

**Minutes of departure conversation between President Carter and PM Begin
Washington, DC¹
(September 20, 1978)**

Top Secret

The President invited the Prime Minister to a departure chat in The White House that took place at 12:30 PM with the presence of Mrs. Carter.

- A. At the opening of the meeting the President presented the Prime Minister with a ceramic art object from Jerusalem that he received from his sister.
- B. The President then asked to be left alone with the Prime Minister. He told the Prime Minister that during the visit of Vance in Jordan and Saudi Arabia, he requested that both the Prime Minister and President Sadat should act with extra caution in their public declarations in order not to impede the situation.

The Prime Minister responded by noting that he is cautious in his public declarations, but when the spokesperson for the Administration presents a misleading interpretation on the agreement, it is the Prime Minister's duty to correct the distortion. The Prime Minister added that from the government's spokesperson's message it could be understood as if Israel has no right to maintain military presence in the West Bank beyond a five-year period. The President responded that this is not true and that Israel has that right to do so **beyond** the five years.

The Prime Minister continued and that the Administration spokesperson also said that the obligation not to establish new settlements in Judea, Samaria and Gaza was also restricted to five-year period. **The President responded that no such obligation was ever given.**

- C. The President reiterated his wish to visit both Israel and Egypt during the current year. The two leaders exchanged greetings and departed very amiably.

*Notes by Simcha Dinitz

¹ *Menachem Begin dictated minutes of conversation to Israel Ambassador to the United States, Simcha Dinitz, September 20, 1978, File A4314/1, Israel State Archives, Jerusalem (translated from the Hebrew. Dinitz wrote at the bottom of this memorandum of the conversation that "details of the above conversation were given to me by the Prime Minister after that meeting.")