This Israeli hawk turned out to be a dove

By REUBEN SLONIM Herald Special

Historians will probably cite Ezer Weizman, former defense minister in Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin's cabinet, as the key man in the negotiations that produced the Camp. David accord and the subsequent

Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. Begin was the head of the Israeli delegation, but on several occasions the negotiations threatened to founder (because of distrust of his opponents). Had it not been for Welzman, Egypt's President Anwar Sadat would doubtless have given up on the Israelis. So says Ezer Weizman In

The Battle For Peace (Bantam Books; 390 pages; \$15.95), an account of his role in the events that led from Sadat's historic visit to Jerusalem in the fall of 1977, to the signing of the peace treaty in Washington in March, 1979.

There is no reason to doubt Weizman's assessment, selfserving as It may appear. So far none of the major negotlators has contradicted him.

How dld Weizman achieve such effectiveness? Through

LIKEBROTHERS

the force of his personality and the coincidence of being the right man on the right spot at the right time. Sadat found Begin basically incompatible, but in Welzman he discovered a kind of long-lost brother.

"When I addressed our students in Alexandria," Sadat told Weizman, "I said openly that when I sit down with Ezer Weizman there are no limits to the subjects we discuss. When I talk with you, I feel at ease and I am prepared to discuss any subject.

The Egyptian leader had no such rapport with any of the other negotiating Israelis. When U.S. President Jimmy Carter asked him to see Moshe Dyan, Begin's former foreign minister, he refused. "But when you request it, Ezer," he told Weizman, "I won't

Many Israelis, including senior political figures, suspected Sadat's moves. scrutinizing every statement and act of his for some hidden trickery.

The better Weizman got to know Sadat as a man and a statesman, the more firmly he rejected the conjecture that Sadat's entire peace initiative

was nothing more than an act of strategic deception.

SAME STYLE Weizman and Sadat hit it off together because they both "play with open cards." Both make their arguments loudly and not always in the most elegant language. A great many. Israells do not like Weizman's style; a great many Arabs do not like Sadat's .

Weizman admits, among other faults, a weakness for ceremonial parades and bugle

"A parade with its wealth of multi-colored uniforms, with the roll of drums and the thunder of artillery salutes all these flatter the ego of any leader, great or small. Mine.

Sadat seemed to enjoy such straight-from-the-shoulder talk, probably because he felt the same and admired such a frank, public confession.

Weizman and Sadat were drawn together for another reason: Their common aversion toward the Palestinian Arabs, particularly the Palestine Liberation Organization whose leuders Sadat called "cabaret warriors," a reference to their luxurious

Weizman believes that Egyptians view the Palestinians as the root cause of all their troubles. It was on behalf of the Palestinians, he says, that Egypt plunged into a scries of wars for which she pald a terrible price - more than 100,000 dead or wounded.

then, did Sadat consider himself bound to plead for a Palestinian solu-

tion in the negotiations with Israel? Because, says Weizman, he needed "a fig leaf," a cover against pressure from

the rest of the Arab world. It was this sympathy for the particular problems of Egypt that aroused in Sadat a feeling of trust for Weizman, who sees Egypt as more Egyptlan than

MUCH TO OFFER Ezer Weizman, whose uncle was the first president of Israel, shows an understanding of the Egyptians his Zionist predecessors falled to show Arabs in general. Weizman

"We have a lot to offer the Egyptians, but we must be careful never to imply that we have all the answers. We cannot come to the Egyptians only as teachers. There is much to learn from them: their tolerance, their warmth,

their hospitality and humor." them. He criticizes them The hawkish Welzman because they seem unable to find the courage and the proves himself a dove in these memoirs. The advantages of determination to storm peace the way they stormed the the peace treaty with, Egypt are so obvious to him that he Egyptian defenses in the Sixhas no patience with Israeli Day War:

nay-sayers and doubters. He

considers it an end to the

blood-letting on the southern

front, recognition of Israel as

an integral part of the Middle

East, and a wide-open oppor-

tunity for Israel's economy.

