

State Dinner in Honor of Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel, 7/19/77

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Report	Government Report, 1 pg	7/7/77	A
Report	Government Report, 1 pg	7/12/77	A
Report	Government Report, 1 pg	7/7/77	A
Report	Government Report, 1 pg	7/11/77	A
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JULY 19, 1977

OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY'S PRESS SECRETARY

TEA IN HONOR OF MRS. MENAHEM BEGIN,
WIFE OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL

Fact Sheet

MENU

Banana Bread

Chocolate Roll

Date Nut Bread

Lemon Cake

Fruit in Melon Basket

Hot Tea

Iced Tea

Spiced Tea

Tea will be served at 4:00 p.m. in the State Dining Room. The Audubon Quartet from Marywood College in Scranton, Pennsylvania, will play background music. The Audubon Quartet won first prize in the "Interpretation of Contemporary Music" at the Festival de Musique d'Evian in Evian, France.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 15, 1977

MEMORANDUM TO: MRS. CARTER
FROM: GRETCHEN POSTON
SUBJECT: DECORATIONS FOR BEGIN TEA AND DINNER
July 19, 1977

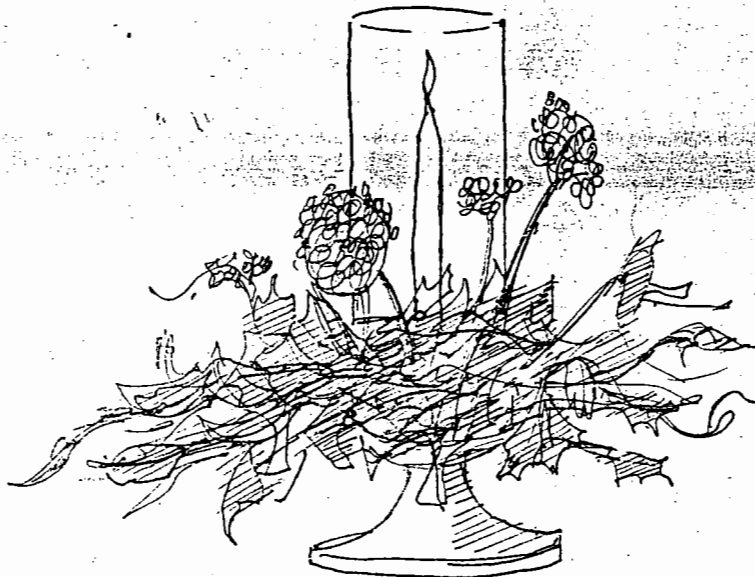
TEA

Tea, breads, and cakes will be served from one table in the ~~State Dining Room~~. Two large urns will have mixed bouquets of flowers to form a primary focal point for the tea table. (Menu attached)

DINNER

Because of the large number of guests, an E-shaped table will be used for the working dinner.

White candles in a chimney-type glass enclosure are mounted on silver bases. Surrounding the stand are ivy trailing the centers of the table and Queen Anne's lace flowers.



MEMORANDUM

file

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. CARTER AND MARY HOYT

FROM: GRETCHEN POSTON

DATE: 18 July 1977

SUBJECT: PREPARATION OF DINNER - July 19th

The White House kitchen will prepare the kosher meal for Prime Minister Begin on Tuesday evening. The menu will remain as is; however, all cooking utensils, table china and silver will be provided by a kosher kitchen - Braun's Caterers.

In addition, a MASHGIACH, Frances Gerstonfield, will be present to supervise all preparations. A "Mashgiach" is a religious supervisor of cooking, and is trained in basic dietary law.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Photographic pool — Begin Dinner

AP Peter Bregg
UPI Dick Daniloff
Star Walter Oates
Post Harry Naltchayan
U.S. News Tom O'Halloran
Consolidated News Arnold Sachs
WH official photographer
Israeli official photographer Jacob Sa'ar
Israeli magazine Shabtay Tal
Israeli news photographer Ben-Ami Neuman

THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

July 15, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. CARTER:

SUBJECT: Gift Exchange during the Official Visit of His Excellency Menahem Begin, Prime Minister of Israel, and Mrs. Begin, to Washington, D. C., July 19, 1977.

I have been informed that the Prime Minister of Israel and Mrs. Begin are aware of your preference for a moderate gift exchange, namely, photographs.

May I recommend that you offer an inscribed photograph of you and your distinguished guests taken during the White House Arrival Ceremony on Tuesday, July 19th. The photograph will be placed in a blue leather frame with the Presidential Seal.

