

Israeli minister visits Egypt to hasten peace

CAIRO, Egypt (UPI) — Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir arrived in Cairo yesterday to seek a speed-up in the timetable for bilateral talks with Egypt despite the stalemate in the Palestinian autonomy talks. Shamir left on a 24-hour visit, Prime Minister Menachem Begin said Egyptian President Anwar Sadat had promised to accelerate the pace of establishing commercial and tourism ties with Israel when he agreed last week to resume the suspended autonomy talks. Begin was quoted by Israeli radio as saying he had agreed to delay the transfer of his office to Arab East Jerusalem or make other concessions as described by U.S. Middle East envoy Sol Linowitz. "I made no promises whatsoever," Begin was quoted as saying. Linowitz had reportedly urged both sides to make conciliatory gestures to get the talks restarted. According to the radio, Begin told his reporter he still intends to move his offices to East Jerusalem and feels

in no way responsible for any "false impressions" Linowitz may have formed during his talks in Israel and Egypt last week. But Begin did not set a date for the move, saying it was "up to the cabinet" to decide. That could still leave room for an unofficial delay although aides to the prime minister said they expected him to move over the Jewish holidays, which begin Wednesday and last for two weeks. Such a move, coming on top of Israel's recent declaration of eternal sovereignty over both halves of Jerusalem, is likely to further anger Egypt and make it more difficult for Sadat to continue with the peace process over Arab opposition. Shamir indicated he would seek to avoid a confrontation over Jerusalem and the other major differences stymieing the autonomy talks in favor of discussions on improving bilateral relations with Egypt. "I hope the results of our conversations here will be the strengthening of the peace relations between our

two countries," he told reporters upon arrival at Cairo airport. Sadat, who was to receive Shamir at his Alexandria residence today, agreed to the discussions, apparently as a concession to Linowitz. The president had another Israeli visitor yesterday — former Labor prime minister Yitzhak Rabin who came to Egypt on a 24-hour private visit to gather material for a book he is writing about world leaders. A chapter is devoted to Sadat. The talks Shamir will have about establishing closer tourism and commercial links are not as mundane as their subject matter suggests, for underlying the pace of bilateral relations was a basic difference in the tactical approach each nation is bringing to the Camp David peace process. The Israelis have sought to separate the issue of relations with Egypt from the thornier question of Palestinian autonomy while Egypt views the two issues as being closely linked, with progress in the one area dependent on the other.

Army says 6 U.S.-based divisions not war-ready

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Army officials said yesterday 10 of the Army's 16 divisions are in good enough shape to go to war today if necessary, but the rest — all based in the United States — are not considered "combat-ready." The overall picture, the officials said, is that all six divisions overseas meet requirements, as do four in the United States, but the remaining six at home have problems.

And the officials said even those four that meet requirements in the United States do not actually fulfill the top standards of manning, equipment and personnel, although several — including the elite 82nd Airborne Division — come close. Spokesman Thomas Ross said at a briefing that the overseas divisions "are maintained at highest status," and divisions in the United States are

designed to reinforce those troops when needed. "The Army expects the status of stateside divisions to improve significantly over the next several months," he said. Ross said Army recruiting over the last year has met its goals, while shortages in non-commissioned officer ranks are being made up by transfers from Europe and South Korea.

"It is also a common practice among all armed forces to man units in peacetime at lower levels than would be required in wartime," Ross said, adding that only a third of the Soviet Union's army divisions are rated combat-ready. He said if an emergency arose, those units of a stateside division that were up to strength might be deployed. Other units might be quickly upgraded by shifting material around.

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