

Israeli Officials Are Shocked By Joint Mubarak, Hussein Communique

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as a full partner in negotiations to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. But there was no official reaction.

The communique, issued simultaneously in Cairo and Amman, followed three days of talks between Mubarak and Hussein in the Egyptian capital, their first summit meeting since Jordan, two months ago, resumed the diplomatic relations with Egypt which broke in 1979 in protest against the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

The joint communique, implying Egypt's acceptance of Hussein's formula, was tantamount to an Egyptian repudiation of the Camp David accords, Israeli officials said. According to political analysts, it marks, at the very least, an Egyptian retreat from Camp David as the sole path to peace in the Middle East and a willingness to consider other, more radical diplomatic approaches.

The Israelis were most disturbed by the communique's support for the "inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination in the form they see it" and its reiteration of the Arab League pronouncement, at its 1974 summit meeting in Rabat, that the PLO is "the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

Also severely troubling was the communique's endorsement of United Nations

Security Council Resolution 242 as a "suitable basis" for a peace settlement. The resolution, promulgated on November 22, 1967, five months after the Six-Day-War, called for, among other things, "withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict."

While Israel accepted Resolution 242 in its entirety -- the PLO rejected it -- and acknowledged that it was the basis for the 1979 Camp David agreements, Jerusalem has always insisted that the Camp David formula is the only viable framework for a Middle

East peace.

The Mubarak-Hussein communique called for an international peace conference under UN auspices with the two superpowers, U.S. and USSR in attendance

along with the other permanent members of the Security Council, and the PLO as an equal party to the negotiations.

Israel has flatly rejected an international conference on Middle

East peace because it would inject the Soviet Union directly into the process and because Israel, under no circumstances, will deal with the PLO which it regards as a terrorist organization.

26 Lawmakers Urge Vatican To Extend Diplomatic Ties To Israel

WASH. (WNS) — A group of 26 members of the House of Representatives -- 13 Jewish and 13 Catholic -- have sent a letter to Pope John Paul II urging the Vatican to establish formal diplomatic relations with Israel.

"As Catholic and

Jewish members of the United States Congress, we strongly favor mutual diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Israel and urge the prompt establishment of such relations," the Congressional members declared.

In a letter, the

Congressman said: "Because of Your Holiness' unswerving commitment to religious toleration, we seek Your Holiness' personal intervention to bring about this monumental affirmation of the kinship between the world's Catholics and Jews."

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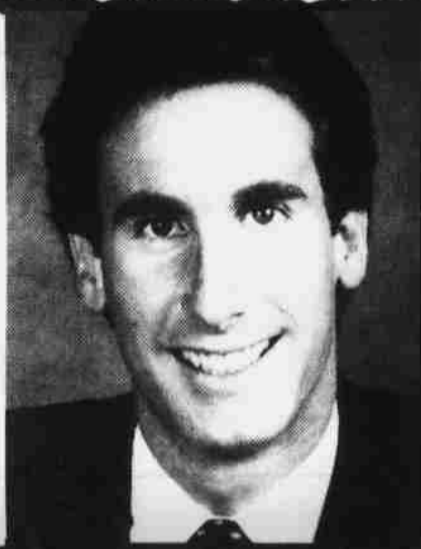
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