

משרד החוץ-מחלקת הקשר

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**MEETING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AND AMBASSADOR
 **SAMUEL LEWIS, THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, THE KNESSET
 **JERUSALEM, SEPTEMBER 27, 1978, 4 P.M.
 **PRESENT : ROBERT BLACKWELL AND YEHUDA AVNER.
 **P. M! I WILL START WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT : I AM
 **FACING SOME DIFFICULT PROBLEMS AND THE KNESSET TODAY SHOWS
 **HOW DIFFICULT THEY ARE. AS MATTERS PRESENTLY APPEAR ABOUT
 **HALF OF MY OWN FRIENDS WILL VOTE EITHER AGAINST THE MOTION
 **OR ABSTAIN. I WISH YOU TO KNOW THAT TODAY AT THE CABINET
 **MEETING I DEMANDED THAT IF I DO NOT HAVE A MAJORITY
 **COMPOSED OF THE COALITION PARTIES I WILL RESIGN. THERE IS
 **NO DOUBT THAT I WILL HAVE A PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY
 **COMPOSED OF THE COALITION AND THE OPPOSITION TOGETHER.
 **THIS HOWEVER IS NOT ENOUGH FOR ME SINCE EVEN IF A LARGE
 **PART OF THE OPPOSITION WILL TONIGHT VOTE IN FAVOUR I
 **CANNOT RELY UPON THE OPPOSITION FOR THE FUTURE. I
 **THEREFORE MADE IT A CONDITION THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE
 **VOTES MUST FIRST BE COMPOSED OF THE COALITION. THERE IS
 **THE FOLLOWING PROSPECT: OF 39 AGAINST OR ABSTAINING FROM
 **THE OPPOSITION AND A VOTE OF 40 FROM THE COALITION, IF
 **THAT HAPPENS THAT IS ALL-RIGHT. IF, HOWEVER, 40 OF THE
 **COALITION GO AGAINST AND 39 WILL SUPPORT THEN WE SHALL
 **STILL HAVE A MAJORITY BUT ONE CONDITIONAL ON THE

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**OPPOSITION. IF THAT WERE TO HAPPEN I WILL GO TO THE **
**PRESIDENT AND RESIGN. I NEED NOT EXPLAIN TO YOU THE **
**REASONS. THIS IS A CARDINAL MATTER OF HIGH POLICY OF **
**INTERNATIONAL POLICY AND THEREFORE I MUST ACT ACCORDINGLY. **
**I WILL OF COURSE NOT KNOW UNTIL AFTER THE VOTE. I SAY THIS **
**TO YOU BECAUSE I WILL WANT THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENT AND **
**THE SECRETARY TO BE AWARE OF THIS POSSIBILITY. A **
**PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY IS NOT ENOUGH FOR ME TO STAY IN **
**OFFICE. THIS COALITION MUST GIVE ME A MAJORITY. **
**LEWIS : HOW MANY ARE THERE IN THE COALITION ? **
**P. M. : THEY ARE COMPOSED OF 70 MEMBERS. WHAT I AM **
**EXPLAINING IS THAT FROM A MORAL POINT OF VIEW THE MAJORITY **
**ITSELF MUST BE COMPOSED OF THE COALITION MEMBERS. IF I AM **
**TO BE "SAVED" BY THE OPPOSITION I WILL RESIGN. MY **
**FRIENDS TELL ME THERE IS A MAJORITY. OF MY OWN DIRECT **
**FRIENDS THERE ARE 21, AND I AM TOLD THAT 11 ARE FOR, 5 ARE **
**AGAINST AND 4 WILL ABSTAIN. I AM SPEAKING OF COURSE OF THE **
**KNESSET MEMBERS OF HERUT PROPER. **