The following is the suggested formal inscription:

To His Excellency
The Prime Minister of Israel,
and Mrs. Begin,

On the occasion of their visit to Washington, D. C.,

With best wishes,

Jimmy Carter

Rosalynn Carter

July 19, 1977



Evan S. Dobbelle

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

7:20 arrival
8:45 toast

file

Photographic pool -- Begin Dinner

Newsweek Wally McNamee

AP Peter Bragg

UPI ~~Dick Daniloff~~ John Full

Star Walter Oates

Post Harry Naltchayan

U.S. News Tom O'Halloran

Consolidated News Arnold Sachs

WH official photographer

Israeli official photographer Jacob Sa'ar

Israeli magazine Shabtay Tal

Israeli news photographer Ben-Ami Neuman

Time Magazine - by special request of P.M. Begin
Alon Reininger

Buy de Lort - WWD?

{ USIA crew - 2 men
Israeli crew - 2 men

put them in corner
at far end of Red Room

Trudy

{ Shayer Segal
Mariv }

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Tom Gerard
ABC -

393-7700

X221

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Photo Pool

AP

UPI

Star

Post

US news

Conrad news

Newsweek

Arnie (per Begin)

Official

Israeli

Official

Mag

news

news (?)

2 film (Israeli)

2 film (USIA)

Pues for
Jude

0 0

USIA AP
UPI

Mr. Quandt

Mrs. Benson

Mr. Habib

Mr. Pattir

Rep. Yates

Sen. Ribicoff

Mr. Ciechanover

Sen. Nelson

Amb. Lewis

Mr. Moore

Rep. Solarz

Rep. Eilberg

Rep. Hamilton

Sen. Inouye

Mr. Eizenstat

Rep. Bingham

Mr. Avner

Sen. Cranston

Mr. Mizrachi

Sen. Muskie

Mr. Jordan

Mr. Rosenthal

Mr. Bentsur

Sen. Humphrey

Gen. Poran

Sen. Javits

Mr. Atherton

Mr. Lipshutz

Rep. Obey

Rep. Broomfield

Sen. Stone

Sen. Case

Mr. Aaron

Rep. Waxman

Rep. Holtzman

Mr. Tourgeman

Rep. Wright

Rep. Fascell

Mr. Kadishai

Sen. Sparkman

Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski

Secy of the Treasury

Mr. Shmuel Katz

The Speaker

Amb. of Israel

THE PRESIDENT

Prime Minister Begin

The Vice President

Dr. E. B. Elissar

Secy of State

Mr. Hanan Bar-On

Secy of Defense

file

Tea to be given in honor of Mrs. Menahem Begin, wife of the Prime Minister of Israel, on Tuesday, July 19, 1977 at 4:00 p. m.

Mrs. Carter

Mrs. Menahem Begin
Wife of the Prime Minister of Israel

Mrs Howard Thetzentau

Mrs. Yechiel Kadishai
(accompanying Mrs. Begin)

Mrs. Simcha Dinitz
Wife of the Ambassador of Israel

Mrs. Hanan Bar-On
Wife of the Minister, Embassy of Israel

Mrs. Avraham Adan
Wife of the Defense & Armed Forces Attache, Embassy of Israel

Mrs. Zvi Rafiah
Wife of the Counselor, Embassy of Israel

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Berman
Mr--Counsel & Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Vice President

Mrs. Stuart Bernstein
Bethesda, Maryland

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bowe
Mr--American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities

Dr. Blandina Cardenas
Director-designate, Office of Child Development,
Department of Health, Education & Welfare

Hon. Max Cleland
Administrator of Veterans Affairs

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Eizenstat
Atlanta, Georgia

Mr. and Mrs. Stuart E. Eizenstat
Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs and Policy

Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Fabrick
Los Angeles, California

Miss Trude B. Feldman
Transfeatures Syndicate

Mrs. Robert L. Gladstone
Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Andrew J. Glass
Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Marvin Goldstein
Atlanta, Georgia

Mrs. Judy Gorodetzki
New York City

Mr. and Mrs. Sanford D. Greenberg
Washington, D. C.

Dr. David Harman
Asst. Professor, Graduate School of Education, Harvard University

Ms. Gloria Harris
Baltimore, Maryland

Mr. Lester Hyman
Attorney, Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Henry M. Jackson
Wife of the Senator from Washington

Mrs. Donna Kahan
Highland Park, Illinois

Mrs. Kaygey Kash
President, B'nai B'rith Women

Miss Susan Kimelman
Washington, D. C.

