

**July 11, 2000**

### CAMP DAVID REDUX

Sir, - Samuel W. Lewis, former US ambassador to Israel, writes in The Jerusalem Post (July 5) that as a participant in the 1978 Camp David meeting, 'he saw how Arab-Israeli agreements can be forged by leaders when gaps seem unbridgeable.'

The negotiations had started with Begin's offer of approximately 99% of Egyptian demands - that is of the whole of Sinai with two reservations. One was that Yamit and the other villages should remain in Jewish hands, the other that one of the three modern airfields should similarly remain under Jewish control. Sadat's reply was that he would not give up one grain of sand of 'Holy Land.'

But the gap was bridged, with President Carter's pressure, by Begin's simply giving away the last 1%. Simple. Lewis shows no sign of recognizing that the Egyptians in response have failed to fulfill approximately 99% of their obligations under the peace treaty.

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