**

**LEWIS : WHAT ABOUT THE LIBERALS ? **
**P. M. : ALL THE 15 LIBERALS WILL VOTE IN FAVOUR AS WILL THE **
**MEMBERS OF YADIN'S PARTY. THOSE WHO BROKE AWAY FROM DASH **
**WILL ALSO VOTE IN FAVOUR. BUT THEY ARE TODAY IN THE **
**OPPOSITION AND I CANNOT RELY ON THE OPPOSITION IN THE **
**FUTURE. LET ME GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE: IN HIS SPEECH TODAY, **
**YDSI SARID BOTH PRAISED ME AND CURSED ME. HE PRAISED CAMP **
**DAVID AND THEN WENT ON TO SHARPLY CRITICISE ME ABOUT THE **
**FUTURE. HE IS IN FAVOUR OF A RETURN TO THE 1967 BORDERS **
**AND IS ONE OF THE VERY FEW WHO WANTS TOTAL WITHDRAWAL. I **
**SHALL BE MAKING THE CONCLUDING SPEECH TONIGHT AND I WILL **
**FIGHT FOR THE CAMP DAVID AGREEMENTS. **
**I WILL DO SO BECAUSE I THINK THEY ARE GOOD AND THEY ARE **
**PROPER AGREEMENTS - FOR ISRAEL, FOR THE U.S. FOR THE FREE **
**WORLD AND FOR ALL THE VALUES I BELIEVE IN. **
**WE ARE WITNESSING PHENOMENA IN THIS COUNTRY THE LIKE OF **
**WHICH I HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE. FOR EXAMPLE, **
**DEMONSTRATIONS OUTSIDE MY HOME AT NIGHT THAT ARE NOISY AND **
**ROWDY. I HAVE NEIGHBOURS ON EVERY SIDE AND I GOT VERY **

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**ANGRY THAT WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE WOKEN UP AT THE MIDDLE **
**OF THE NIGHT IN SUCH A FASHION. IT IS UNFAIR. TO MAKE A **
**NOISY DEMONSTRATION IN THE CENTRE OF TOWN. IT IS COARSE, **
**SUCH BEHAVIOUR IS NOT A POLITICAL DEMONSTRATION. **

**LEWIS : I REMEMBER SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS IN 1968 AGAINST **
**JOHNSON DURING THE VIETNAM WAR SITUATION. **

**P.M. : SOME THE INDIGNITIES WERE INTOLERABLE. YESTERDAY I **
**WENT TO THE WEDDING PARTY OF MY FRIEND HAIM CORFU AND THE **
**EVENING BEFORE TO THE WEDDING PARTY OF OUR FRIEND YEHUDA **
**AVNER AND THE DEMONSTRATORS WERE SHOUTING BEFORE MY HOUSE **
**'BEGIN THE TRAITOR' **

**

**SAM, FOR WHAT I AM ABOUT TO SAY TO YOU NOW I AM GOING TO **
**ADDRESS YOU FORMALLY. MR. AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES **
**OF AMERICA THE TIME HAS COME FOR WASHINGTON TO FULLY **

**UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS UNFAIR FOR YOUR GOVERNMENT TO SAY TO **
**ME FROM TIME TO TIME THAT WE IN ISRAEL MUST UNDERSTAND **
**SADAT'S POSITION AND HIS PROBLEMS. IT IS ABSOLUTELY UNJUST. **

**WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY TO MR. SADAT IS PLEASE UNDERSTAND **
**BEGIN'S PROBLEMS. SADAT HAS REJECTIONISTS FROM ARAB, THEY **
**ARE NOT INSIDE HIS OWN PARLIAMENT AND COUNTRY. IN HIS OWN **
**COUNTRY HE HAS AN ABSOLUTE PERSONAL DICTATORSHIP. HIS **
**PARLIAMENT IS SUBSERVIENT TO HIM. IT COULD NEVER HAPPEN **

**THERE WHAT HAPPENED HERE ON MONDAY WHEN ONE OF OUR KNESSET **
**MEMBERS, A WOMAN, DID NOT LET ME SPEAK FOR TEN MINUTES. **

**FOR TEN MINUTES SHE DID NOT LET ME SPEAK AND I DID NOT SAY **
**A SINGLE WORD OF REBUKE. ULTIMATELY SHE WAS ASKED TO LEAVE **
**THE CHAMBER AND SHE LEFT WITH THE WORDS 'I AM LEAVING **

