

ISRAELI SECURITY
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to say if SAM-3 bases have been attacked. Strikes against these positions would involve possible casualties among the Soviet soldiers sent to Egypt to operate these missiles. (The SAM-3 missile has not been used in combat and Ameri-

can military officers are vitally interested in seeing if the missile and radar spotting system works under fighting conditions. They are also interested in the tactics Israel uses against the SAM-3s, it was reported from Washington.

Israeli diplomatic efforts to have President Nixon reconsider his decision on the sale of 25 Phantom jet fighters and 100 Skyhawk attack fighters centered on the change in the balance of power caused by the SAM-3s which could prevent Israel from checking Egypt's ability to renew major fighting in the Mideast. Israeli officials and supporters in the U.S. and other countries have made this point in calling on President Nixon to speedily reconsider his decision.

At the same time, Israel is downplaying the decision by noting the U.S. stated it was committed to supporting Israel's security and was prepared to send more planes if the military or political situation requires this. Washington indicated that more Russian aircraft and men and the possibility of French jets supplied to Libya reaching Egypt were some of the factors being closely watched, Israeli officials noted.

President Nixon's decision has received a mixed reception. The Soviet Union and the Arab States attacked it as a diversion be-



WEARING CLOTHING DIFFERENT FROM WHAT IS CUSTOMARILY EXPECTED, TO COMMEMORATE THE PURIM HOLIDAY, MINISTER OF DEFENSE MOSHE DAYAN AND PREMIER GOLDA MEIR TOAST EACH OTHER "LA HAIM".

NEW YORK: The recently observed holiday of Purim "not only has provided emotional release for the Jews, but has given them courage in their darkest hours," Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national director of the Interreligious Affairs Department of the American Jewish Committee, stated.

cause the U.S. said it would send the jets at some later time if needed and because Washington also announced financial aid to Jerusalem which would only help to support Israel.

Supporters of Israel in the U.S. and other countries said the move was unjustified in view of the danger facing Jerusalem. They argued that only concrete support would make clear America's readiness to help Jerusalem against its possible destruction.

Supporters of Mr. Nixon's action argued that he had taken a limited risk gamble to try and scale down the flow of arms to the Mideast and thereby reduce the possibility of another major outbreak of fighting. If the Russians and French do not respond

and the arms build-up on the Arab side continues, he would be free - and even obligated according to his own stated position - to send more jets and other material to Israel.

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