

# Sadat defends meetings

By United Press International  
Egyptian President Anwar Sadat Wednesday lashed back at Arab critics of his peace initiative and vowed, "I will finish what I started."

The PLO appealed to the Egyptian army to stop Sadat's "conspiracies." The Soviet Union formally told Egypt it will not go to Cairo to discuss Middle East peace and Egypt replied that the Soviets were wasting an opportunity for peace.

Israel said it would not attend a separate U.N. peace conference but diplomatic sources said the Jewish state would halt further settlements in occupied Arab lands to help the cause of peace.

In Washington, President Carter praised Sadat for a "historic breakthrough" in the quest for Middle East peace and said the United States would move to the sidelines now that the

two main belligerents were negotiating face to face.

Sadat said in a speech in the Suez Canal city of Ismailia: "I will carry my peace call to the very end."

Defending his trip to Jerusalem, Sadat said, "I did what I did because I felt the weight of the responsibility."

"It would have been easier for me to stay in my place, talking and attempting to outbid other Arab leaders and leave the problem to my successor," Sadat said.

"But I felt that God will summon me to account if I did not work to spare future generations the ferocity of war," Sadat said. "Before meeting my God, I have to do my best for the sake of this country."

"I promise you that I will finish what I started in order to realize for our people a better future and for our future generations a more peaceful life," Sadat said.

"I promise you that, God willing, I will perform the prayers of the next feast of sacrifice in the heart of Sinai."

During his trip to Israel, Sadat offered the prayers of the Moslem Al Adha (feast of the sacrifice) at Al Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third holiest shrine, in Jerusalem.

In Damascus, Arabs opposed to Sadat's initiative and direct talks with Israel held a strategy session for their own summit in Tripoli, Libya, but two rival Palestinian groups squabbled over their anti-Sadat stand.

The hard-line Palestinian Rejection Front — so-called because it rejects any negotiations of any kind with Israel — boycotted a Palestine Liberation Organization meeting.

The PLO issued a statement at the conclusion of a meeting of its Central Council calling on all Arabs to oppose Sadat's initiative.



Egyptian police stand guard outside the more-than-a-century-old Mena House, announced as the site of the pre-Geneva Middle East peace talks scheduled for next week. UPI telephoto

## Gulf Oil accused of tax fraud

PITTSBURGH (AP) — An Internal Revenue Service review excusing Gulf Oil Corp. from tax liability on its \$10.3 million political slush fund was a fraud written by a Gulf attorney, a federal prosecutor says.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Craig McKay has charged that the 1974 report concluded there was \$200,000 in the domestic fund, when in fact it contained nearly \$5 million.

The allegation raised new questions about Gulf's tax liability, but neither the IRS nor the Justice Department would comment Wednesday on possible action against the company.

McKay also charged that IRS auditor Cyril J. Niederberger shared sensitive documents from the Watergate Special Prosecutor's Office with the lawyer Gulf had retained.

At the time, the special prosecutor was investigating Gulf's use of a Bahamas-based subsidiary to dispense over \$10.3 million to foreign and domestic politicians during a 13-year period.

This was "a concealment and a coverup," McKay said at the opening of a Gulf executive's trial Tuesday on charges that Niederberger received free vacations from the oil company.

"Gulf knew it, Mr. Niederberger knew it and the attorney for Gulf knew it," McKay said.

The attorney was not identified.

Fred W. Standefer, Gulf vice president for tax administration, is on trial here. The company declined comment on the government's charges in light of the court proceedings.

"Our feeling right now is that we're not in a position to make any comment on statements made at the trial," a Gulf spokeswoman said. "We don't wish to say anything that might influence the outcome of it. That would not be fair."

The spokeswoman added she was not aware of any slush fund tax liability determined subsequent to Niederberger's report.

## Carter backs natural gas stand

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Carter said Wednesday he sees no possibility of changing his stance on natural gas prices and promised he will make no deals undercutting his supporters on energy legislation to benefit the oil industry.

Carter again said he would veto any energy bill that treats consumers unfairly, fails to increase energy con-

servation and supplies, or "bankrupts" the federal budget.

But he did not say during a news conference what specific provisions might prompt that veto.

House and Senate negotiators, meanwhile, continued their efforts at fashioning an energy package acceptable to Carter and a majority in the Congress.

Several major questions remain — how much the price of natural gas will be allowed to increase, whether to impose a wellhead tax on crude oil and what will be done with the proceeds from that tax.

Senate conferees, led by Sen. Russell Long, D-La., are pushing for phased deregulation of natural gas with prices rising to \$2.48 per 1,000 cubic feet immediately.

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