**BECAUSE I RESPECT THE KNESSET AND NOT THE PRIME **
**MINISTER'. THIS IS DEMOCRACY. DEMOCRACY DOES NOT ANARCHY. **

**BUT WE PREFER IT TO BORDER ON ANARCHY RATHER THAN TO **
**CURTAIL OUR DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS. THEREFORE THIS ARGUMENT WE **
**HAVE HEARD SO OFTEN IN THE PAST - PLEASE UNDERSTAND SADAT, **

**HE HAS HIS REJECTIONISTS TO CONTEND WITH AND THEREFORE BE **
**TOLERANT IN YOUR CONCLUSIONS AND MAKE CONCESSIONS - THIS **
**KIND OF LANGUAGE MUST NEVER AGAIN BE REPEATED TO US. I **

**WILL NOT ACCEPT SUCH AN ARGUMENT ANY MORE. IF I HEAR IT **
**AGAIN I WILL SAY DIRECTLY TO THE PRESIDENT - NO, THIS IS **

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**NOT TRUE THIS IS NOT THE CASE. WE ARE A DEMOCRACY AND IT **
**IS WE WHO HAVE THE PROBLEMS , NOT FROM AFAR BUT IN OUR **
**VERY MIDST. DID YOU KNOW THAT A LEAFLET WAS DISTRIBUTED IN **
**THE KNESSET SAYING THAT I AM A TRAITOR AND SAYING THAT I **
**AM WHAT PATAIN WAS TO FRANCE. **
**I WILL GO FURTHER! THIS MAY BE ONLY THE BEGINNING. THE **
**GREAT PROBLEMS ARE STILL AHEAD SUCH AS WHEN WE SAY TO OUR **
**PEOPLE IN YAMIT, YOU MUST GO. I HAVE TOLD THE PRESIDENT **
**THAT WE WOULD HAVE A FREE KNESSET VOTE ON THE SETTLEMENTS **
**BUT WHEN I CAME BACK AND SAW THE PRESS AND THE ACCUSATIONS **
**THAT I WAS SEEKING A WAY OUT BY EVADING MY RESPONSIBILITY, **
**I SAID TO MY FRIENDS THAT I WILL NOT BEHAVE IN ANY FASHION **
**THAT WOULD APPEAR AS THOUGH I WAS SHIRKING OR EVADING MY **
**RESPONS- I BILITY. THE TRUTH OF THIS IS SEEN IN WHAT IS **
**HAPPENING IN THE KNESSET TODAY. **
** **
**LEWIS : I AGREE. YOU HAVE MADE A VERY BRAVE DECISION. **
**P.M. : THIS DOES NOT CHANGE THE REALITY OF WHAT IS **
**HAPPENING AROUND ME. WHAT I WISH TO CONVEY IS THAT WE NO **
**LONGER SHOULD HEAR THAT WE MUST MAKE CONCESSIONS TO SADAT **
**BECAUSE HE HAS PROBLEMS. **
** **
**I NOW WISH TO ADDRESS MYSELF TO THE SECOND MATTER. IT IS **
**THE MATTER OF THE LETTER CONCERNING THE SETTLEMENTS. AS I **
**TOLD THE PRESIDENT I HAVE CONSULTED WITH THE FOREIGN **
**MINISTER, THE DEFENCE MINISTER AND PROFESSOR BARAK. WE **
**CONSULTED WITH EACH OTHER EXACTLY WHAT WE AGREED UPON **
**ABOUT THE SETTLEMENTS AND THE MORATORIUM. I WILL NOW READ **
**TO YOU THE LETTER THAT I PROPOSE TO SEND TO THE PRESIDENT **
**ON THIS MATTER. IF YOU ADVISE ME NOT TO SEND THE LETTER **
**EXPLAINING WHAT ACCURRED AT CAMP DAVID WHEN THE **
**SETTLEMENTS ISSUE WAS RAISED THEN I WILL NOT SEND IT. (THE **
**PRIME MINISTER THEN READ THE TEXT - CABLED SEPARATELY TO **
**OUR EMBASSY AS AN ORAL MESSAGE - AND PROVIDED A COPY FOR **
**THE U.S. AMBASSADOR). **
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**REFERRING TO THE FORMULATION PROPOSED BY THE PRESIDENT, **

