BEGIN BREAKS HIP, BUT CONDUCTS CABINET

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Israel's Cabinet, meeting in a ward at Hadassah Hospital where Premier Menachem Begin underwent surgery Nov 26 for a broken hip joint, approved the departure to Washington of Defense Minister Ariel Sharon to discuss with Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger a strategic cooperation agreement between Israel and the U.S. but at the same time the more immediate problem facing the Begin government -- whether to accept European participation in the Multinational force to patrol Sinai after Israeli withdrawal -- was defereed until this month.

Although some ministers demanded more time to study the draft of the agreement on strategic cooperation, Sharon was dispatched on his mission at the urging of Premier Begin Begin meanwhile was said by his doctors to be recovering from the operation as scheduled but however limited his Cabinet meeting to 90 minutes.

The Cabinet meeting began only hours after Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir returned from a 15 hour visit to Washington and a marathon 7 and a half hours of talks with Secretary of State Alexander Haig. Shamir's purpose was to convey Israel's objection to participation in the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) by Britain France Italy and The Netherlands on terms that the Israelis consider a negation of the Camp David accords. It is widely believed that Shamir was summoned to Washington by Haig when it appeared the Cabinet would reject the Europeans unless they changed their attitude. This was emphatically denied by Israeli officials here.

Shamir, in his talks with Haig, stressed there was no linkage between Israel's request for a broader strategic cooperation agreement and the issue of European participation in the MFO. Haig for his part, stressed that inclusion of the European powers would enhance the international legitimacy of the Sinai peacekeeping force and the legitimacy of the Egyptian - Israeli peace treaty and the Camp David accords. Shamir emphasized there was no problem between Israel and the U.S. over the MFO. The problem he said, was with the Europeans. The Europeans have included in their announcement of participation that they joined the MFO on the basis of the Venice Declaration of 1980 which calls for Palestine Liberation Organization association in any peace process for the Mideast.

Shamir briefed Begin in the morning before the Cabinet gathered around his bedside. Cabinet Secretary Arye Naor said the Cabinet was not able to complete its deliberation on the MFO because of the doctoral 90 minute limit on the meeting. The meeting was reported to have been stormy. The differences arose over whether Sharon should delay his trip to Washington. Several ministers protested vigorously over what they thought was the undue haste with which they were required to examine and decide on the American proposals for strategic cooperation, of which a draft copy was forwarded to the Begin Cabinet. But Begin is reportedly determined to have the strategic cooperation agreement concluded as speedily as possible.

Begin is said to consider it a major political achievement for Israel even though it does not contain all that Israel had hoped for. He regards it moreover, as a personal triumph achieved during his meeting with President Reagan in Washington last September, and is said to feel that whatever is lacking now could be built into strategic cooperation once the agreement is in force.

One element Israel reluctantly agreed to forego is joint U.S. - Israeli military exercises on Israel soil, similar to the joint exercises already twice conducted by the U.S. and Egypt on Egyptian soil. But the U.S. ruled that out for political reasons. It agreed however to joint sea and air exercises with Israel. A new element welcomed here was the agreement with the Pentagon that the pact would contain a secret addendum specifying cooperation in intelligence and other sensitive areas. Israel also secured American consent to have the agreement ratified officially by the two governments after it is signed, thus giving it more formal binding force.

Another improvement from Israel's viewpoint wil' have the accord spell out an element of "reciprocity" meaning that each side would help the other, not merely that Israel would cooperate with the U.S. against possible Soviet aggression in the Middle East. Some ministers were uncomfortable with the emphasis the Americn draft placed on the anti - Soviet aims of the agreement and Sharon was instructed to try to broaden its scope.

Shamir's seven hour - plus meeting with Haig is believed to have set a record for a single day's diplomatic conference. But the fact that Shamir was forced to fly home to Israel on a Saturday drew fierce protests from the religious parties in Begin's coalition government. Interior Minister Yosef Burg of the National Religious Party said the Sabbath trip was "a blantant deviation from the declared policy and attitude of the Begin government." Menahem Porush, a Knesset member of the Agudat Israel said his party would demand a commitment that no similar Sabbath violation would occur in the future. Shamir said he was "sorry" his mission had forced him to fly on the Sabbath. But he said it had been most urgent for him to return home immediately to convey the U.S. position to Begin.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Likud Knesset member Moshe Arens was approved by the Cabinet as Israel's next Ambassador to the United States. The appointment will receive final ratification after its approval by the United States government. Israel's present Ambassador to the U.S. is Ephraim Evron. Arens' replacement in the Knesset will be Michael Kleiner of the Herut faction. Kleiner is a former chairman of the Tel Aviv University's student union and presently the director general of the World Zionist Organization's education and culture department.

BRAZIL RABBI DISPUTES CLAIM

BOSTON - The rabbi of Brazil's largest Jewish congregation has disputed Jacobo Timerman's claim that anti-Semisism is comparable to that of prewar Nazi Germany, calling it "an exaggeration that has already destroyed his credibility."

Rabbi Henry I. Sobel of Congregacao Israelita Paulista in Sao Paulo conceded that there are "serious anti - Semitic trends in Argentina today" but pointed out that Jews are "free to leave the country whenever they wish and to take all their property with them."

"The fact that relatively few have done so speaks for itself," Rabbi Sobel told a luncheon sponsored by the World Union for Progressive Judaism international branch of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. The luncheon was held during the UAHC's 56th biennial assembly here.

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