Mr. and Mrs. Saul Kohler
Newhouse News

Mrs. Odell Kominers
Bethesda, Maryland

Mrs. Nathan Krane
President, National Council of Jewish Women, Philadelphia

Mrs. Edward Lavine
Boston, Massachusetts

Mrs. Naomi Levine
Exec. Dir., American Jewish Congress, New York City

Mrs. Lillian Levy
National Jewish Post

Mrs. Florence Lowe
Head of Press & Public Relations, National Endowment for the Arts

Mrs. Richard K. Lyon
Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Marina Newmeyer
Dir., Washington Office, National Conference on Soviet Jewry

Mr. John Phillips
Photographer, New York City

Mrs. Burton P. Polsky
Chevy Chase, Maryland

Mr. Sidney Rabinovich
Pres., American Veterans of Israel, Forest Hills, New York

Mrs. Abraham Ribicoff
Wife of the Senator from Connecticut

Hon. Julius B. Richmond
Surgeon General of the United States

Mrs. Donald M. Robinson
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Mrs. Gayle Rosen
West Orange, New Jersey

Mrs. Rose Sanders
Los Angeles, California

Mr. and Mrs. Jerrold Schecter
Mr.--Assoc. Dir. for National Security Council Press Relations

Mrs. Val Silberman
Miami, Florida

Mr. Jack F. Smith
White House Conference on the Handicapped

Miss Joyce Starr
Office of Public Liaison, White House

Mrs. Charlotte Stein
President, Pioneer Women, New York City

Mrs. Richard Stone
Wife of the Senator from Florida

Mrs. Martin Strauss
Bethesda, Maryland

Mrs. Nathan Tannenbaum
President, Hadassah, New York City

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Tolchin
Bethesda, Maryland

Mrs. Paula Weiss
Office of Public Affairs, Overseas Private Investment Corporation

Mrs. Anny Yanowicz
New York City

Mrs. Sidney Yates
Wife of the Representative from Illinois

Mrs. Lev Zetlin
Roslyn, New York

Mrs. Harriet Zimmerman
Atlanta, Georgia

Mrs. Edward Zorinsky
Wife of the Senator from Nebraska

JULY 19, 1977

OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY'S PRESS SECRETARY

TEA IN HONOR OF MRS. MENAHEM BEGIN,
WIFE OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL

Fact Sheet

MENU

Banana Bread

Chocolate Roll

Date Nut Bread

Lemon Cake

Fruit in Melon Basket

Hot Tea

Iced Tea

Spiced Tea

Tea will be served at 4:00 p.m. in the State Dining Room. The Audubon Quartet from Marywood College in Scranton, Pennsylvania, will play background music. The Audubon Quartet won first prize in the "Interpretation of Contemporary Music" at the Festival de Musique d'Evian in Evian, France.

Guests Mrs. Aliza Begin is most interested in meeting:

- Mrs. Martin Strauss (Kitty)
Bethesda, Md. - Active in Israel Soldier's Relief
- Mrs. Anny Yanowicz
New York City - Israel Soldier's Relief
- Mrs. Donald M. Robinson (Sylvia)
Pittsburgh - Israel Soldier's Relief
- Mrs. Nathan Krane (Sonia)
President, National Council of Jewish Women
Disabled Israeli Veterans - Philadelphia
- Mrs. Stuart Bernstein (Wilma)
Bethesda, Md. - Israel Soldier's Relief
- Mrs. Judy Gorodetzki
New York City - Israel Soldier's Relief
- Mr. Harry Eisner
Executive Director, Association for Welfare of Soldiers
in Israel - New York City
- Mrs. Frederick Mann (Sylvia)
President, Israel Soldiers Relief - Philadelphia
- Dr. David Harman
Harvard Graduate School of Education (Asst. Professor)
Cambridge, Mass. - Worked with Israel's HIPPIY program of education.
Innovative new program where professionals go into
the homes and work with the parents and children.
- Dr. Julius B. Richmond
Surgeon General of the United States
Worked with Dr. David Harman in Israel on the HIPPIY program.
Also involved with Head Start
- Hon. Max Cleland
Administrator of Veterans Affairs
Mrs. Begin expressed a particular interest in meeting him.
- Dr. Blandina Cardenas
Director-designate Office of Child Development of HEW
(she is currently employed at the Office of Child Development)
- Dr. and Mrs. Albert B. Sabin
Distinguished Research Professor of Bio-Medicine, Medical University
of South Carolina (Charleston)
- Miss Joyce Starr
Public Liaison Office, White House
- Mr. Jack F. Smith
White House Conference on the Handicapped
- Mr. Frank Bow
American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities
- Mrs. Frank Lautenberg
United Jewish Appeal - wife of the National President
- Mrs. Naomi Levine
Executive Director, American Jewish Congress
- Mrs. Nathan Tannenbaum,
President, Hadassah
- Mrs. Kaygey Kash
President, B'nai B'rith Women
- Mrs. Charlotte Stein
President, Pioneer Women
- Ms. Carmella Carr
Acting Executive Director, American Zionist Federation
- Mrs. Marina Newmeyer
Director, Washington Office, National Conference on Soviet Jewry