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**THE PRIME MINISTER COMMENTED :

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**HAD I AGREED TO THAT FORMULATION I WOULD HAVE AGREED TO A
**MORATORIUM ON SETTLEMENT FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD AND ALSO
**THE RIGHT OF VETO TO THE ARABS ON ALL FUTURE SETTLEMENTS
**AS I SAID TO THE PRESIDENT "LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET IT
**CUNNING IF I WERE TO AGREE TO SUCH A STATEMENT". THE
**ORIGINAL ISRAELI LETTER WAS DIFFERENT. I WROTE "THREE
**MONTHS" AND ALSO I WROTE "CIVILIAN" SETTLEMENTS AS
**DISTINCT FROM THE NAHAL SETTLEMENTS.

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**IF YOU ADVISE ME NOT TO SEND THE LETTER, I WON'T.
**OTHERWISE I WILL CABLE THEM TONIGHT. THERE WERE TWO
**HORRIBLE DAYS IN THE U.S. MEDIA ON THIS WHOLE MATTER AND
**NOT WITHOUT THE INFLUENCE OF THE TWO GREAT INSTITUTIONS
**THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT. THE JOURNALISTS
**GOT HOLD OF THE U.S. TEXT AND IT COULD ONLY HAVE COME FROM
**ONE OR THE OTHER OF THOSE TWO ADDRESSES. BEFORE I LEFT THE
**U.S. BRZEZINSKI CALLED ME AND TOLD ME THAT HE HAD SPOKEN
**AND CHECKED WITH THE US AIDES OF THE CAMP DAVID DELEGATION
**AND THEY ALL ASSURED HIM THAT NONE OF THEM HAD REVEALED
**THE TEXT. HEVERTHELESS WHEN I WAS STILL IN THE U.S. I
**MYSELF HEARD IT OVER THE MEDIA. THIS IS NOT WHAT WE AGREED
**UPON. I READ IN THE JERUSALEM POST DAYAN'S STATEMENT ON
**THE DAY OF HIS RETURN WHICH SPECIFICALLY SAID THREE
**MONTHS. THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO DOUBT IN OUR MINDS THAT
**THE COMMITMENT FOR THREE MONTHS. THE U.S. BEHAVIOUR WAS
**INCORRECT AND UNJUST. YOU WILL RECALL I TOLD THE SECRETARY
**THAT I WILL CHECK WHEN I GET HOME. AFTER ALL PERHAPS MY
**MEMORY COULD HAVE BEEN WRONG.

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**LEWIS : I AM SURE THAT WHATEVER THE MEDIA HAS BEEN
**RECENTLY WRITING IS A REFLECTION OF THOSE FIRST 24 HOURS.
**WE HAVE SAID NOTHING NEW.

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**P.M. : I AWAIT TO HEAR FROM YOU WHETHER I SHOULD SEND THE
**LETTER. WE WILL GIVE NO OTHER COMMITMENT THAN WHAT IS
**WRITTEN IN OUR LETTER.

