

### HAIG SEES AUTONOMY DEAL

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Israeli officials displayed no real optimism that U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's visit here and his visit to Egypt for two days before led to a substantial breakthrough in the autonomy negotiations with Egypt which have been dragging on for the last 3 months. But sources here have indicated that Israel's position has softened slightly on some outstanding autonomy issues and that this was reflected in the proposals offered by Haig.

Israel asserts that substantive concessions must come from Egypt on such issues as the powers of self governing authority and the right of East Jerusalem Arabs to participate in the autonomy elections. There is also rising concern that the Egyptians will try to forestall the autonomy talks until after the return of the Sinai in order to press Israel for further concessions and that Israel's bargaining position will be weaker.

That view seemed to be borne out by Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali's remarks greeting Haig on his arrival in Cairo. "Egypt, on its part, will spare no effort to keep the talks going until they bring their desired results, either before or after the complete Israeli withdrawal from Sinai, taking into account the current political considerations," Hassan Ali said. He said Egypt's aim remains "to achieve a real full autonomy for the Palestinians."

Haig said in Cairo and in Jerusalem that the U.S. was setting no deadline. He told Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir that his visit to Israel and Egypt was "primarily to focus on the peace process, especially the autonomy talks." The Secretary of State told reporters, on his arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, that the working teams of Israel, Egypt and the U.S. had made "important progress" until now and that President Reagan has "concluded the time has come to see whether or not it is

possible to bring about a breakthrough.

Observers in and outside the Israeli government said, however, that the primary purpose of Haig's trip was to revive the autonomy talks in order to prevent any new "surprises" by Israel, such as its annexation of the Golan Heights Dec. 14.

In addition, the observers said, Haig wants to re-engage the parties in the autonomy negotiations to ensure that the Camp David process will retain its momentum after all of Sinai is returned to Egypt. In that way, the challenges posed to Camp David by the Saudi Arabian plan and the European Middle East initiative can be warded off. Those challenges are expected to be pressed anew after Israel's withdrawal is completed.

### WILL U.S. TURN ON ISRAEL?

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Simcha Dinitz, former Israeli Ambassador to the United States warned here that once Israel completes its withdrawal next April from Sinai in accordance with the Camp David agreement, it will come under great pressure to withdraw to its pre-1967 borders on all fronts, to divide Jerusalem and to allow the establishment of a Palestinian state headed by Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat.

At the same time, Dinitz, addressing the 25th national convention of the Labor Zionist Alliance, said that Israel should give top priority to repairing its relations with Washington. He said the present state of relations between the two nations is his "greatest concern."

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