Additional Guests from Jewish community and politics

Mrs. Joseph F. Cullman, 3d (Susan)
 Briarcliff Manor, New York (campaign)
 Mrs. Seymour Graubard (Blanche)
 New York City - campaign
 Mrs. Lev Zetlin (Eve)
 Roslyn, New York - campaign
 Mrs. Marian S. Heiskell
 Department of Special Activities - New York Times
 New York, New York
 Mrs. Norman Treisman (Dorothy)
 Scarsdale, New York - campaign
 Mrs. Abraham Ribicoff
 Washington, D. C.
 Mrs. Harriet Zimmerman
 Atlanta, Georgia (campaign)
 Mrs. Marvin Goldstein
 Atlanta, Georgia - campaign
 Ms. Donna Kahan
 Highland Park, Illinois - campaign
 Mr. Lester Hyman
 Washington, D. C. -
 Board of Governors of American Jewish Committee
 Miss Trude B. Feldman
 Washington, D. C. - free-lance journalist
 Mrs. Edward Levine
 Boston, Massachusetts (campaign)
 Mrs. Lilian Levy
 Chevy Chase, Md. - Jewish Post
 Mrs. Val Silberman
 Miami, Fla. - campaign
 Ms. Gayle Rosen
 West Orange, New Jersey - campaign
 Ms. Gloria Harris
 Baltimore, Md. - campaign
 Mrs. Philip Handler
 wife of President of National Academy of Sciences
 Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Kimelman
 Washington, D. C. - campaign
 Mrs. Zvi Rafiah
 Embassy of Israel
 Mr. and Mrs. Stuart E. Eizenstat
 White House Staff - Asst. to the President for Domestic Affairs, Policy
 Mr. and Mrs. Jerrold Schecter
 White House - NSC Staff - wife is literary agent
 Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Fabrick
 Los Angeles, California - campaign
 Mr. and Mrs. Martin Tolchin
 Bethesda, Md.
 Mr. and Mrs. Saul Kohler
 Silver Spring, Md. - Newhouse News
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lipshutz
 White House Counsel to the President
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Berman
 Counsel and Deputy Chief of Staff to the Vice President
 Mrs. Wilma Tisch
 Rye, New York - campaign
 Mr. and Mrs. Sanford D. Greenberg
 Washington, D. C.
 Mrs. Florence Lowe
 Asst. to Chmn., Nat'l Endowment for Arts - Head of Press/Public Relations
 Mrs. Odell Kominers (Esther)
 Bethesda, Md.
 Mrs. Andrew J. Glass
 Washington, D. C.
 Dr. Betty Hamburg
 Washington, D. C.
 Mrs. Burton P. Polsky
 Chevy Chase, Md.
 Mrs. David Blumberg
 Wife of President of B'Nai B'Rith (regretted)
 Mrs. Robert L. Gladstone
 Washington, D. C.
 Mrs. Sidney Rosen
 Bethesda, Md.

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

EXCHANGE OF TOASTS
BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT
AND
HIS EXCELLENCY MENAHEM BEGIN
PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL

THE STATE DINING ROOM

9:02 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: First of all, I want to welcome all of you here tonight -- the Members of the Senate, the Cabinet, my own staff, the distinguished Members of the House, and also our very fine visitors from Israel, Ambassador Dinitz:

I was very much concerned a few weeks ago when I discovered that this is a special night and I didn't know if we could induce anyone to come. The Speaker pointed out again tonight that this is the All-Star Game, the major baseball game of the year -- (Laughter) -- and I was taken aback the day before yesterday when my wife came and said, "Jimmy, we ordinarily have only 20 people come to your working suppers, and we are trying to cut the list down to 60."

I couldn't understand it. So I talked to Cy and talked to Dr. Brzezinski, and they said everyone wanted to come to meet the new Prime Minister of Israel. This is the largest group we have ever had, Mr. Prime Minister, and it is a great tribute to you and the interest in your country, and is demonstrative, I think, of the very close ties of friendship between the United States and the great nation of Israel. I am pleased to be the host tonight to such a distinguished man.

As I said in my welcoming remarks this morning, this is very gratifying to me. He is the only Foreign Minister I have had who is junior to me. I feel like a senior statesman tonight since he is very new in office. And he and I have a lot more in common.

Ambassador Dinitz was telling me that after the election somebody asked Prime Minister Begin how it felt to be unknown. He said he was known as Menahem who? -- very similar to me except the question was asked about him after he was Prime Minister and asked about me when I first started running for President. (Laughter)

But he and I have a lot more in common than those ties that I have described to you. And we have explored some of them today. It has been one of the most gratifying and stimulating discussions that I have had since I have been President.

