

European Community



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COMMUNIQUE

EC STATEMENT ON EGYPT-ISRAEL PEACE TREATY

EC member states hope that the peace treaty signed by Egypt and Israel in Washington on 26 March will be "given practical form soon in a comprehensive agreement in which all parties concerned, including the representatives of the Palestinian people, would participate and to which the international community could give its endorsement." The full text of the statement by the Nine issued in Paris on 26 March is given below:

"Following their declaration of 19 September 1978, the nine member states of the European Community have followed with the greatest attention the negotiations which have resulted in the signature of the agreements between Egypt and Israel. They are fully appreciative of the will for peace which has led President Carter to engage himself personally in these negotiations, as well as of the efforts made by President Sadat and Prime Minister Begin. While a difficult road remains to be trodden before Security Council Resolution 242 is implemented in all its aspects and on all fronts, the Nine consider that the treaty constitutes a correct application of the principles of that resolution to Egyptian-Israeli relations.

"They recall, however, that, as they indicated in their declaration of 29 June 1977, the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East can only take place within the framework of a comprehensive settlement. Such a settlement must be based on Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and must translate into fact the right of the Palestinian people to a homeland.

"In this context they take due note of the will expressed by the signatories to the treaty to consider this not as a separate peace but as a first step in the direction of a comprehensive settlement designed to bring to an end thirty years of hostility and mistrust.

"They hope that this will, to which they attach particular importance, will be given practical form soon in a comprehensive agreement in which all the parties concerned, including the representatives of the Palestinian people, would participate and to which the international community could give its endorsement.

"The Nine express the hope that all the parties concerned will avoid any statement or action which will impede the search for peace, such as the Israeli policy of settlements in the occupied territories."

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