

ISRAEL-EGYPT TALKS RESUME

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The three-day visit to Israel by Egyptian Foreign Minister Kemal Hassan Ali, which began in the atmosphere of uncertainty about relations between Israel and Egypt stemming from the assassination of President Sadat -- ended with open expression of satisfaction among Ali's Israeli hosts in Jerusalem.

The Israelis said Ali's approach was both warm and businesslike, adding there will be another round of talks by the "Higher Committee on Normalization" under the joint chairmanship of Ali and Defense Minister Ariel Sharon in Cairo on January 11.

Between now and January many sessions are scheduled of the various sub-committees on aspects of normalization. Also scheduled is a meeting of the Israel-Egypt Joint Military Committee which has the task of marking the new-old border line between the Sinai and Israel.

Observers attributed the success of the normalization talks so far to Egypt's realization of the importance Israelis attach to arrangements for the Sinai after Israel's final withdrawal next April. Many Israelis regard the status of the final Sinai border as a touchstone for the entire peace process.

Israeli sources felt there had been a deliberate and even radical change in Egyptian policy as Egypt's policy-makers awoke to the realization that, with Sadat's murder, alleviation of Israel's anxious reaction to that killing was of utmost importance.

Accordingly, Egypt agreed to most of Israel's proposals for easy success and freedom of movement for Israeli tourists in the Sinai after the final Israeli withdrawal.

That agreement was indicated in the "agreed minutes" document signed by Egyptian and Israeli officials at the end of Ali's visit.

Among the provisions are: Visas will be granted to tourists to Eilat who arrive at the Ras el-Naqh airport, the former Etzion air base near Sharm el-Sheikh which Israel will evacuate. The visas will be issued on the spot. Israeli and Egyptian flights between Sinai and Israel will be on a mutual basis. Air corridors will be designated and consulates opened by Egypt in Eilat and Israel at Sharm el-Sheikh.

COMMIES WELCOME PLO

WASH. (WNS) - The official news service in Moscow, Tass, reported that Soviet President Brezhnev personally informed Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat that the Moscow office of the PLO has been upgraded to full diplomatic status.

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NEW YORK (WNS) -- Mike Burstyn, Israeli popular TV and film star who is now starring in the Broadway hit "Barnum" lost his wallet containing valuable documents. He searched for days without results and then wrote to everyone to report his loss. He received a phone call that the wallet had been found by two boys from West New York, N.J. The boys were planning to put the wallet in the mail, but Burstyn invited them to come to New York to see the show as his guests.

REMEMBER BABI YAR

40 years ago, notices appeared throughout the Ukrainian city of Kiev on September 29 and 30, ordering all Jews to report -- with their clothing, documents, and valuable possessions -- to an area near a local cemetery at a ravine called Babi Yar. Within 36 hours, 33,771 Jews, included women and children, were gunned down by the Nazis. To commemorate this gruesome event, hearings were held recently on Capitol Hill in Washington to increase public awareness of officially condoned anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union.

For just as the Nazis in 1941 were guilty of genocide, the Soviets are guilty of cultural and religious repression in 1981. The plight of Soviet Jewry is deteriorating rapidly, representing a sick and dangerous epidemic that will continue to grow and breed until it is finally halted by those who choose to speak out.

The situation prevails in any Soviet City -- Kiev, Leningrad, Odessa, Moscow or Kharkov. The number of Soviet Jews permitted exit visas has decreased sharply, creating the lowest emigration levels in two years. Official harassment of the Jewish population continues. Others are sent into internal exile to prevent them from speaking of the cruel repression that exists today. The KGB prevents Jews from participating in educational and cultural programs while at the same time threatening and arresting those who seek to commemorate the Holocaust as well as Babi Yar. In short, the Soviet government is now on the verge, and continues to desperately try, to eradicate all traces of Jewish culture and Jewish contribution to the history of the Soviet Union.

There remains a frightening analogy with present day Soviet treatment and harassment of Jews and that of Nazi Germany. The monument erected at Babi Yar fails to mention that any Jews were killed in that mass slaughter 40 years ago. It symbolizes the Soviet obsession that haunts their past and now has resurfaced in 1981. Americans must continue their activism, combining efforts with the proper pressure on political leaders so there will be no need to memorialize the Jews of Kiev once again.

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