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**BY THE BY, I WISH TO ADD A FURTHER POINT. THE U.S.
 **FORMULATION WAS READ BY THE PRESIDENT AT CONGRESS AND I
 **WAS AMAZED. THERE WAS ALSO A REFERENCE IN THE CONGRESS
 **SPEECH ON THE REFOGEE PROBLEM. THAT SURPRISED ME. AT CAMP
 **DAVID WE HAD IN OUR DRAFT ON THIS MATTER, REFRRD TO
 **JEWISH AS WELL AS TO ARAB REFUGEES. THE AMERICANS CAME TO
 **US AND ASKED US TO ADD THE LANGUAGE 'TAKING INTO ACCOUNT
 **THE RELEVANT U.N. RESOLUTIONS'. WE DID NOT ACCEPT IT
 **THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS DO NOT COMMIT US TO
 **ANYTHING AND WE REJECTED IT TOTALLY. THEN THE AMERICANS
 **SAID WHAT DO YOU CARE IT WILL HELP SADAT. THEN I WAS TOLD
 **THAT THE AMERICANS AGREED TO DELETE THE WORD 'JEWISH'
 **AND ALSO THAT LAST SENTENCE 'TAKING INTO ACCOUNT . . .'
 **I, ON MY PART AGREED TO THIS BECAUSE I KNOW THAT THE
 **PRESIDENT'S INTERPRETATION AND THE AMERICAN INTERPRETATION
 **WOULD INCLUDE THE JEWISH REFUGEES. HOWEVER IN HIS SPEECH
 **BEFORE THE CONGRESS THE PRESIDENT CITED THE SENTENCE
 **'TAKING INTO ACCOUNT . . . ' AGAIN, I WAS AMAZED AND IT
 **WAS TOTALLY UNJUST. I CAN ONLY SURMISE WHAT HAPPENED.
 **THERE WAS A THIRD CASE IN THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH - THE USE
 **OF THE WORD 'SELF - GOVERNMENT' WE THROUGHOUT, REJECTED
 **THE USE OF THE WORD 'SELF - GOVERNMENT'. WE AGREED TO
 **'SELF-GOVERNING' AND IN ONE PLACE THERE IS REFERENCE TO
 **'THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-GOVERNMENT'.
 **LEWIS ; WHAT YOU AGREED TO IS WHAT YOU SIGNED AND NOT WHAT
 **THE PRESIDENT SAID.

**

**P.M. ; I WAS NEVERTHELESS A PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH AND
 **THEREFORE I FEEL BOUND TO MAKE THIS STATEMENT.

**

**THERE IS NOW A THIRD POINT TO WHICH I MUST REFER. ISRAELI
 **JOURNALISTS TELL ME THAT SOME OF YOUR PEOPLE AT YOUR
 **EMBASSY ARE SPREADING THE WORD THAT AT CAMP DAVID ISRAEL
 **AGREED TO WITHDRAW TO THE 1967 LINES. I HEARD THIS FROM
 **SARA FRANKEL AND ALSO SHLOMO HAKDIMON. THE NAME OF YOUR
 **MAN SPREADING THIS WORD IS ROTKLEIN. HE PUTS IT IN THE
 **FORM OF A RHETORICAL QUESTION ; 'DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND

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**THAT AT CAMP DAVID ISRAEL HAS AGREED TO WITHDRAW TO THE **
**1967 LINES ?' **
**ISHLOND NAKDIMON IS CALLED IN BY THE PRIME MINISTER IN **
**CONFIRMATION OF THE MATTER]. **
**LEWIS : THIS IS ABSOLUTELY LUDICROUS. THE ONLY ONE **
**AUTHORIZED TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT CAMP DAVID IS ME BECAUSE **
**I WAS THE ONLY ONE THERE. I WILL DEAL WITH THIS MATTER **
**DIRECTLY AND PERSONALLY. **
**P. M. : I HAVE HEARD WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN SAYING TO THE **
**PRESS AND I AM SATISFIED BY YOUR REMARKS. **
**LEWIS : LET US NOW GO BACK TO THE QUESTION OF THE LETTER. **
**HOW I SEE MATTERS THE SITUATION IS THIS : THE PUBLIC IN **
**BOTH COUNTRIES HAS BEEN PROMISED THE TEXTS OF AN EXCHANGE **
**OF LETTERS. I THINK THAT YOUR COMPLETE RECOLLECTION OF WHAT **
**HAPPENED NEEDS TO BE GIVEN TO THE PRESIDENT. I THINK THAT **
**YOUR LETTER SHOULD NOT BE MADE PUBLIC BECAUSE I WOULD NOT **
**LIKE THE PRESS IN BOTH COUNTRIES TO POUR OVER THE **
**DISAGREEMENT OF WHAT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT. ONLY THE **
**COMMITMENT ITSELF SHOULD BE MADE PUBLIC. **
**P. M. : I HAVE PREPARED THE SECOND LETTER (OF COMMITMENT). **
**LEWIS : THAT CAN BE MADE PUBLIC. I CAN TAKE THE TEXT OF **
**THE COVERING LETTER AND TRANSMIT IT AS AN ORAL MESSAGE. **
**THEN I CAN TELL THE PRESS THERE IS ONLY ONE LETTER. (THE **
**DEFENCE MINISTER ENTERS AND JOINS IN THE DISCUSSION). **
**DEFENCE MINISTER : YOU SHOULD BE IN A POSITION THAT IF YOU **
**ARE ASKED THAT YOU HAVE AN ORAL MESSAGE. **
**LEWIS : THIS IS WHAT I AM SAYING. WITH REGARD TO THE **
**ACTUAL MATTER, THE PRESIDENT STILL DOES NOT REMEMBER YOU **
**HAVING SAID 'I'LL HAVE TO THINK IT OVER, ETC '. HIS **
**NOTES DO NOT HAVE THAT PHRASE. **
** **
**P.M. : THE PRESIDENT DID NOT TAKE NOTES. FROM TIME TO TIME **
**HE WROTE SOMETHING DOWN, BUT EYRAK ACTUALLY TOOK MINUTES. **
**EXACT MINUTES. **
** **
**LEWIS : THE PRESIDENT DOES NOT RECALL THOSE COMMENTS OF **
**YOURS. NEXT DAY THE PRESIDENT WENT TO SADAT AND ON THE **
**BASIS OF THE ASSURANCES ON THE SETTLEMENTS HE GAVE TO **

