

ISRAEL - EGYPT - TABA* AND OTHER MATTERS IN DISPUTE

1. The Taba issue and the other disputed points along the international border between Israel and Egypt will be resolved by means of an arbitration process.

2. During the initial stages of the process according to paragraph 1 (about 8 months), the arbiters will proceed by means of conciliation to resolve the Taba issue ("solution by other means").

3. Egypt will return its resident ambassador to Israel.

4. A timetable for the implementation of the agreements signed between Israel and Egypt in the areas of commerce, tourism, transportation, civilian aviation, culture, and political dialogue will be agreed upon.

5. An arbitration "*compromis*" will be agreed upon, allowing the parties to present their arguments in full and to present their evidence on disputed issues, authorizing the arbiters to decide on these issues.

6. The complete and exact text of the arbitration *compromis*, including the identity and number of arbiters and the duration of the arbitration between Israel and Egypt will be decided upon.

7. Arrangements to take effect in Taba following the conclusion of the arbitration process will be agreed upon. These arrangements will include free access, security arrangements, and arrangements regarding existing facilities.

8. Egypt will submit to Israel the report on the murder at Ras Burka, and the question of reparations to the bereaved families will be discussed.

9. The return of the Egyptian ambassador, the signing of the arbitration *compromis*, and the process of normalization will commence simultaneously.

10. The commitment on the "basket deal" (improvement of relations and the arbitration process) constitutes a single entity. The implementation of each part of this commitment is connected to the implementation of the whole.

11. The introduction to the agreement will include a reference to the desire of the parties to remain faithful to the peace treaty and to the Camp David agreements relevant to both countries.

12. The two states will fulfill paragraph 3 of the peace treaty, and will prevent terrorist presence or activity from each country against the other, and against its citizens.

13. The parties will work to prevent hostile propaganda against one another, and will allow free and equal access to their communications media.

14. The issues from paragraph 3 above on, including the text of the arbitration *compromis*, which require negotiations with Egypt, will be discussed ad referendum. Israel's consent will be given after approval by the Cabinet.

*[This is an English translation provided by the Israeli Embassy, Canberra, of the text of the formal parts of the resolution of the Israeli cabinet on the matter of the territorial dispute with Egypt principally concerning TABA, and note which appeared in 1985 Australian IL News 311-313]

EGYPT - ISRAEL - TABA *

EGYPT said yesterday that the Israeli government's decision to accept a package of conciliation and arbitration as a means of resolving a bilateral border dispute was a positive and constructive attitude that we appreciate."

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul-Meguid said, however it was premature to talk about sending the Egyptian Ambassador back to Tel Aviv or arranging a summit between President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Dr. Meguid spoke to reporters after conferring with President Mubarak for an hour to discuss the decision taken by the Israeli government early Monday. The official text of the cabinet's resolution was brought to Cairo by Mohammed Bassiouni, the Egyptian Charge D'Affaires in Tel Aviv.

After a stormy 12-hour session, the Israeli cabinet unanimously approved a plan Mr. Peres to improve rela-

tions with Egypt and agree to an Egyptian demand to settle the dispute by arbitration.

Dr. Meguid praised Mr. Peres, who has fought hard with cabinet right-wingers to win agreement for the plan, for what he described as his "constructive attitude."

"We consider that position of Mr. Peres and the Israeli government is a positive and constructive attitude that we appreciate," Dr. Meguid told reporters.

"There are other details that have to be discussed by us and we are now in the process of these discussions," he said.

Once the discussions are complete, Mr. Bassiouni will be asked to carry back to Mr. Peres a message from President Mubarak. Dr. Meguid said

While Israel insisted on conciliation, Egypt has demanded binding international arbitration as a means of resolving the border dispute at Taba - a small

enclave on the Aqaba Gulf near Eilat.

The Israeli cabinet decided on Monday to seek conciliation for an 8-month period, following which the dispute will be submitted to arbitration.

Asked about the 8-month period, Dr. Meguid said: "We have a principle here that is very clear to us, and this is arbitration has been accepted by the government of Israel."

"On the whole, I think we are watching a positive development regarding the attempt to solve the dispute and I hope this is a good opening for the whole situation," Dr. Meguid, speaking in English, said.

The package approved by the Israeli cabinet called for the return of the Egyptian Ambassador to Tel Aviv. The Ambassador was withdrawn in protest against the 1982 massacre of Palestinians in the Sabra and Chatilla camps in Beirut. MEN, GSS, Reuter, UPI

*[This extract from the Egyptian Gazette Newspaper of 15 January, 1986 was provided by the Egyptian Embassy, Canberra.]