

Middle East Camp David-Israel/Egypt Talks, 9/78

Folder Citation: Collection: Office of the Chief of Staff Files; Series: Hamilton Jordan's Confidential Files; Folder: Middle East Camp David-Israel/Egypt Talks, 9/78; Container 35

To See Complete Finding Aid:

http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov/library/findingaids/Chief_of_Staff.pdf

WITHDRAWAL SHEET (PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES)

p 2 of 2

FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
Memo	Saunders (DOS) to Mondale, Brzezinski, Jordan w/attachments, 33 pp. Re: Camp David Meetings	8/16/78	A
Memo	Pres. Carter from Jordan, 3 pp. (2 copies) Re: Camp David Meetings	n.d.	A

FILE LOCATION

Carter Presidential Papers, Staff Offices, Chief of Staff (Jordan), Confidential File
[Middle East]--Camp David--Israel/Egypt Talks, 9/78

Box 35

- RESTRICTION CODES
- A) Closed by Executive Order 12356 governing access to national security information.
 - B) Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
 - C) Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in the donor's deed of gift.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 19, 1978

A CBS News poll to test the reaction of the American public to the Camp David Summit Meeting was conducted by telephone Monday Evening September 18 among a nation-wide random sample of 973 adults.

The results of this poll were broadcast tonight, Tuesday, September 19 on the CBS EVENING NEWS WITH WALTER CRONKITE.

The full results of this survey are enclosed.

CBS NEWS

A Division of CBS Inc.
524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 975-4321

FOR RELEASE:

CBS NEWS
9/19/78, 6:30 p.m. (EDT)

CBS NEWS POLL
CAMP DAVID SUMMIT
SEPTEMBER, 1978

The American public gives Jimmy Carter more of the credit for the successful conclusion of the Camp David summit than either President Sadat or Prime Minister Begin. At the same time, Carter's approval rating soared to 51%, up 13 percentage points since last June. This is the first increase in approval during his Presidency.

These are the results of a CBS News Poll conducted the day after the signing of the two agreements outlining the plans for peace in the Middle East. A random sample of 973 adults nation-wide was interviewed by telephone, the same evening the President was addressing a joint session of Congress.

This poll was conducted by telephone Monday evening, September 18, 1978, among a nation-wide random sample of 973 adults. The error due to sampling could be plus or minus four percentage points. For more information, contact Warren Mitofsky or Kathleen Frankovic at (212) 975-5551.

The results of this poll were first broadcast on THE CBS EVENING NEWS WITH WALTER CRONKITE, Tuesday, September 19, 1978.

About three-quarters of those interviewed knew about the results of the Camp David summit. 44% of them thought Jimmy Carter was most responsible for the peace agreements. 15% named Sadat, 5% said Begin, and 18% thought it was a joint responsibility. The rest were not sure.

Prior to the present poll President Carter's approval rating declined in six successive CBS/NYT polls from a high of 64% in April, 1977, to a low of 38% last June. The present 13 point increase to 51% approval compares favorably to that experienced by other recent American Presidents following major international events. Nixon's approval rating climbed 16 points following the Vietnam peace agreement in 1973; Kennedy jumped 12 points after the Cuban Missile crisis in 1962; Ford went up 11 points after the Mayaguez incident in 1975; Johnson increased 8 points after the first bombing of Hanoi in 1966.

		APPROVAL RATING		
		<u>Change</u>	<u>Before</u>	<u>After</u>
NIXON	VIETNAM PEACE, 1973	16%	51%	67%
CARTER	CAMP DAVID SUMMIT, 1978	13	38	51
JFK	CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS, 1962	12	61	73
FORD	MAYAGUEZ, 1975	11	40	51
LBJ	1st HANOI BOMBING, 1966	8	48	56

Whether President Carter has turned "this impossible dream" of peace into a realistic expectation in the mind of the public is still open to question. For every three people who thought the agreements would lead to a real peace settlement in the Middle East there were two who thought it was no more likely now than it was before the summit--this was among those who knew what happened at Camp David. Another one-fourth are not sure what to expect.

About six weeks after Anwar Sadat's trip to Israel the CBS/Times poll first asked people if they thought "chances are better for a peace settlement," or "for another war." The current high expectations for a peace settlement are at 44%, about the same as they were in January (40%) of this year, after making a sharp 16 point decline in an April poll. At that time the mood was pessimistic after the lack of progress in Egypt-Israeli negotiations. Almost one-third expected war then. Now it is half that much, the same as January.