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**SADAT, SADAT SIGNED THE DOCUMENTS. SO, THE PRESIDENT'S
**CREDIBILITY IS INVOLVED WITH SADAT AND THEREFORE I AM
**AFRAID THAT IF ONLY THIS LETTER IS SENT WITH NOTHING
**ELSE THE PRESIDENT WILL HAVE TO RESTATE HIS POSITION.
**P.M. : THEN I SHALL HAVE TO REACT AND STATE OUR POSITION.
**LEWIS ; COMING UP IN THE CAR I JOTTED DOWN AN IDEA OF A
**POSSIBLE TEXT. PLEASE SEE IF YOU CAN AGREE TO A SECOND
**PARAGRAPH TO BE ADDED TO YOUR COMMITMENT LETTER AS FOLLOWS
**: ' IT IS MY HOPE AND EXPERCTATION THAT DURING THIS SAME
**PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS, AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED ON THE
**MODALITIES FOR ESTABLISHING THE ELECTED SELF-GOVERNING
**AUTHORITY IN JUDEA, SAMARIA AND THE GAZA DISTRICT.
**THEREAFTER , THE COURSE OF FUTURE SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES IN
**THOSE AREAS WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATION AMONG THE
**PARTIES INCLUDING THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ELECTED
**SELF-GOVERNING AUTHORITY '.

**P.M. : THE FIRST SENTENCE IS ACCEPTABLE, THE SECOND
**PASSAGE IS TATALLY UNACCEPTABLE WE WILL NEVER AGREE THAT
**THE ARABS CAN VETO OUR SETTLEMENT. WE HAVE A PERFECT RIGHT
**TO SETTLE IN THOSE AREAS. IT IS AND INALIENABLE RIGHT. I
**WILL NEVER SIGN SUCH A LETTER. I WILL HAVE TO STATE IN THE
**LETTER THAT MY COMMITMENT IS FOR THREE MONTHS. THE BEST
**PROOF OF WHAT HAPPENED THAT EVENING AT CAMP DAVID IS THAT
**I SPOKE TO THE PRESIDENT TO EXPLAIN TO HIM WHY THERE WILL
**BE CERTAIN NAHAL ESTTLEMENTS DURING THOSE THREE MONTHS.

**LEWIS ; YOU SAY THAT AFTER THREE MONTHS YOU WON'T ALLON A
**VETO. WILL YOU SAY THE SUBJECT WILL BE OPEN TO DISCUSSION
**BETWEEN THE PARTIES?

**P.M. : WHAT PARTIES ? NO SIR, WE DON'T NEED THEIR CONSENT.

**D.F. : I THINK THAT SADAT IN TWO OF HIS SPEECHES ACTUALLY
**MENTIONED THREE MONTHS.

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**LEWIS : WE ARE AWARE .

**

**P.M. : AFTER THREE MONTHS THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL WILL
**DECIDE PRUDENTLY ABOUT THE FUTURE SETTLEMENTS.

