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ACTION		DIRECT REPLY		PREPARE REPLY			
APPROVAL		DISPATCH		RECOMMENDATION			
COMMENT		FILE		RETURN			
CONCURRENCE		INFORMATION		SIGNATURE			
Remarks:				DDI # 2721-77/1			
Attached is in response to Mr. Evans query on Israeli Press Coverage of Begin's Visit.							
Sayre Stevens DDI							
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FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.						DATE	
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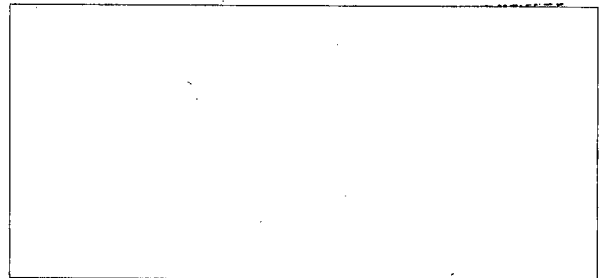
18 July 1977

SUBJECT: Israeli Press Coverage of Begin Visit

We believe that Israeli press reports, citing "government sources," accurately reflect the outlines of the closely-held Middle East peace plan that Prime Minister Begin intends to discuss with President Carter. We have no information on the details of Begin's plan that goes beyond articles in the Israeli press or reporting from the US Embassy Tel Aviv.

On substantive issues, Begin reportedly will call for:

1. Deep but not total pullbacks in the Sinai and Golan as part of a comprehensive peace settlement.
2. A functional arrangement on the West Bank, in which Israel would preserve its military presence along the Jordan River and be allowed to continue to establish settlements in the territory, while Jordan would assume civil administrative control over Arab residents. It is possible that Begin's proposals on the West Bank, reflecting Foreign Minister Dayan's relatively greater flexibility on this issue, may contain a new twist or two, although we have no knowledge of any such innovations.
3. Treatment of the Palestinian question as a refugee problem to be solved within the context of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, rather than as a political issue to be resolved either through a homeland or statehood.
4. Complete normalization of Arab-Israeli relations as part of a final peace settlement, including open frontiers, full diplomatic relations and economic cooperation.



On procedural issues involved in resuming Arab-Israeli peace talks, Begin is likely to state that:

1. Israel is prepared to attend a reconvened Geneva conference as early as October. If this proves impossible, Israel is prepared to negotiate directly with the Arabs or engage in peace talks through a friendly intermediary nation.
2. Israel rejects participation by the Palestine Liberation Organization in negotiations, although it might accept individual PLO members as part of a Jordanian delegation.
3. Israel is willing to seek new interim agreements should negotiations for a comprehensive settlement break down or prove impracticable (an option outlined in a recent article in the independent Jerusalem Post).

SUBJECT: Israeli Press Coverage of Begin Visit

CONCUR:

19 JUL 1977

Associated Deputy Director for Intelligence

Date

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ORPA/ME 18 July 77