It seems that public sentiment will continue to change sharply with each major event. There is evidence for hopes of peace, but a wariness about expressing those hopes. A majority of those who know the results of the summit thought Carter accomplished more than they expected at Camp David--a sentiment also expressed by many in Congress. The permanence of this view will be influenced sharply by new events.

CBS NEWS POLL

September 18, 1978

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Jimmy Carter is handling his job as President?

	<u>NOW</u>	(LOW) <u>JUNE '78</u>	(HIGH) <u>APRIL '77</u>
APPROVE	51%	38%	64%
DISAPPROVE	28	41	20
NO OPINION	21	21	16

2. In the next few years, do you think chances are better for a peace settlement in the Middle East, or for another war, or for things to go on as they are?

	<u>NOW</u>	<u>APRIL '78</u>	<u>JANUARY '78</u>
PEACE	44%	24%	40%
WAR	14	31	15
GO ON AS ARE	27	34	35
NO OPINION	15	11	10

3. Have you heard or read anything about the results of the Camp David summit meeting with Egypt and Israel and the United States?

	<u>NOW</u>
YES	76%
NO	22
NO ANSWER	2

Last night, two agreements about a future peace settlement in the Middle East were signed.

4. Do you think the agreements will lead to a real peace settlement in the Middle East, or do you think a peace settlement is no more likely now than it was before the summit?

	<u>FROM Q.3</u>	
	<u>KNEW ABOUT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>AGREEMENTS</u>	<u>SAMPLE</u>
REAL PEACE	46%	41%
NO MORE LIKELY	32	33
DEPENDS	12	11
NO OPINION	10	15

5. Who do you think is most responsible for those agreements -- President Carter, President Sadat of Egypt, or Prime Minister Begin of Israel?

	<u>KNEW ABOUT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>AGREEMENTS</u>	<u>SAMPLE</u>
CARTER	44%	43%
SADAT	15	13
BEGIN	5	6
MORE THAN ONE RESPONSIBLE	19	18
NO OPINION	17	20

6. Did Jimmy Carter accomplish more than you expected him to at the summit, less than you expected, or did he accomplish just about what you expected?

	<u>KNEW ABOUT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>AGREEMENTS</u>	<u>SAMPLE</u>
MORE	54%	47%
LESS	4	5
ABOUT WHAT EXPECTED	33	36
NO OPINION	9	12

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

8/8/78

To Rafshoon

Other than cautious,
non-controversial background
briefings, I want minimal
U.S. Government officials
public statements re the
Camp David meeting. None
until Cy returns &
briefs us. I will ask
Begin & Sadat to do
the same.

J. C.

the roger seasonwein poll

For Release

6 P. M.
September 19, 1978

26 burling lane, new rochelle, new york 10801

Further Information
Frank Patane
(914) 576-3477

CARTER'S JOB RATING INCREASES SHARPLY

September 19, 1978---

President Carter's Camp David negotiations have resulted in a sharp increase in his approval rating, according to a nationwide Seasonwein Poll completed at 9 o'clock last night.

Some 39% of the public now feels that he is doing a good job, a 10-point increase over his approval rating just 10 days ago. Only 13% feel he is doing a poor job, down from 25%.

The full figures are:

	<u>Monday</u> <u>Night</u>	<u>Sept.</u> <u>9, 10</u>
<u>Good job</u>	<u>39%</u>	<u>29%</u>
Very good	13	4
Pretty good	26	25
<u>Fair</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>42</u>
<u>Poor job</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>25</u>
Pretty poor	7	15
Very poor	6	10
<u>Don't know</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>

(more)

The new Seasonwein Poll was conducted Monday night among a probability sample of 500 adults. Sampling and measurement error is approximately 5 points.

The Seasonwein Poll is conducted in conjunction with a newsletter that is read by more than 2,000 executives at major corporations and public relations and advertising agencies. It has developed a track record of accuracy in both elections and primaries. Most recently it projected a 20-point margin for Governor Hugh Carey in the New York State Gubernatorial primary. The actual election margin was 18 points.