Weizman credits Sadat with

the major share of bringing off

the Israeli-Egyptian accord:

He broke the psychological

barrier between Israel and the

Arabs and restored the Arab-

Israeli dispute to the conven-

Who could ask for more?

"Just as we swooped down on their airfields and blew their planes sky-high, so we must now fling ourselves at the Egyptian people and earn their good-will and understanding with the same determination, the same unflinching devotion with which the pilots pressed home their attack regardless

of the cost.". Welzman is counselling the Israells to take the same risks for peace as they took for war. The advice is sound.

tional terms of the negotiating Reuben Slonim has been a frequent visitor to the Middle East and has written many The former defense minister fears the Israells may must the articles and books on the opportunity Sadat has handed

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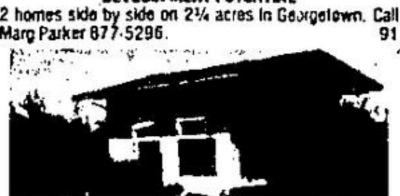


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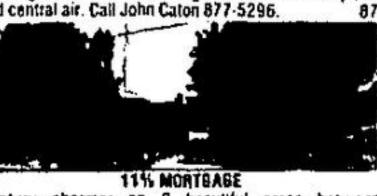
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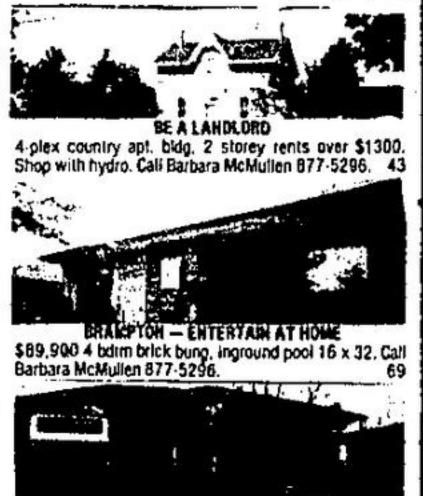
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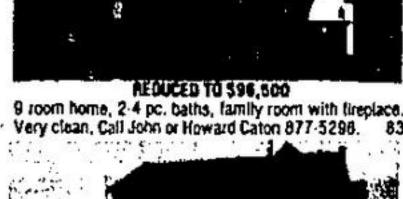
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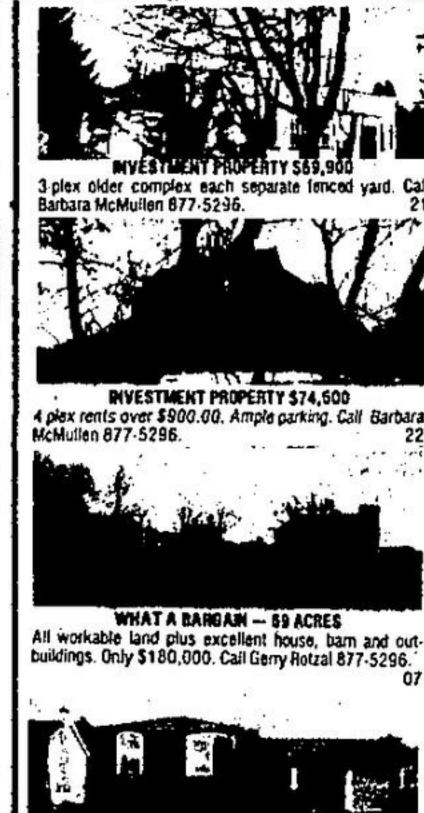
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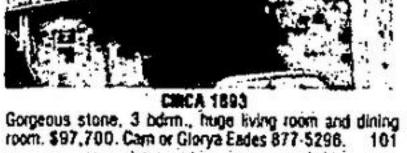
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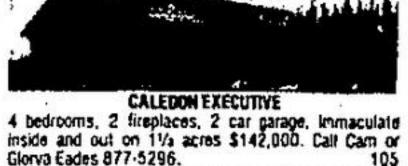


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