

ARMS TO JORDAN
(Continued from Page 1)

of the Joint Campaign of the United Jewish Appeal-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies that the Administration has tried to create the impression that Congress' refusal for "eleventh-hour aid" to Indochina has created doubts toward the American commitment elsewhere, especially Israel. "There is no foundation whatever for this insinuation," he declared. "The United States is committed to the survival of the State of Israel not only because it is morally right but because a strong and independent Israel is in the American national interest."

REASSESSMENT AFTER SADAT TALKS

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- The Ford Administration's reassessment of American policy in the Middle East will be completed after the President meets with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin next month. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger said in an interview on the NBC-TV "Today" program.

He said at that time the Administration "will formulate a precise American policy." Ford is scheduled to meet with Sadat in Salzburg, Austria, June 1-2 and with Rabin in Washington June 11-12. Kissinger said there is no question that the U.S. would continue trying to bring about a Mideast settlement but "all parties on both sides have obligations to explain what they can do to produce peace." He said for Israel "this is a question of what territory they are prepared to give up" and for the Arabs "what concrete commitments to peace they are prepared to make." Kissinger warned that "a prolonged stalemate in the Middle East involves a high risk of another war which includes the possibility of a conflict with the Soviet Union and major impact on the economies of all the industrialized nations, "including us," something, which he said, the United States wanted to avoid.

In the TV interview Kissinger called "myths" the allegations that he and Ford had privately criticized Israel in the week of the breakdown of the Israeli-Egyptian disengagement negotiations. He said Ford "made a public criticism, not a private criticism when he referred to inflexibility" on Israel's part. Kissinger said he had "expressed the view that a strategy which on the whole had been agreed to with the Israeli government did not succeed." He said the purpose was not to criticize Israel but to make clear that "new decisions had to be taken by all parties and that progress in the Middle East cannot be stopped." Kissinger charged that the "allegation of private criticism of Israel comes mostly from people who think they are helping Israel but who, in my view, are not helping Israel by making these allegations."



WASHINGTON, LT. COL. IRWIN R. ZIFF, (USAF RET.) HAS BEEN APPOINTED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE U.S.A., THE OLDEST VETERANS GROUP IN THE COUNTRY.

ISRAELI CABINET ROOTS OUT CORRUPTION

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The Cabinet has decided to take full responsibility for rooting out corruption, incompetence and fraud alleged to exist in most branches of the government.

It warned that civil servants who are slow to carry out the recommendations of State Comptroller Yitzhak Nebenzahl, who made the allegations in his annual report, may face disciplinary action. Previously, the Finance Minister was responsible for following up the Comptroller's report but the Cabinet has now instructed Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz to report quarterly on progress in implementing the recommendations.

Meanwhile, the Knesset defeated by

a 47-35 a Likud motion of no confidence in the government because of the Comptroller's report Likud MK Yoram Eridor said the present government is part of the "system" which Nebenzahl had found at fault and therefore should resign.

The public has been most shocked by the reports of bribery and fraud in the Ministry of Defense. Defense Minister Shimon Peres said he has asked three persons of unquestioned integrity to form a non-partisan watch dog committee against corruption in the defense establishment. "I do not feel myself a citizen of a corrupted state but a citizen of a state that fights corruption."

In New York, Haifa Mayor Yosef Almogi called for an uncompromising war against corruption. "I am not as concerned about the United States Mideast policy as I am concerned over the corruption in Israeli's society," he said. Almogi, who is also a Labor MK, added, "These cases of corruption weaken not only Israel but all the Jewish people."

ISRAEL IS FRONT LINE FOR WESTERN WORLD

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) -- Israel is "the front line defending the Western world against Soviet imperialism."

Thus declared Haim Herzog, Israel's newly-appointed Ambassador to the United Nations, in an exclusive interview conducted by Arnold Forster of the ADL of B'nai B'rith for the agency's "Dateline Israel" television series.

Ambassador Herzog told Mr. Forster that Israel is willing to give back both the Golan Heights and the Sinai Peninsula in return for "peace and demilitarization. What we're asking for in return is not just territory," he said, "but just normal relations such as exist throughout the world between self-respecting countries."

General Herzog countered charges that Israel had no right to occupy the Sinai by making it clear that "Israel did not move in and sit on someone's land. Egypt had used the terrain in the Sinai as a jumping-off ground to attack Israel three times in the last 27 years. It is not a question of Israel taking someone's land," he stated. "The question is the land being used to invade Israel."

Herzog further informed Mr. Forster that as long as war is not renounced by the Arab nations, the Sinai, the Golan Heights and the West Bank remain strategically important because their frontiers allow Israel sufficient notification time in the event of an attack.

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