Basic Points to Stress:

1) This initiative was necessary because the Middle Eastern situation has been deteriorating. Moderation both in the Arab world and in Israel was becoming discredited, while the situation in Lebanon was becoming explosive. ~~Both Sadat and Begin have been escalating their polemics.~~ Thus, instead of moving towards peace, they have lately been drifting away from it. A breakdown of the Israeli-Egyptian negotiations could lead to renewed conflict.

2) In these circumstances, the President has decided to bring the parties together. To do this effectively, direct and personal Presidential involvement was necessary. The risks are high, but so are the stakes: peace in the Middle East and eventually also the well-being of the international economic system. *progress toward*

3) There are those who will say that the President should not be personally involved in a meeting at this level and that the chances for success are not very high. The President decided to issue an invitation not because the prospects are so good but because the risks have risen so high.

4) We have no illusions that the Camp David meeting will produce a settlement. But it can narrow down the differences, surface the existing areas of agreement, and encourage the parties to move more directly into continuing negotiations. Direct and personal talks among the top leaders can help to remove some of the major obstacles to such negotiations, and the Camp David meeting will seek to do just that.

Q: Why take this initiative now?

A: The President and all of his principal foreign policy advisors felt this step was appropriate at this time to insure that the opportunity for peace resulting from the Sadat visit to Jerusalem was not lost.

Q: Was there any particular event which brought about this new answer?

A: There was no particular event. This step was based upon a carefully considered assessment of the overall situation. There was a feeling by all involved that this step was necessary to get the process moving again and prevent the situation from deteriorating further.

Q: Did either Sadat or Begin ask the US to make this move?

A: No. However, I can say that although we do not wish to speak for them, both Prime Minister Begin and President Sadat welcomed this step with enthusiasm when Secretary Vance presented it to them.

Q: Are there any pre-conditions?

A: No.

Q: Will there be an American plan?

A: Our position has always been that the parties themselves must reach an agreement and that we cannot impose real peace.

Of course we have also maintained that we will help to overcome obstacles by constructive suggestions to both parties.

Q: How long is this meeting to last?

A: At least two days or so. Frankly, we haven't tried to set any rigid timetable.

Q: Who else will attend?

A: Our understanding is that the principals will be accompanied by their most immediate advisors.

Basic Points to Stress:

1) This initiative was necessary because the Middle Eastern situation has been deteriorating. Moderation both in the Arab world and in Israel was becoming discredited, while the situation in Lebanon was becoming explosive. Both Sadat and Begin have been escalating their polemics. Thus, instead of moving towards peace, they have lately been drifting away from it. A breakdown of the Israeli-Egyptian negotiations could lead to renewed conflict.

2) In these circumstances, the President has decided to bring the parties together. To do this effectively, direct and personal Presidential involvement was necessary. The risks are high, but so are the stakes: peace in the Middle East and eventually also the well-being of the international economic system. *progress toward*

3) There are those who will say that the President should not be personally involved in a meeting at this level and that the chances for success are not very high. The President decided to issue an invitation not because the prospects are so good but because the risks have risen so high.

4) We have no illusions that the Camp David meeting will produce a settlement. But it can narrow down the differences, surface the existing areas of agreement, and encourage the parties to move more directly into continuing negotiations. Direct and personal talks among the top leaders can help to remove some of the major obstacles to such negotiations, and the Camp David meeting will seek to do just that.

Q: Why take this initiative now?

A: The President and all of his principal foreign policy advisors felt this step was appropriate at this time to insure that the opportunity for peace resulting from the Sadat visit to Jerusalem was not lost.

Q: Was there any particular event which brought about this new answer?

A: There was no particular event. This step was based upon a carefully considered assessment of the overall situation. There was a feeling by all involved that this step was necessary to get the process moving again and prevent the situation from deteriorating further.

Q: Did either Sadat or Begin ask the US to make this move?

A: No. However, I can say that although we do not wish to speak for them, both Prime Minister Begin and President Sadat welcomed this step with enthusiasm when Secretary Vance presented it to them.

Q: Are there any pre-conditions?

A: No.

Q: Will there be an American plan?

A: Our position has always been that the parties themselves must reach an agreement and that we cannot impose real peace.

Of course we have also maintained that we will help to overcome obstacles by constructive suggestions to both parties.

Q: How long is this meeting to last?

A: At least two days or so. Frankly, we haven't tried to set any rigid timetable.

Q: Who else will attend?

A: Our understanding is that the principals will be accompanied by their most immediate advisors.