

No. 17858

**ISRAEL
and
EGYPT**

Letter Agreement addressed to the President of the United States of America by the Prime Minister of Israel and the President of Egypt concerning the provision of full autonomy to the inhabitants of Judea, Samaria and Gaza. Signed at Washington on 26 March 1979

Authentic text: English.

Registered by Israel on 14 June 1979.¹

**ISRAËL
et
ÉGYPTE**

Lettre d'accord adressée au Président des États-Unis d'Amérique par le Premier Ministre d'Israël et le Président de l'Égypte concernant l'octroi d'une pleine autonomie aux habitants de la Judée, de la Samarie et de Gaza. Signée à Washington le 26 mars 1979

Texte authentique : anglais.

Enregistrée par Israël le 14 juin 1979¹.

¹ See also registration effected in the name of Egypt on 15 May 1979 in United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1136, under No. I-17813 — Voir aussi l'enregistrement effectué au nom de l'Égypte le 15 mai 1979 dans le *Recueil des Traités* des Nations Unies, vol. 1136, sous le n° I-17813.

LETTER AGREEMENT¹ ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL AND THE PRESIDENT OF EGYPT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF FULL AUTONOMY TO THE INHABITANTS OF JUDEA, SAMARIA AND GAZA

March 26, 1979

Dear Mr. President:

This letter confirms that Egypt and Israel have agreed as follows:

The Governments of Egypt and Israel recall that they concluded at Camp David and signed at the White House on September 17, 1978, the annexed documents entitled "A Framework for Peace in the Middle East Agreed at Camp David"² and "Framework for the conclusion of a Peace Treaty between Egypt and Israel."³

For the purpose of achieving a comprehensive peace settlement in accordance with the above-mentioned Frameworks, Egypt and Israel will proceed with the implementation of these provisions relating to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. They have agreed to start negotiations within a month after the exchange of the instruments of ratification of the Peace Treaty. In accordance with the "Framework for Peace in the Middle East," the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is invited to join the negotiations. The Delegations of Egypt and Jordan may include Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip or other Palestinians as mutually agreed. The purpose of the negotiation shall be to agree, prior to the elections, on the modalities for establishing the elected self-governing authority (administrative council), define its powers and responsibilities, and agree upon other related issues. In the event Jordan decides not to take part in the negotiations, the negotiations will be held by Egypt and Israel.

The two Governments agree to negotiate continuously and in good faith to conclude these negotiations at the earliest possible date. They also agree that the objective of the negotiations is the establishment of the self-governing authority in the West Bank and Gaza in order to provide full autonomy to the inhabitants.

Egypt and Israel set for themselves the goal of completing the negotiations within one year so that elections will be held as expeditiously as possible after agreement has been reached between the Parties. The self-governing authority referred to in the "Framework for Peace in the Middle East" will be established and inaugurated within one month after it has been elected, at which time the transitional period of five years will begin. The Israeli military government and its civilian administration will be withdrawn, to be replaced by the self-governing authority, as specified in the "Framework for Peace in the Middle East." A withdrawal of Israeli armed forces will then take place and there will be a redeployment of the remaining Israeli forces into specified security locations.

¹ Came into force on 29 April by the exchange of the instrument of approval (Israel) and ratification (Egypt).

² See p. 39 of this volume.

³ See p. 53 of this volume.

This letter also confirms our understanding that the United States Government will participate fully in all stages of negotiations.

Sincerely yours,

For the Government
of Israel:

[Signed]

MENACHEM BEGIN

For the Government
of the Arab Republic of Egypt:

[Signed]

MOHAMED ANWAR AL-SADAT

The President
The White House

I am informed that the expression “West Bank” is understood by the Government of Israel to mean “Judea and Samaria.”

JIMMY CARTER