MORE

We have had a chance to get to know each other personally, and it has been obvious to me that our guest is a strong leader. He is a man of deep convictions and unshakeable principle. He is a man of truth and quiet dignity. He is a man who is polite and very modest. The only times today when I have seen him somewhat disconcerted is when he thinks that the praise and the compliments are excessive, and he is embarrassed then.

I think this is a tribute to him, and I know that the people in Israel and the many friends in our country who look with favor on him and his leadership are gratified to have him come to see us.

We have had far-reaching discussions today. We have explored differences of opinion in a very blunt and frank fashion, and I think we have resolved some of the differences. Few still remain, but we have discovered and mutually recognized, in order to make them permanent, the agreements that are inherent in the attitudes of our people.

We both feel that this year is a propitious time to move toward real, permanent peace in the Middle East, a recognition by all nations that Israel has a right to exist, to exist as a proud and independent nation, to exist permanently and to exist in peace. This is a basis on which we approach the coming crucial months.

We also recognize the sharp differences of opinion that exist between Israel and her Arab neighbors, the historical distrust that must be overcome. We also recognize the intense interest and legitimate concern and involvement of most all the developed nations of the world and many of those who are still developing in a peaceful settlement of Middle Eastern differences.

We recognize that the basic security of Israel must not only be guaranteed in military terms and from the viewpoint of leaders who are involved, but the security of Israel must be guaranteed in the minds and hearts of people who live in that country and in the minds and hearts of people who would disturb that security if they thought there was hope for success. There must be a reassurance of the staunch friendship that binds our country to Israel.

I have met with the Arab leaders who have been here to see me and whom I have met in Europe, and we have always made clear to them in the early stages of discussions that the basic premise on which we approached a possible Middle East discussion leading toward progress and peace was our commitment to Israel.

We have also explored today some very sensitive questions, some that can prove to be embarrassing because of past statements made in the heat of anger or the heat of challenge or the heat of despair or the heat or depths of insecurity.

MORE

And with a new hope being generated, we see a need for a frank discussion of all the issues that in the past have appeared to be insuperable obstacles toward peace.

I have been very proud of the attitude taken by Prime Minister Begin, who has said all issues are negotiable and who has expressed publicly his hope that he and President Sadat and King Hussein and President Assad can meet with others in Geneva in October.

We don't know yet that we can resolve all the differences that might prevent such a meeting. But following this week, Secretary Vance will go to the Middle East to have private conversations with the leaders there and will also have a follow-up meeting with the Israeli leaders themselves.

The future, of course, is still in doubt. The historical differences still exist. But I am convinced, having spent hours and hours talking and listening to the leaders involved, that there is a unanimous hope that peace might come and a realization of the great benefits that can accrue to all the people in the Middle East with the coming of security and peace.

We are determined to do our share not to try to impose our will on anyone but to act as a trusted intermediary and, to deserve that trust, to give the same points of view to all the parties who will be negotiating, not to mislead anyone, not to avoid a controversial issue, and wherever appropriate to open those controversial issues up to public scrutiny, public analysis, public debate, even when at times it creates some hopefully transient dissention among people who have strongly held opposing views.

But there is no way to postpone any longer those issues that some time in the future will be divisive but which have historically been divisive either for 29 years or 2900 years.

Finally, I would like to say this: Success this year is going to require a great deal of courage. As has often been pointed out, it is much more difficult to make peace than it is to make war because in searching for peace there has to be an accommodation; in searching for war there has to be an arousing of animosity and hatred and a using of innate dissention and distrust as a basis.

But the courage that exists in our fine visitor is one of the factors which encourages me to look toward great progress this year toward true peace in the Middle East.

We share a common religion. We share mutual economic trials, tribulations, successes and hopes. We are bound together politically, culturally, ethically by blood relationships, and these common purposes and goals and characteristics provide a sure base which will withstand the trials and difficulties of a challenging year.

I look forward to it with a great deal of anticipation, and I am very proud tonight to welcome to the White House the new Prime Minister of Israel and to offer a toast to this good and decent and courageous man in whom the hopes of many are focused, and on the brave and courageous people of the great and courageous nation of Israel.

To the people and to you, Mr. Prime Minister.

PRIME MINISTER BEGIN: Mr. President: After having met you, I can say it was a great day in my life to be here to speak to you, to listen to you. We have had very few good days in our lives in our generation. Most of the days were spent in struggle, in persecution; at times in being hunted, in dreams, in suffering. And the days of solace are not many.

This is one of the best days in my life, having met the President of the United States, having learned that this is a man, a great friend of humanity, a man of great understanding and feeling. And therefore, I can say now wholeheartedly a great friend of Israel.

