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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301



INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

I-22422/82

3 MAY 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting Between Mr. Abba Eban and DepSecDef Carlucci

Time and Place: 1430 Hours, 29 April 1982, DepSecDef Office

Participants:

US

DepSecDef Carlucci
Israeli Country Dir., Col McKin

Israel

Mr. Abba Eban
Dep Min Wechshtan
Mil Attache, MG Meron

Deputy Secretary Carlucci opened by saying he wished to forward the apologies of Secretary Weinberger who had been unable to meet with Mr. Eban earlier. Mr. Eban replied he knew they had a busy schedule but he wished both would come to Israel, see the country and get to know it better. Carlucci replied that he very much wanted to visit, and would do so at an appropriate time soon. Eban remarked that the government budgetary problems were probably keeping everyone busy and noted that many people in other countries watch the US budget, as it is very important worldwide. He remarked that the Israeli budget had recently passed by only one vote.

Deputy Secretary Carlucci asked how the Israeli people were reacting to the Sinai withdrawal. Eban answered that it was going to take awhile for the people to totally accept the withdrawal; that the change was almost revolutionary. Most knew that both sides had made considerable concessions and that the Egyptians had been particularly understanding and tactful. The Egyptians had given up demands and relations with some Arab nations, while Israel had given up space, land, homes and a strategic buffer. Israel now needs time to get comfortable with the situation prior to working the West Bank problems. Do not look for a permanent solution immediately. The Camp David Accords are viable, and now that the psychological block of the Sinai withdrawal is passed, we need to develop new proposals and move toward a solution - but not rush.

Mr. Eban went on to say he felt very good about current US-Israeli understandings - that he could not remember when we were closer on strategic and worldwide aspects. He believes Americans realize there are not many democratic nations - like Israel - in the world. Additionally Israel has an affirmative attitude towards the world situation whereas many other nations, even European allies, do not.

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(5) Carlucci then stated he must ask a blunt question -- are the West Bank settlements a major obstacle? Eban replied that Israel's neighbors were in a much better position to negotiate. Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia had room to move but were just saying "we should stop." Israel is willing to give concessions but cannot concede to belligerence. One aspect is that if we move boundaries the people do not necessarily have to move. At the end of the World War, France and Italy realigned their border but the people did not move.

(6) Carlucci then asked the Israelis view on the Iran-Iraqi war. Eban answered it was a no win situation for Israel. If Iraq wins it will threaten Jordan, Syria and other Arab states. Israel will probably be threatened more as a confrontation state. If Iran triumphs it will probably threaten other Gulf states, upset the balance, and possibly allow the Soviets in. Both agreed their initial intelligence estimates, predicting an Iraqi triumph were wrong. Eban then remarked the only difference for Israel might be that Iran is further away. Israel would like a Middle East where non-Arabs, including Iran, could live, but the Pan-Arab movement will not allow it.

(7) Mr. Eban then stated both countries should begin working to remove the US punitive actions following the Golan annexation. Both nations needed the MOU; especially when incidents such as the current Iran-Iraq war occur.

(8) Secretary Weinberger then arrived, apologized for not being able to make the earlier meeting, and welcomed Mr. Eban to the US. Mr. Eban then urged the Secretary to visit Israel very soon. Weinberger stated despite current criticism that he traveled too much, he was trying to find time to visit Israel later this summer. After Carlucci had brought Weinberger up-to-date on the discussions, Eban reiterated the Camp David Accords should now focused on settlement of the West Bank-Palestinian situation. He believed that the progress of the talks had impressed everyone, and that Egypt's attitude had been a major part. The PLO, by fighting, had gained nothing. Egypt through talks had gained the Sinai. Weinberger replied he felt most countries in the area had been cooperating. Carlucci said the Saudis in particular had been very helpful in getting the PLO to agree to the Lebanon ceasefire and show continued restraint. We were now trying to expand it. Eban replied that Saudi efforts, and those of Jordan, had a stabilizing effect on the area. Weinberger continued that Jordan seemed to be receptive and all were trying to build on the peace. Eban said the solution was not a PLO state but probably some sort of federation with Jordan.

(Secretary Weinberger then departed for other meetings.)

(9) Mr. Eban then changed the topic slightly by stating that the sale of sophisticated weapons within the peace process was all right -- like Egypt -- but that sales to countries like Jordan created a threat to Israel. Carlucci replied that there were threats to Jordan also -- ~~but~~ for one -- and we were committed to maintaining peace throughout the area, and keeping our friends strong.

(10) Carlucci then asked when Mr. Eban would be returning to Israel. Eban replied that he would be flying home tomorrow to attend a debate and vote on a new law to "never remove settlements again." Eban believed the law was too restrictive and they needed to leave a little bit of room for movement. Carlucci commented we sometimes have the same problem with Congress.

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(S) Carlucci then stated the US is anxious to get back to a full relationship with Israel. However, one of major problems was being periodically surprised by Israeli actions and that they really complicate our efforts with the Arabs. It would be helpful if Israel could let us know prior to these actions. Eban replied that the US would then be blamed for collusion. Carlucci replied we are anyway, and then both agreed the US may or may not be successful in trying to stop these actions in any event. Eban then stated the military was very edgy with the loss of space. They were in a period of considerable readjustment.

All agreed current efforts were working well.

(S) Eban, in closing, again stated he would like to see the Secretary and Mr. Carlucci visit soon; that it would be very symbolic. Mr. Eban and Deputy Secretary Carlucci thanked each other for the visit, and for frank the discussion.

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Approved by:

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