**LEWIS : IS IT THAT AFTER THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL IS
**ELECTED YOU WILL REFUSE TO TALK ABOUT SETTLEMENTS WITH
**THEM ?

**P.M. : I WILL DISCUSS ANYTHING WITH THEM. I WILL NOT MAKE
**SETTLEMENTS CONDITIONAL ON THE AGREEMENT OF ANY ARAB
**PARTY. I WILL NOT SIGN A DOCUMENT FROM WHICH YOU CONCLUDE
**THAT WE WILL HAVE TO NEGOTIATE , ETC. IF A JEW WANTS TO
**LIVE IN HEBRON HE WILL HAVE A PERFECT RIGHT AS OF RIGHT.
**THEREFORE, WE WILL NOT GO BEYOND OUR COMMITMENT JUST AS WE
**WILL ENGAGE IN SETTLEMENT PRUDENTLY, WHERE TO SETTLE, HOW
**TO SETTLE, ETC.

**

**LEWIS : WILL YOU BE PREPARED THAT AFTER THREE MONTHS YOU
**WILL DISCUSS FURTHER WITH THE AMERICANS.

**P.M. : I REFER NOT TO DO SO. I COME BACK TO WHAT I SAID
**AT THE START OF OUR DISCUSSION. I HAVE PUBLIC OPINION
**HERE. SUCH A COMMITMENT AS YOU SUGGEST WILL BE INTERPRETED
**THAT I HAVE RENEGED. I WILL NOT DO IT.

**D.F. : I HAVE A FEELING THAT YOU APPRECIATE WHAT IS
**HAPPENING NOW AT THE KHESSET A YEAR AGO, EVEN SIX MONTHS
**AGO, THE PRIME MINISTER AND I WOULD NOT HAVE BELIEVED
**THAT WHAT IS TAKING PLACE COULD TAKE PLACE. I DON'T KNOW
**WHAT POLITICAL UPHEAVALS THERE MIGHT STILL BE.

**

**P.M. : I TOLD SAM I MAY RESIGN TONIGHT.

**D.F. : I THINK IT IS A GROSS MISTAKE ON THE PART OF THE U.S.
**TO PRESS TO ASK, TO TRY AND PERSUADE THE PRIME MINISTER
**WHO HAS LED HIS PARTY FOR SO MANY YEARS. IF WE HAVE
**ACHIEVED WHAT WE ACHIEVED AND IF WE HEAR WHAT WE NOW HEAR,
**FROM OUR OWN FLESH AND BLOOD, I SAY TO YOU, SAM, LEAVE IT
**BE.

**

**LEWIS : I AM AFRAID THAT IF THE LETTER IS SENT BARE-BONES
**THE PRESIDENT WILL RESPOND THAT THIS IS NOT WHAT WAS

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**AGREED ETC.
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**P.M. ; THEN I SHALL PUBLISH MY LETTER AND ASK BARAK TO
**PUBLISH HIS MINUTES. I SHALL NOT ALLOW TO HAVE MY
**CREDIBILITY QUESTIONED.
**
**LEWIS: NEITHER CAN THE PRESIDENT. HE MADE A COMMITMENT TO
**SADAT BASED ON HIS UNDERSTANDING.
**P.M. ; WITH ALL DUE RESPECT I HAVE PROVED TO YOU THAT THE
**PRESIDENT MADE THREE MISTAKES IN HIS SPEECH TO CONGRESS. I
**CANNOT ADD ANYTHING TO THE LETTER (OF COMMITMENT). IF I
**ADD, IT WILL CAUSE THE MOST SHARP REACTION AMONG MY
**LIFELONG FRIENDS. PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN WITH ME FOR 29
**YEARS ARE AGAINST ME.
**
**LEWIS ; I SUGGEST YOU LET ME TRANSMIT IT AS AN ORAL
**MESSAGE, AS A MESSAGE OF CLARIFICATION. I WILL END BY
**SAYING THAT YOUR INTENTION IS THEN TO SEND THE SHORT
**LETTER.
**P.M. ; THAT IS CORRECT.
**
**THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 17.15.
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תפ"א : שהם, דהם, סרהם, שהבום, מונכל, ששון, דם, לרון, ברק