Therefore, tonight, Mr. President, with your permission, I will say something about what I believed to be, perhaps since my childhood, the moral greatness of America.

In 60 years, America has saved mankind from three very grave dangers. The first was Prussian militarism, which during the First World War almost trampled under foot all of Europe and ultimately the world.

1917 was a crucial year. There were mutinies in the French Army. The great question was whom? Who is going to break whom? And then the outcry was heard throughout Europe: "The Yankees are coming." The army of General Pershing fought valiantly. Mainly, the spirit of the European armies, of the allies rose, and then victory came.

The second time America saved mankind came during the period when, as Churchill said, all the embodiment of evil in mankind turned a great nation -- a nation of poets and philosophers -- into a bloodthirsty mob, thirsty first of all for Jewish blood. And in that hour, perhaps the darkest in our time, we lost a third of our people. That would mean 80 million Americans wiped out. Those are phantasmagoric figures which scientists make up in connection with the megatons. But megatons are produced never to be used. As we believe, all free men and all those who believe in Divine Providence, we have to live with those phantasmagoric figures to the last day on earth.

A dark age started in Europe and throughout the world. We should always tell the truth. There was a time when England stood alone resisting that barbarous tyranny. And there was a time when the Soviet armies fought heroically against the onslaught by the Nazi hordes.

MORE

However, whoever studied history does know and should admit that were it not for America -- for America's might and America's spirit and faith in justice and liberty -- even land would have succumbed, Russia would have fallen, and then a dark age would have started perhaps for many, many years, perhaps for centuries, mankind never knew since the days of Nero and Caligula.

Ultimately, the United States won the day for all mankind, and so we were saved from the dark age under the Nazi tyranny.

After the Second World War, Mr. President, there is no doubt whatsoever were it not for America, the Soviet armies long ago would have reached the shores of the Atlantic Ocean. There wasn't enough strength in Europe left to withstand such a possible onslaught. It was only because of America that part of mankind was saved from Soviet slavery, from communist subjugation. This struggle still goes on, as we can see a tendency to take over country-by-country by proxy.

This is the moral greatness of America. It saved three times in two generations, in 60 years, all the nations, all mankind. We free men bow to that greatness of America.

America knew crisis as well -- economic and moral crisis. But as we follow those 200 years of American history, as we read Jefferson and the story of Lee and Hamilton, and Citizen Tom Payne, and the marvelous life story of Abraham Lincoln, who actually renewed all the great precepts taken from the Bible -- when we follow this wonderful story, we see that after each crisis America becomes more democratic, more just, more free and more devoted to our human tasks.

Now, with your permission, Mr. President, a few words about little Israel. And I do not say so for the sake of artificial modesty -- we are a very little country. We shall always be. And in comparison with America's might, we are a very small, very small, country and people in the Middle East. However, we rose in suffering and in heroism.

Sometimes, as I heard today as well, journalists have an undertone when they ask me about the Bible. I am not ashamed to say that I do believe with all my heart in Divine Providence. Were it not for Divine Providence, where would we be today or tonight? We were sentenced to death, all of us, and the life of every one of us is a present. We could have been dead in the trains and in the camps, as the wife of my friend and Secretary, a young lady, was, having spent three years in Auschwitz, having looked every day upon that smoke coming from the chimneys and knowing what happened.

So we suffered. And when people ask me about the Bible, then I can say our generation, my generation, is almost a Biblical generation.

MORE

Of course, we don't dare compare ourselves with our ancestors. But what was the Biblical generation? They achieved everything by suffering and with heroism. They suffered very much until they reached the Promised Land. And Moses, the great liberator, wasn't even allowed to come into the Promised Land.

In great heroism, Joshua was told, "Be strong spiritually, have courage and faith against overwhelming odds and forces."

That is our generation. Everything we achieved was through great suffering, almost inhuman suffering, having lost a mother, a father, a brother, a little nephew, everything dear and near to you being bereaved and orphaned; asking the question, "Wherefore will come my salvation?" And then saying to ourselves, "Rise for a just cause. Endanger your life; it is a present given to you. And create conditions in which never again will an enemy raise his hand on a Jewish child and escape with impunity."

So we did fight and we suffered and there was great heroism and singing of the Hatikvah with the last breath in one's lungs. But ultimately, with God's help -- indeed, only with God's help -- we won the day; we have a country, a parliament, a government, a land to till, cities to build, the field to make green, to take in our persecuted people from scores of countries, from the Arab lands. We took in 800,000 of our bretheren from the Arab countries. The others came from Europe, what we call in Hebrew "Sharei Pleyta" -- the term is absolutely unknown to other nations -- the remnants of our people from generation to generation; we are the remnants of the remnants.

