Jerusalem, upon the request of Premier Menachem Begin the Egyptian delegation said the presence of the team in Jerusalem "should not be construed as affecting the well-known and firm Egyptian stand on Jerusalem. We consider that all unilateral actions and laws taken by Israel with a view to altering the status of Jerusalem are null and void.

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WASH. (WNS) -- Harold Saunders, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs in the Carter Administration predicted that there remains a difficult task ahead of those American officials who want to "press forward" with the Middle East peace process.

He said that Israel is not "united" over what to do about the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and any solution will result in a "national trauma of some sort." Saunders also stressed that "neither the Palestinian settlement nor an Arab-Israeli peace will ensure stability in the Middle East." But he said that there

could be no Middle East solution or permanent peace for Israel without solving the Palestinian problem.

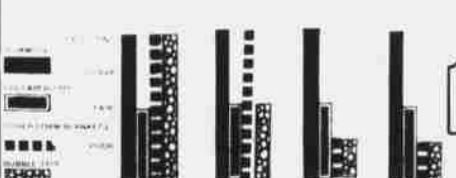
Saunders was involved in the Camp David Agreements and in all Egyptian-Israel negotiations for the first interim agreements in 1974. He said that the Camp David accord "cannot be scrapped" although the U.S. may have to go beyond them to involve other parties, particularly the Palestinians. On another topic, the proposed sale of AWACS to Saudi Arabia, Saunders said the U.S. must remain friendly with Saudi Arabia however, at the same time must continue safeguarding the security of Israel.

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