

JACKSON - HUMPHREY ON MIDEAST

SEN. HENRY JACKSON

Senator Henry M. Jackson charged President Nixon with wearing thin Israel's margin of security and deliberately downgrading Israel's defenses by denying her purchase of vital Phantom aircraft.

Senator Henry Jackson called upon the President to "provide the American people with a balance sheet" on the military situation in the Middle East so that the public can judge for itself the validity of the State Department's indifference to the deterioration of that balance.

"Since last July, when Mr. Nixon shut off the supply of Phantoms, the Administration has closed its eyes to the dangerous erosion in Israel's margin of safety." "Since then," Jackson added, "Soviet arms shipments to Egypt have continued unabated, leading President Sadat to adopt an even more uncompromising and bellicose position. He has even threatened renewed hostilities if the United States does not pressure Israel into accepting the Egyptian and Russian diplomatic terms." "This," said Jackson, "is final testimony that the Administration's Middle East policy has failed."

Senator Jackson, who is the author of an amendment to the Defense Appropriations Bill providing credits for Israel's purchase of Phantom jets, said that "the President -- and he alone -- must answer for the erosion of the American position in the Middle East." Jackson accused Nixon of "setting up the Secretary of State as a 'flak catcher' for the Administration's failing Middle East policy."

"You can't have a

sound national policy if the Secretary of State is of one persuasion and the President another. The President can no longer divert criticism of his policies to the Secretary of State."

Jackson spoke to the Young Adult Pacesetter Dinner of the 1972 Federation Allied Jewish Appeal, in Philadelphia.

HUBERT HUMPHREY

WASHINGTON -- Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, after a 50-minute private talk with Israeli Prime Minister Mrs. Golda Meir, today issued the following statement:

The first step the United States must take

in an effort to secure a negotiated peace in the Middle East is to assure Israel the economic and military support she needs to uphold the balance of power in that area of the world and maintain her defensive capabilities.

Deliveries of Phantom jets must resume without further delay to correct the present imbalance and to reaffirm American support of Israel.

The United States must pursue a clear and consistent policy. Any doubt or hesitancy only promotes instability and provocation.

The Soviet Union has shown no sign of reducing its supply of destructive weapons in

Egypt. Therefore any further delay on our part in supplying Israel with the Phantom jets increases the danger of renewed hostilities. American diplomacy must not veer from our stated purpose of negotiations between Israel and her neighbors to achieve a peaceful settlement.

Conflict in the Middle East has been steaming for over twenty years. What is needed is patience, perseverance and firmness.

A stop and go policy on the delivery of arms and other assistance creates uncertainty and anxiety in the minds of both Israel and the Arab countries.

TEL AVIV (WNS)--Funeral services were held here for Nehemia Rabin, father of Israel's Ambassador to the U.S., who died at the age of 85.

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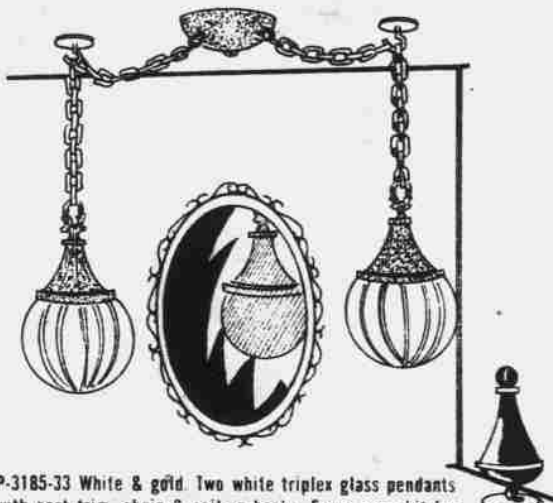
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