

# Israel opens peace door; Egypt asks for support

By The Associated Press

Israel opened the door Thursday for the resumption of Israeli-Egyptian military negotiations next week and Egypt launched a diplomatic offensive seeking world support for its Mideast stand.

Egyptian Pres. Anwar Sadat told visiting officials Israel's refusal to "recognize the Palestinians' right to self-determination" is the major road-block to peace.

Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton, acting as go-between, said in Israel he has

made "good progress" with the Israelis on drawing up a draft declaration of principles and will fly to Cairo next week.

The official Middle East news agency quoted Sadat as saying he is in "constant contact with U.S. Pres. Carter who fully understands the dimensions of the situation and the role the United States should play in order to define the next step in the peace process."

Foreign Minister Mohamed Ismail Kamel told reporters after meeting in Cairo with representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization and 13 Arab states that peace talks would resume if Israel's proposals, to be outlined by Atherton, are acceptable to Egypt.

Kamel met with ambassadors of Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, Qatar, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Somalia, Lebanon, Bahrain, Maritania and Sudan.

## Transit plan requested

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pres. Carter asked Congress on Thursday to authorize a five-year, \$50-billion program he said would make federal aid to highways and mass transit systems "simpler and more manageable."

In a special message, Carter said he wants to consolidate more than 30 federal programs and give state and local governments more flexibility in deciding how to spend the money.

## World at a glance

From Associated Press reports

### Soviet satellite emits radiation

EDMONTON, Alberta — Defense Minister Barney Danson said Thursday debris from a Soviet satellite that fell from orbit probably is on the ground in the Northwest Territories emitting "extremely dangerous" levels of radiation.

Canadian and American nuclear emergency specialists headed toward a remote trading post in Canada's far north where airborne scanners found unusually high radioactivity.

### Cambodians mount offensive

LAEM SING, Thailand — While Vietnam has made a big push in its border war with Cambodia in the Parrot's Beak, west of Saigon, refugees arriving here say the Cambodians have penetrated into the southwestern corner of Vietnam, inflicting heavy casualties and forcing evacuation of the coastal town of Ha Tien.

Their accounts could not be independently confirmed, but the radio Voice of Vietnam on Wednesday referred to a Cambodian attack on Ha Tien and a nearby village on Jan. 18. It gave no details.

### Severe blizzards kill 16

A deadly blizzard devastated much of the northern part of the United States on Thursday, while hurricane-force winds swept through the South. At least 16 persons were killed in the storms.

The northern blizzard was so severe — "one of the strongest in many years," according to the National Weather Service — that saving lives was the top priority of thousands of rescue workers activated across the North.

## Low unemployment projected

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional economists say the nation's persistent unemployment problem is likely to be solved within the next several years by sharply lower growth in the labor force.

Such a radical development, they said in a report released Thursday, could result in startling social changes: less migration from the cold North to the Sun Belt; more-flexible working conditions; more automation; greater opportunities for under-skilled or older workers and perhaps, a moving away from the "materialism" of the 1970s.

Because of a decline in birth rates since 1960, the study said, annual growth in the number of Americans working or looking for jobs will drop to less

than one percent by the 1980s. In fact, the report said, labor-force growth peaked in 1977.

"Barring further major disruptions that prevent normal economic growth, today's labor surplus gradually should give way to labor scarcity, except in sectors and regions with heavy structural unemployment," the staff of the Joint Economic Committee said in a study based on hearings last November and on 41 research papers.

The nation's labor force has been growing at a rate of 2.25 percent a year. That high growth, coupled with sluggish business investment and thus fewer available jobs, resulted in unemployment of more than seven percent of the labor force for several months during the last few years.




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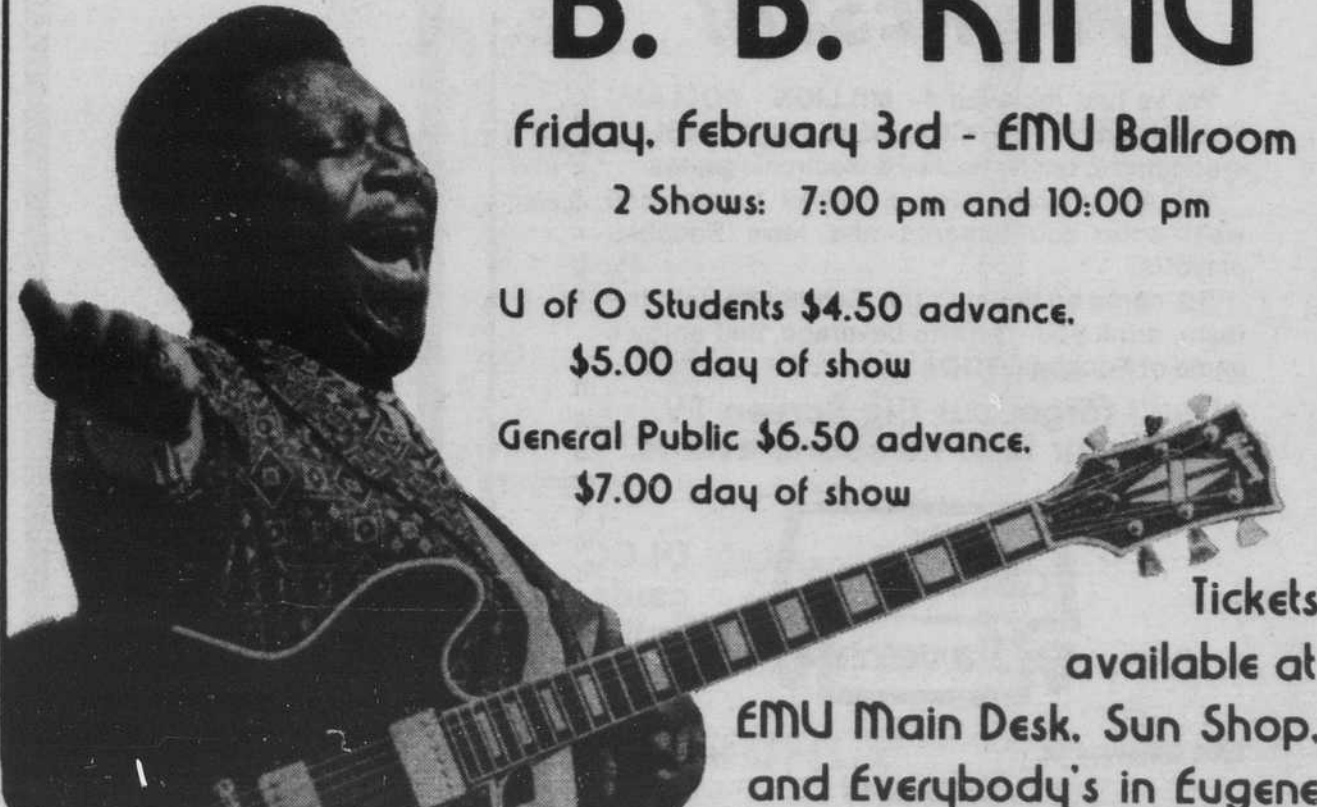
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