

TELL TALES
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task in the Middle East is to acknowledge that the unrestrained flow of sophisticated weapons to Egypt from the Soviet Union has jeopardized the balance of power in a most dangerous way. We can preserve the peace in the Middle East but only if we recognize that it is today threatened by the narrow margin of Israel's air defense capability. With so few planes at her disposal we invite a miscalculation on the part of the Egyptian and Soviet forces leading them to believe that they could eliminate the Israeli Air Force as a factor in Israel's defense and thereby reverse the events of June, 1967.

It is against this background, Mr. President, that I wish to introduce my amendment to the pending appropriations bill. It is a simple amendment that merely gives effect to a policy clearly laid down by an overwhelming majority of the Senate in upholding, by a vote of 87 to 7, the necessary authority under which this appropriation is here offered.

Mr. President, last September we voted to provide the authority to enable the President to supply credits to Israel in such amounts as may be necessary to provide aircraft and other equipment essential to maintain the balance in the Middle East.

Just a few days ago 78 Senators joined in co-sponsoring Senate Resolution 177 calling upon the President to make Phantom aircraft available to Israel.

The President has the authority he needs. He has a mandate from the Senate to exercise that authority by making Phantoms available, and making them available now. All that is required is an appropriation, and my amendment today is nothing more than the necessary appropriation. It would make available \$500 million in military credits, half of which (or more) could be used to provide the planes that 87 Senators authorized and that 78 Senators urged be made available at once.

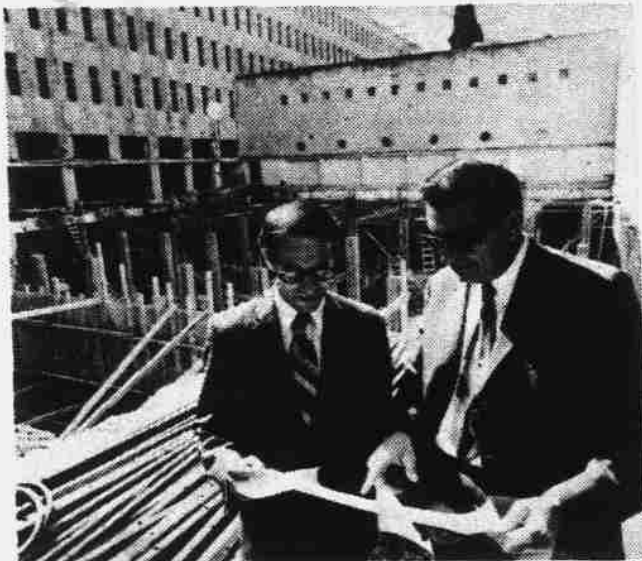
Mr. President, I wish to point out that the Senate version of the Foreign Assistance Act contains the authority for an appropriation of \$300 million for military credits for Israel. In my view that authority is superfluous since the authority contained in Section 501 of the Defense Procurement Act of 1970 is all that is required. Section 501, by agreement in a House-Senate conference, is still in force and remains in force until September, 1972.

But more important is the fact that we do not as yet have a Foreign Assistance Program. We may not get one for weeks or even months. It is subject to uncertainties and delays. None of its several provisions is securely a part of the public law.

Section 501, on the other hand, is the law of the land. I am merely proposing that we make the necessary appropriation to give effect to the policy we have legislated and so recently reaffirmed. Even if the \$300 million authorization contained in the Senate version of the Foreign Assistance Act emerges from conference and is enacted into law, we will have nothing that we do not already have in Section 501 of the Defense Procurement Act. The difference is that the \$500 million I am now proposing can be made available immediately. And in view of the rapid deterioration of the military balance in the Middle East, especially in the last few days, it is urgent that we act at once.

Moreover, Mr. President, the \$300 million in requested authority is inadequate for both Phantom aircraft AND other essential equipment. The aircraft alone will cost at least \$250 million, perhaps more, and considerably more than \$50 million has already been committed to supporting equipment. Thus we would face an eventual deficiency appropriation if we were to wait and appropriate funds to carry out the Senate's policy in a piecemeal fashion. If the \$500 million requested in my amendment is appropriated here today I would expect the Administration to adjust its \$300 million request accordingly. And I need not point out that the Administration has hardly been overeager to make available the planes it is my intention to fund with this amendment.

I will not go into detail about the state of the Israeli economy and Israel's obvious inability to provide for an adequate defense without credit assistance. Suffice it to say that fully 30% of Israel's Gross National Product goes to defense. And let me add that the annual



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cost of servicing the foreign debt incurred by Israel, largely as a result of necessary defense outlays, is alone \$500 million.

Mr. President, I have long believed that we have failed in our Middle East policy to pay sufficient attention to the cynical role of the Soviet Union in exploiting the tragic conflict between Arabs and Jews. The policy of purposeful instability that the Soviets practice is a menace to international order. And it imposes extraordinary burdens on the innocent victims who must work doubly hard to achieve even minimal security for their precious freedom and independence. All that I am proposing is that we extend the credits necessary to permit a brave ally to purchase the means with which to defend itself while we look to a better day in a more peaceful world where weapons and credits are no longer needed.



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