

July 4, 1978

His Excellency  
Menachem Begin  
Prime Minister of the  
State of Israel  
Jerusalem

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

Vice President Mondale has conveyed to you my proposal to invite your Foreign Minister and the Foreign Minister of Egypt to join Secretary Vance for talks in London July 18 and 19 as a next step in the Middle East peace negotiations. I welcome your positive reaction which the Vice President has reported to me. By this letter, I want to confirm formally my invitation to you to send Foreign Minister Dayan to these talks. I am today sending a similar message to President Sadat.

I understand from Ambassador Lewis that you will wish to study the Egyptian proposal before reaching a final decision on attendance at the talks. President Sadat has asked Vice President Mondale to convey the Egyptian proposal to me, and we intend to pass it on to you quickly following his return to Washington. I hope it will be possible to receive your final agreement to the London talks soon thereafter.

I know, Mr. Prime Minister, that you share my sense of the vital importance of making this new beginning in the negotiating process a productive one. We must not let the present opportunity slip through our fingers. I urge you, as I am urging President Sadat, to make a far-reaching effort to reach areas of accommodation. For my part, I am determined to do all I can to help in that effort.

Finally, Mr. Prime Minister, I want to thank you for the warm welcome which you and the government and people of Israel extended to Vice President Mondale. I very much look forward to hearing personally from him about his talks with you.

With best personal wishes.

Sincerely,

(signed)

Jimmy Carter