

BEGIN HAS FAVORABLE

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Waldorf Astoria suite here in New York with a delegation of Black American leaders with whom he discussed among other things, the problems of Black Hebrews in Israel and the plight of Falasha Jews in Ethiopia. Later he was visited at his hotel by Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, U.S. envoy to the United Nations. Begin also appeared at an Israel Bond luncheon to receive a commitment of \$100 million in seed money toward the Mediterranean-Dead Sea canal hydro-electric project. He accepted the Synagogue Council of America's Covenant of Peace Award.

Begin's last public appearance before returning to Israel was in the town of Plains, Ga., where former President Carter greeted him warmly and introduced him to an audience of about 800 gathered on a local athletic field. In his remarks, Carter repeatedly emphasized the importance of resolving the Palestine issue if a lasting peace is to be achieved in the Middle East. He reminded Begin that at Camp David, "We pledged to resolve the Palestinian problem in all its aspects, recognizing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and their just requirements so that Palestinians will participate in the determination of their future." Begin responded by saying, "We want to carry out all the commitments of the Camp David agreements." He said that without the efforts of President Carter, there would have been no peace treaty between Israel and Egypt.

Meanwhile in Washington the Administration continued to imply that Congressional rejection of the proposal to sell AWACS to the Saudis might affect the new strategic cooperation agreement. State Department spokesman Dean Fischer said that the Administration's "operative" policy remained a statement by Secretary

of State Alexander Haig which he made to reporters on his plane while returning home from Europe. This statement according to Fischer is that "the failure of the Senate to sustain the AWACS sale would be a major setback to U.S. policy in the Mideast." He said that "it would have serious implications for overall policy in the area."

But Fischer denied that there remained any "linkage" between the AWACS sale and the strategic agreement. He said the Haig statement did not contradict a statement by State Department Deputy spokesman Alan Romberg Sept. 14 that there was "no strict conditionality" between approval of the AWACS sale and the implementation of the strategic cooperation agreement. However, Fischer noted that rejection of the AWACS sale would have implications for a "good many strategic considerations" in the Middle East.

Meanwhile opposition in Congress continued to build to the Administration's AWACS sale, which Haig defended Sept. 17 in testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. (It was reported that Sen. Bob Packwood (R. Ore.) had 51 Senators ready to go ahead with a resolution rejecting the proposed sale.)

Haig however rejected a compromise proposal by Sen. John Glenn (D. Ohio) that the U.S. and Saudi Arabia share "joint" ownership of the five AWACS. He said the package for Saudis was worked out after long negotiations by the Carter and Reagan Administrations and represents "the optimum arrangements."

Haig said he believed the secret transfer arrangements worked out will meet the concerns of the Senators. But he warned that the Committee that what is at "stake" in the Senate's vote on the proposal is "this nation's capability" to develop a strategy that will advance the Middle East peace and meet the threats to the region from the Soviet Union and its surrogates. He warned the Senators

against rejecting the foreign policy of "an American President."

Glenn told Haig that if he approved the compromise the Ohio legislator suggested, "I think you can sell this on the Senate floor in 10 minutes." Sen. Rudy Boschwitz (R. Minn.) agreed with Glenn on that. But Glenn warned that if the Administration proceeds with the sale as now proposed, it risks a "diplomatic Dunkirk." He said this would harm the chances for peace in the Middle East because he believes the Saudis can help the peace process.

TEANECK, N.J. (WNS) -- Gov. Brendan Byrne signed into law at a synagogue here a bill which will provide penalties up to five years in jail and fines of up to \$7,500 for persons convicted of acts of bigotry such as the desecrations and anti-Semitic daubing the synagogue has suffered.

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