Israelis suspend peace negotiations

Mideast talks reach low point

JERUSALEM (AP) — The two and a half-month-old Egyptian-Israeli peace drive, caught in a cross-current of distrust and bitterness, came to a virtual stand-still Sunday as Israel decided to suspend the talks on a troop pullback in the Sinai Peninsula.

The Israeli Cabinet met for three and a half hours and voted not to rejoin the Cairo talks, which had begun earlier this month after the Christmas day summit meeting of Egyptian Pres. Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menehem Begin in Ismailia, Egypt.

The Israeli action, coupled with Egypt's withdrawal last Wednesday from parallel political talks in Jerusalem, brought the peace campaign started by Sadat last November to its lowest ebb, and it seemed to leave the United States with the task of trying to resuscitate the talks.

That job appeared to fall to U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton, who arrived here Saturday for talks aimed at persuading both sides to rein in their rhetoric and resume serious negotiations.

Begin, reading a statement to reporters, left room for later resumption of the Cairo talks, and the Defense Ministry said there were no plans to recall lower-level Israeli military officials already in the Egyptian capital for the negotiations.

Begin indicated Egypt would first have to soften the tone of its public statements.

He said Sadat made "ultimatums that are totally unacceptable" to Israel in his speech Saturday to the Egyptian Peoples' Assembly.

In that speech, Sadat accused Israel of sabotaging the Jerusalem talks and said he would not back down from demands for total Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab lands and for establishment of a Palestinian state.

Begin accused Egypt of waging a "campaign of vilification" against Israel, and said he hoped the Cairo government would "act to prevent repetition of statements injurious to the dignity of the Jewish people and the Jewish state."

World at a glance

From Associated Press reports

Fewer deductions proposed

WASHINGTON — Pres. Carter, while calling for income tax reductions, is asking Congress to take away deductions for state and local gasoline, sales and personal-property taxes and to reduce the allowance for medical expenses.

But even with those changes, the Carter administration says, the president's total program proposals would mean lower taxes for virtually all taxpayers earning less than $100,000 a year.

Wilmington 10 topic televised

RALEIGH, N.C. — Gov. James Hunt will go on statewide television Monday to announce a decision on pardoning or reducing the sentences of the Wilmington 10, whose case has drawn attention internationally and become politically volatile at home.

The case of those charged in a firebombing during a 1971 racial disturbance puts the first-term Democratic governor between international opinion and his constituency at home.

Big Bird goes to Rome

ROME — "Sesame Street," the world's most popular children's program, makes its debut on Italian television Monday — and program directors are braced for criticism.

In a country where one in every three persons voted Communist in the last national election, the commercialism associated with the program here and its Madison Avenue-style teaching techniques are expected to anger leftists.

Arab hard-liners rap U.S.

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Arab hard-liners and moderates alike sharply criticized the United States Sunday following the break-off in Egyptian-Israeli peace talks, and some looked toward Washington for the next move in the Mideast deadlock.

"It is up to the Americans now to speak to the world," said the Saudi Arabian daily newspaper Al-Riyadh, echoing Egyptian Pres. Anwar Sadat's appeal in a speech Saturday for a massing of public opinion against Israel.

A Kuwaiti newspaper called for reactivation of the Arab oil weapon.

The conservative Arab monarchies of the Persian Gulf refrained from open attacks on Sadat's solo peace initiative, saving their editorial censure for the United States, which was accused of failing to extract sufficient concessions from Israel.

"If it (the United States) wants to be a friend of the countries in the area that are not influenced by Russia, then it must break the hand that insists on aggression and usurpation, using American supplied rifles," Al-Riyadh said, referring to Israel.

ACLU backs away from high court

NEW YORK (AP) — Six months after he snared an angry young attorney's dream job — legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) — Bruce Ennis has sounded an echoing retreat — keeping ACLU cases out of the U.S. Supreme Court.

"It was a very conscious decision," said Ennis. "We are doing everything we can to keep away from the Supreme Court. What I want to do is cut our losses."

Last year the ACLU was involved in 95 cases before the Supreme Court. If Ennis has anything to say about it, that number will dwindle this year.

He urges attorneys to argue ACLU cases on the basis of state law because, "If you win on state grounds, it insulates the case from Supreme Court review.

Anita begins purge of TV homosexuals

WASHINGTON (AP) — Anita Bryant brought her campaign against homosexuals to the nation's capital Sunday, saying she wanted to purge commercial televising of shows that portray homosexuality as an alternative lifestyle.

Bryant told a news conference that television should have more wholesome family entertainment "to replace the gross perverted sex and violence which is subtley undermining the family unit in its presentation of alternative lifestyles as natural and normal."

The news conference was in conjunction with the National Religious Broadcasters Association convention.

While Bryant spoke, gay protesters massed nearby. A spokesman for the religious broadcasters, Carl Richardson, said conventioneers had no plans to confront the protesters, who were issued a parade permit to conduct a candle-light vigil near the hotel.

Security for the convention and for Bryant's news conference was tight, however.

Bryant, who last year won the repeal of a gay rights ordinance in Dade County, Fla., said her organization, Protect Our Children, planned to form a legal task force with a watchdog committee to monitor the media.

She said the committee would seek, "especially to insure that our Judeo-Christian heritage and its leaders are portrayed in a positive way."

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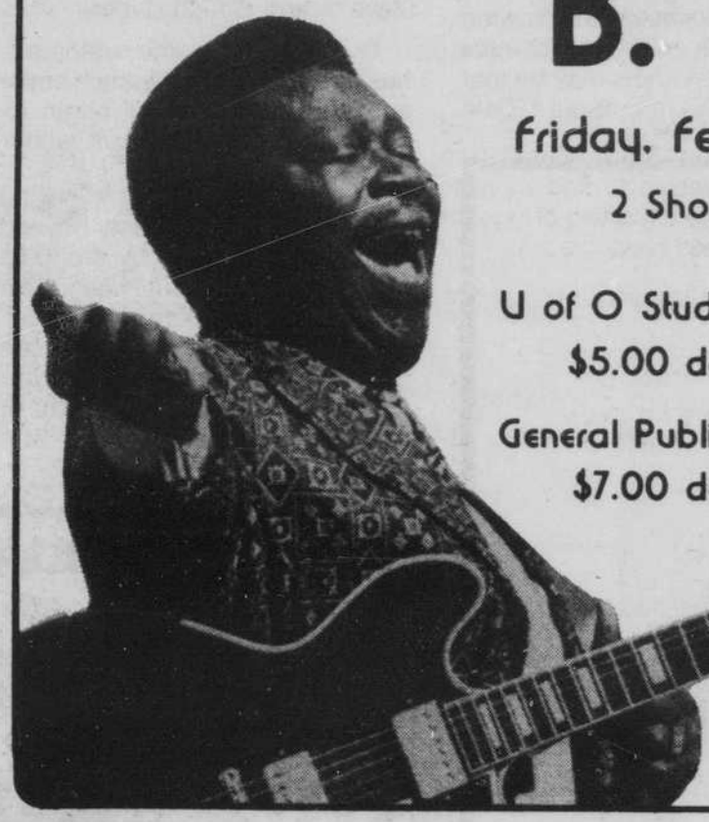

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