And now we want to have peace; more than anything in the world to have peace. We didn't have in our time one day of real peace there with all the tragic events, and in our own land, terror and bloodshed, always living on the hinge, always threatened with extinction and standing on God for our people and for human liberty and for human dignity. This is the story of our generation.

Therefore, Mr. President, I have come to you, as the democratically-elected Prime Minister of Israel, with a deep sense of responsibility. May I inform you, sir, that our spiritual leadership, the rabbinate, the day before yesterday asked the people to pray every day for the success of my mission. And they recited a special song to say every day, people praying for the success of one's mission.

This is some phenomenon because they know we have a great friend, the United States of America. And we, Israel, are a faithful ally of the United States. We do whatever we can to serve the free world. We contribute to the national security--as tonight I will show you, Mr. President--to the national security of the United States.

MORE

We are a guardian of human liberty and democracy in the Middle East. We look around; I don't see any country in our neighborhood which can, through a free vote of proud citizens, say one leadership should take a vacation and there should be another leadership, and then the transfer of power is being carried out in so orderly a way -- my predecessor waiting for me in his office, I coming in and shaking hands, expressing the best feelings for each other, and then the predecessor saying, "Now, take over," and I going into my office and then indeed giving the first order to bring in the Vietnamese refugees into our country.

Democracy is beautiful. When you look at what is happening under tyranny or whatever comes, and you compare democracy, as Churchill used to say, it also has its faults, but basically how beautiful is democracy.

We are proud that we are a democracy, as the United States carries the banner of democracy.

This is our contribution to freedom, national security of the free world. We shall continue to do so to the best of our ability.

Our talks, Mr. President, I do hope, first of all, will result in the deepening of friendship between our countries. One day, one day -- I pray for it -- perhaps I will be able to say in pride I will call you my friend, in pride. And then our talks may result in progress towards that goal called peace.

We must have the sense of urgency, but we also must have some patience. May I respectfully submit that I prove to have patience. Some patience it was. (Laughter)

You, too, Mr. President, showed that you have patience. So some patience must be guarded, because it is an historical conflict; it is not a territorial problem. For 19 years, there was no peace; for 19 years we didn't have the second part of Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, not one day of peace.

The question arises: Why not? Were it a territorial conflict, there was no reason not to make peace with Israel. These are historical conflicts. We came there. We have come there by right to the land of our ancestors. But it was not recognized and time again attempts were made to destroy us.

Sometimes you have a defeated aggressor claiming he is the wronged victim. But we know what happened. We only defended ourselves against attempts, repeated, to destroy our people, our dreams, our independence and ultimately our lives.

MORE

With a sense of urgency on one hand and some patience on the other, I think we can build a foundation of peace in the Middle East and the recognition of justice for all and fairness for all, as we believe.

We don't hate our neighbors. We don't want to humiliate them at all. We never wanted to defeat them. We never wanted to wrong them. But we had to defend ourselves. This is the whole story, as they used to say in those ancient days, on one foot. I can only speak very shortly standing on one foot, the whole story.

We are hopeful; we are optimistic. We have to be. Our people have always been optimistic.

So, Mr. President, the day after tomorrow I will be leaving Washington with a staunch heart, grateful for your gracious hospitality, for your friendship, for the encouragement you gave all of us, for your leadership.

At the time, ladies and gentlemen, the British used to say, because of their own reasons, thank God for the French Army.

Now, paraphrasing that saying, I will raise my glass and say with all my heart, thank God for America.

To the President of the United States, the leader and defender of the free world: L'chaim.

END (AT 9:36 P.M. EDT)

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

EXCHANGE OF REMARKS
BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT
AND
HIS EXCELLENCY MENAHEM BEGIN
PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL

THE SOUTH GROUNDS

10:35 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: This is a very important day in the history of our Nation, and I think perhaps for the future of the Middle East and perhaps even for the future of the world.

We have with us a very distinguished visitor, Prime Minister Begin and his wife, Aliza. I am particularly thrilled to have them come here. We have had many distinguished visitors this year, but he is the first one who comes as the head of a nation who is junior to me. All the others have been Presidents or Prime Ministers or Kings much longer. So I welcome the chance to act as a senior statesman this morning, Prime Minister Begin.

We also have very important questions to discuss between us. We approach these conferences with deep common interests and with a sincerity of purpose that naturally binds us together.

Prime Minister Begin represents a nation which has just demonstrated again the importance of a true democracy where people in an absolutely unconstrained expression of individual preference in open elections can decide who their leader will be.

This has been a great test for Israel, and the orderly transition of authority and responsibility from one political party to another has been carried out not only with peace and cooperation but I think with an enhancement of the confidence in the people of Israel in the future.

