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Israeli Parliament Celebrates 40th Anniversary of Historic Sadat Speech

Forty years after Egyptian President Anwar Sadat paid a historic visit to Israel, the Knesset is holding a series of special events marking the occasion, which led to the establishment of the first peace agreement between Israel and an Arab state, according to a Jerusalem Post report. "Dozens of foreign heads of state visited the Knesset both before and since Sadat's visit. Every visit has its memorable moments, but what happened here 40 years ago was extraordinary, if only because of what came afterwards. It was a real breakthrough," said Knesset Speaker Yoel 'Yuli' Edelstein in his opening remarks. Edelstein recalled details from the visit, which culminated in a historic address by the Egyptian President, who, just four years earlier, had led a bloody war against the Jewish state. Edelstein noted in particular a statement by former president Shimon Peres, who said at the time that "In Israel, there is no opposition to peace." "Despite all the difficulties and challenges that we faced then, and will likely face in the future, we need to remember that sentence today, too," said Edelstein.

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