

An Anniversary Passes Quietly

A significant anniversary in the sphere of international diplomacy has passed quietly, with little fanfare or comment. It was seven years ago on November 19, 1977 that Egyptian President Anwar Sadat made his historic trip to Jerusalem that eventually led to the establishment of peace between Israel and Egypt. It changed the texture of the Middle East landscape and fundamentally altered the alignment of the Arab world.

Today, however, there is little to cheer about in Jerusalem or Cairo, as the two nations which have fought four wars and lost many sons, children and loved ones, as relations reached a low ebb. Egyptian officials held no public ceremony marking the anniversary and the newspapers, unlike previous years, failed to note the occasion choosing instead to ignore the historic date.

Sadat paid with his life for the visit to Jerusalem when, four years later, he was assassinated by Moslem extremists. Premier Menachem Begin has since retired from the political scene and lives as a recluse in an apartment, seeing few people. President Jimmy Carter, the third party to the Camp David agreement and to the peace treaty, has little power in Washington these days to influence any dramatic action by the United States in the Mideast.

Israel's economy is floundering under the strains of runaway inflation. Its peace with Egypt cost dearly, some estimates ranging between \$6-7

billion. This includes the loss of Jewish settlements on the Sinai, military installations and oil fields in the peninsula captured in the 1967 Six Day War. Emotionally, Israel has suffered greatly, as many will not soon forget the scenes broadcast on the evening news of Jewish settlers being forcibly removed from their homes in the Sinai, an area the Israeli government originally said it would never relinquish. But it did, and Israel kept its word to the peace treaty.

Egypt, meanwhile, has started actions which are straining its relations with the Jewish State, which may prevent any reconciliation. In one of the most disturbing developments, beyond the fact that the Egyptian Ambassador has not been on assignment in Tel Aviv for more than two years, the media in Cairo has whipped up anti-Jewish, anti Israel and in turn, anti-Zionist hysteria. The articles in the newspapers, some which are semi-official in nature, say Israel is a cancer in the Middle East, and should be removed. Others say Israelis are bloodthirsty, that it is part of the Jewish faith, that it is inherent in the Jewish faith. "These are things we were used to before the peace, but we thought that peace would put an end to it," Israeli Deputy Premier Yitzhak Navon told the recent meeting of the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations.

Of course, as many would argue, a cold peace with Egypt is better than a hot war with the leading military force in the Arab world. But what

price has Israel paid for this peace? It is understandable that Egypt is moving to mend fences with its Arab brethren and thus has played down its ties with Israel. But as Egypt moves on the diplomatic highway to Amman, Baghdad and Beirut, it should recall the rough and treacherous road its President took in November, 1977 to Jerusalem.

NEW YORK (WNS) — Dr. Saul Cohen, president of Queens College, is resigning to become executive vice president of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Cohen, who has headed Queens College since 1978, will succeed Ralph Goldman, who will retire next March. Goldman will continue his relationship with the JDC as a consultant. Henry Taub, JDC president, will formally announce that Cohen will be nominated as executive vice president of the JDC at its annual meeting.

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