I think to me, having read the writings and biography of our distinguished visitor this morning, there is a great parallel between what Israel is, what it stands for, and what Prime Minister Begin is and what he stands for. He is a man who has demonstrated a willingness to suffer for principle, a man who has shown superlative personal courage in the face of trial, challenge, disappointment, but who has ultimately prevailed because of the depth of his commitment and his own personal characteristics. And this is a strong parallel with what his nation has been and is. He is a man of principle and a man of independence, and the nation of Israel is a people of principle and independence.

MORE

One of the important personal characteristics about Prime Minister Begin which I admire is his deep and unswerving religious commitment. This has always been a guiding factor in his consciousness and in his pursuit of unswerving goals. There is a quietness about him which goes with determination and a fiery spirit in his expressions of his beliefs to the public. And this is as it should be.

I was particularly impressed that the first official action of his government was to admit into Israel 66 homeless refugees from Vietnam who had been floating around in the oceans of the world excluded by many nations who are their neighbors, who had been picked up by an Israeli ship and to whom he gave a home. It was an act of compassion, an act of sensitivity and a recognition of him and his government about the importance of a home for people who were destitute and who would like to express their own individuality and freedom in a common way, again typifying the historic struggle of the people of Israel.

I have been encouraged by his statements that all the points of dispute with his Arab neighbors are negotiable; that this year might be a time of success in the so far frustrated efforts to bring permanent peace and security into the Middle East.

We share that common project. And although there might be differences in perspective and viewpoint between him and me, his nation and the United States, that common goal of finding a path to permanent peace will inevitably bind us together.

We are honored by his presence. We welcome him and his wife as our visitors.

And I would like to close my comments of welcome to him by quoting from Isaiah, from the Bible, which he and I both read, given to us by God, whom we both worship. Isaiah said: "And the work of righteousness shall be peace, and the effects of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever." (Isaiah 32:18)

Thank you very much.

MORE

THE PRIME MINISTER: (The Prime Minister spoke in Hebrew. The translation is as follows: "Mr. President, I have come from the land of Zion and Jerusalem as the spokesman for an ancient people and a young nation. God's blessing on America, the hope of the human race. Peace to your great nation.")

Mr. President, I have come to you as the spokesman for an ancient people and a young nation. In our own time these people were strewn into the abyss. It had to extricate itself from the depths of the pits with the last vestige of its strength through an unequalled fight for national self-liberation of the few against many, of the weak against the strong, of right against might.

This is, Mr. President, the reason why we yearn for peace, pray for peace and shall do everything humanly possible and make all the possible endeavors to bring about real peace between us and our neighbors. Peace is inseparable from national security.

May I assure you, Mr. President, that to us that concept is no excuse for anything; neither is it a cloak of anything. To us, with the experience of physical annihilation and spiritual redemption, national security may mean the lives of every man, woman and child in Israel. The lives can be, under certain circumstances, directly threatened and put in jeopardy.

MORE

Mr. President, we in Israel see in you not only the fair citizen of your great, mighty country, but also the leader and the defender of the free world.

However, the free world has shrunk, indeed has been shrinking. It can be likened in our time to an island battered by bitter winds, by stormy seas, by high waves. Therefore, all free women and men should stand together to persevere in the struggle for human rights, to preserve human liberty, to make sure that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.

Mr. President, I am deeply grateful for the heartwarming words you said to me and about me today, which I do not deserve. But your appreciation is very dear to my wife and myself. We thank you.

You mentioned the decision by the Cabinet and myself in Israel to give refuge and haven to the Vietnamese refugees saved by an Israeli boat from the depths of the Pacific Ocean, threatened with drowning and exposure.

It was a natural act to us, Mr. President. We remembered, we have never forgotten that boat with 900 Jews, having left Germany in the last weeks before the Second World War for Cuba. When they reached the Cuban shores, their visas were declared nonvalid and then they were nine months at sea, traveling from harbor to harbor, from country to country, crying out for refuge. They were refused.

Eventually they went back to Europe. Some of them saved their lives. The majority of them went to the gas chambers. We have never forgotten the lot of our people, persecuted, humiliated, ultimately physically destroyed. Therefore, it was natural that my first act as Prime Minister was to give those people a haven in the land of Israel.

Mr. President, now we shall have Hebrews speaking Vietnamese in our country.

I share your view that we stand together for human liberty and dignity. And we may have differences of opinion, but we shall never disagree; we may only agree to differ.

Mr. President, my wife and I are deeply grateful to you and Mrs. Carter for the gracious hospitality you have bestowed upon us. We do hope that not in too distant a future we may reciprocate in Jerusalem. The people of Israel will receive you with an open and warm heart and with the traditional hospitality all of us inherited from old Abraham.

Thank you, Mr. President.

END

(AT 10:50 A.M. EDT)