

- Criticism in the government of the way the Foreign Ministry is running the overseas information campaign in the wake of the Sadat visit. The critics maintain that the Israeli information effort has created the impression on the world that Israel is following Egypt while, in fact, Israel initiated several political moves that made the Sadat visit possible.

The "black cat" apparently walked between Dayan and the Director General of his ministry, Ephraim Evron. Begin had proposed to Dayan that the Israeli delegation to the Cairo conference consist of the director generals of the Prime Minister's office and of the Foreign Ministry, but Dayan opposed Evron's appointment.

One of the reasons for the tension in relations between Dayan and Evron is the fact that the Director General of the Foreign Ministry has taken positions differing from Dayan's on certain issues.

Despite all this, coalition circles maintain that these tensions will not be able to undermine government cooperation in the determination of political moves.

Daver, "Dayan and Begin At Odds Over Everything," by Daniel Block, Dec. 13:

Coalition and cabinet sources were informed yesterday of a dispute between Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan over everything connected with the treatment of the Cairo conference.

The Foreign Minister is angry because the Prime Minister is reserving for himself the treatment of the matter and the Foreign Minister is not in the center of the picture. These sources also report that Foreign Minister Dayan was angry that Prime Minister Begin appeared at the joint press conference with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance contrary to custom and protocol, according to which, in such a case, the Israeli Foreign Minister should appear together with his American counterpart. In the past it was the custom that the Israeli Foreign Minister was the one to appear at the joint press conference with any guest foreign minister. This was done on previous visits by the U.S. Secretary of State.

Observers point out that, in various statements made recently, expression was given to differences in shading in statements made by Begin and Dayan, with Dayan belittling the value of Sadat's statement about "no more war" while Begin attributed historic importance to it, and also when Dayan hurried to affirm the possibility of a separate peace with Egypt, while Begin, in his statements, was scrupulous in declaring Israel's desire for a comprehensive settlement with all the Arab countries. There is also a difference between the great optimism Begin is making heard and Dayan's reservations and doubts. Dayan spoke yesterday about a short conference and about the framework for the continuation as something unclear.

Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan yesterday denied, at a

gathering of foreign correspondents, the reports of a dispute between him and the Prime Minister. Foreign Ministry sources also tried to reduce the importance of the dispute, pointing out that it could be that Dayan was feeling a certain dissatisfaction over matters of secondary importance, but there was no difference between him and the Prime Minister with regard to the principal approach and to the aims of the negotiations and debates with Egypt at the Cairo conference.

Peres Declares He's Open To Palestinian State

The following are excerpts from an interview with Israeli Labor Party and opposition leader Shimon Peres that was published in the Christian Science Monitor Dec. 13. The interview and comment is significant in that Peres indicates that he would not oppose the formation of a government in exile by the Palestine Liberation Organization:

Q: You accept the idea of a Palestinian national existence?

A: That's right.... Every nation can decide about its identity. If there are Arabs who consider themselves Palestinians it is their decision, not mine. And they don't have to have my approval, and my disapproval is meaningless. The question is if the PLO is a representative or a terrorist organization.... If people want to discuss ... let them keep their guns under government control. Because the moment they come with guns they don't represent, they threaten. That's No. 1.

No. 2: Their (PLO) charter is not for Palestinian nationhood.... They claim Israel is Palestine.... The PLO doesn't say: we are Palestinian people and for that recognize our people. That would be OK.

Q: In principle do you not oppose the opening position of a demand for a Palestinian state?

A: I can't oppose anything. I say this is a negotiation without prior conditions....

Q: If the PLO accepts Resolution 242 and if the PLO agrees to the idea of reaching a coexistence arrangement with Israel, what would be your attitude toward the PLO?

A: Then they would stop being the PLO. Then we wouldn't have a problem....

Peres characterized his party's willingness to compromise on the West Bank and to negotiate for the fulfillment of Palestinian national identity as "quite a major difference" from the attitude of the Begin government.