

WASHINGTON LETTER

by Trude B. Feldman
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The Republican National Convention, which met in Miami Beach last week, dealt with two key issues of particular concern to the Jewish community -- namely, Middle East foreign policy, as it affects Israel, and the Soviet - Communist bloc

anti-Semitism. Bernard Katzen, consultant to the Republican National Committee on foreign policy in the Mideast and director of the Ethnic Division, pointed out to the Committee that the Skyhawk A-4 planes, which the United States are

presently selling Israel are subsonic. (Subsonic planes fly at about 500 miles per hour.) The Soviets have equipped Egypt's Nasser with MIG-21's and SU-7's which fly at about 1200 miles per hour. Mr. Katzen told the Platform Committee that the Skyhawk planes would be 'sitting ducks' for the Russian planes which Nasser now has.

The significant aspects of the Plank which were incorporated in the Platform of the Republican Party at their convention are (1) direct peace talks (2) secure boundaries (3) the sale of Supersonic Jets Planes to Israel.

It is the strongest plank on the Mideast by the Republican Party. "In the tinderbox of the Mideast, we will pursue a stable peace through recognition by all nations of each other's right to assured boundaries, free from the threat of aggression. We will seek an end to the arms race through international agreement and the stationing of peace-keeping forces of the United Nations in areas of severe tensions, as we encourage peace-table talks among adversaries.

"Nevertheless, the Soviets persist in building an imbalance of military forces in this region. The fact of a growing menace to Israel is undeniable. Her forces must be kept at a commensurate strength both for her protection and to help keep the peace of the area. The U. S., therefore, will provide countervailing help to

Israel, such as supersonic fighters, as necessary for these purposes. To replace the ancient rivalries of this region with new hope and opportunity, we vigorously support a well-conceived plan of regional development, including the bold nuclear desalinization and irrigation proposal of former President Eisenhower."

The Republican Party also took note of Soviet-Communist bloc anti-Semitism.

"We condemn the Soviet Union for its continuing anti-Semitic actions, its efforts to eradicate all religious, and its oppression of minorities generally. Improved relations with Communist nations can come only when they cease to endanger other states by force or threat. Under existing conditions, we cannot favor recognition of Communist China or its admission to the United Nations."

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