

Carter warns against failure to meet treaty deadline

Washington—President Carter warned the leaders of Egypt and Israel Thursday that failure to meet the Dec. 17 deadline on negotiating a Middle East peace treaty would be "a very serious matter."

Failure to meet that deadline, set at the Camp David summit in September, "would cast doubt on whether the Egyptians and the Israelis would carry out the difficult terms of the upcoming peace treaty," Carter said.

Speaking with reporters at a White House breakfast meeting, the president said if negotiations are not concluded by Dec. 17, "it would set a precedent that would have far-reaching, adverse effects."

Shortly after Carter made the announcement, the White House disclosed that Israeli ambassador Simcha Dinitz was to

meet with Carter Thursday.

The peace talks are stalled over a timetable for establishing autonomy on the West Bank of the Jordan River and in the Gaza Strip.

AP datelines

The other sticking point involves whether Egypt would give priority to a treaty with Israel over existing treaties with other Arab states.

Carter is dispatching Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance to the Middle East this weekend to confer with Israeli Prime Min-

ister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. Carter said the mission was organized to overcome obstacles blocking settlement before Dec. 17.

The Egyptians and Israelis have been negotiating through deputies shuttling between Washington and their respective capitals.

Carter said he would consider any future construction of Israeli settlements in the occupied territory on the West Bank and Gaza Strip to be a violation of the Camp David accords.

"I think any violation of the Camp David accords would set a very bad precedent and would cast doubt on the present treaty," he said.

"We also would like to see the Camp David accords carried out... enthusiastically in the same spirit we saw typified at the White House" when the pacts were signed.

Carter said this has not been the case. "There have been a number of delays, quibbling over relatively insignificant language differences and excessive public statements on both sides."

The president's comments reflected a continuing irritation with publicity surrounding the negotiations. The Camp David sessions were conducted under a nearly complete news blackout.

Monopoly allegations

Washington—Money paid in first-class mail rates goes to subsidize the handling of other types of mail, a representative of eight states said Thursday in urging a court-ordered rollback.

"We contend first-class mail-users pay rates five and sometimes 10 times as high as some other types of mail that—at least some of the time—receive identical treatment," Michael B. Meyer, lawyer for the

states, told a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals.

"We request that the first-class rate increase be suspended," Meyer said, referring to last May's hike from 13 to 15 cents for first-class letters.

The case was brought by the attorneys general of Maine, Rhode Island, Florida, Washington, Indiana, Arkansas, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

There have been many allegations that the Postal Service charges an elevated rate for first-class mail because it has a monopoly on that type of mail. Meanwhile, the Postal Service holds down prices for types of mail for which it has competition, according to these allegations.

Postmaster General William F. Bolger and other postal officials have repeatedly denied such charges, noting the major role that a separate agency, the Postal Rate Commission, has in setting rates. The commission, after extensive hearings, has endorsed the rate structure that is in effect.

Overdue meeting

Brussels, Belgium—British Foreign Secretary David Owen told NATO foreign ministers Thursday that they should meet with their Soviet-led Warsaw Pact counterparts to create a "political dialogue" in the interest of detente.

The ministers opened the meeting without Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance, who is in the Mideast trying to break the deadlock in the peace talks, and with the Europeans chiding the Carter administration because it is having second thoughts about promises to join them in increasing defense spending.

Owen said it is still "impossible to envisage" a meeting of military officials of the opposing blocs. But he said, "I believe a dialogue between foreign ministers is overdue."

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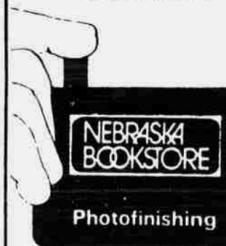
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