

WASHINGTON DATELINE

BY TRUDE B. FELDMAN
ISRAELITE'S WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

President Gerald R. Ford confirmed that the United States will now provide substantial arms to Israel in view of the concessions that the Jewish state made in order to reach the recent Sinai pact.

However, he added that no firm commitments were made on any specific weapons -- that they are "merely open" for discussion.

"The F-16 fighters and the Pershing ground-to-ground missiles involve negotiations between the U.S. and Israel," he said. "They are on the shopping list and will be discussed with Israeli Government representatives."

During a 32-minute impromptu press conference in the Oval Office, the President also said that the U.S. has, for a long time, supplied Israel with substantial amounts of military hardware, and that "it is our plan to do so" in the future.

"This was a policy established a good many years ago and we have always felt that the survival of Israel in the Mideast was very important -- and military hardware provides for that survival."

The President did not deny revelations in Jack Anderson's column that the U.S. has "delivered a secret pledge to Israel that goes far beyond the \$2.3 billion in military aid" promised for 1976.

The secret accords promise "to continue to maintain Israel's defensive strength through the supply of advanced types of equipment."

Jack Anderson further disclosed that another stipulation (in the secret accords) is that the "next agreement with Egypt should be a final peace agreement."

As for the U.S. providing Israel with oil, the President stated: "We believe our sources available to Israel keeps her secure after she has given up the oil fields in the Mideast. We aren't concerned that these supplies will be turned off and, therefore, it will have no adverse impact on our own supplies. This is a part of the overall military and economic agreement with Israel, and it is a step in maintaining the peace."

Mr. Ford pointed out that 76 Senators recently sent him a letter "actually urging that I recommend to Congress more money for Israel, and no guarantee of peace, whereas now Israel and Egypt have made this agreement, and the prospective cost to the U.S. is less than what the 76 Senators recommended that we propose to Congress for Israel...."

"So, we not only have peace and a step toward a broader peace, but it is also at a lesser cost than what the 76 Senators promoted."

The President was told that numerous Congressional offices received mail -- running contrary to your proposal for the Mideast settlement, particularly objected to the use "of American technicians" in the Sinai.

Mr. Ford responded that the technicians will be there during the term of the agreement "unless I, or another President, withdraw them because of any danger to their lives."

He added that it is a case of not more than 200 Americans performing a highly technical warning station responsibility in a United Nations buffer zone.



THE SHECK

"I think it's a good contribution by the U.S. to the establishment and permanency of peace in the Middle East," he remarked.

Asked what he would do if, in the course of their term in the Sinai, the Palestine Liberation Organization moves in and kidnaps, captures, or kills some of them, Mr. Ford replied: "You are speculating on something that I don't anticipate would happen. I think I, or any other President, would use utmost caution in the protection of the lives of any Americans."

As for the possibility -- later on -- of using Americans on the Jordanian or Syrian fronts, President Ford said he would not speculate about any negotiations or agreements that have not yet begun.

"The present agreement is a very valuable contribution to peace," he said, "but I would not want to make any commitment concerning any other."

Mr. Ford was also queried as to whether Egypt's President Sadat was aware -- before he signed the recent agreement -- that the U.S. would be discussing with Israel the missiles and other weapons.

"I think he was familiar with the fact we anticipated a commitment to Israel for sizeable military hardware," he concluded. "I can't indicate whether he knew the precise weapons or not, but he knew we were going to make a substantial commitment in weapons to Israel."

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) -- Sounding the keynote of the radical Arab states' campaign for the ousting of Israel from the UN, Sadoun Hammadi, the Foreign Minister of Iraq -- in his foreign policy address during the general debate last week -- declared that the "expulsion of Israel from the United Nations would constitute the right approach towards the desired settlement of the problem" of the Middle East.

SHECKY GREENE, JACK ALBERTSON AT MGM

Shecky Greene, often called the funniest man alive, and Jack Albertson of "Chico and the Man" fame, team up for a two week engagement at the MGM Grand Hotel.

The comedy of Shecky Greene was developed in the creative atmosphere of small improvisational nightclubs around the country. To this day he uses no writers, preferring the freedom and immediacy of spontaneity.

A Grand regular and longtime Las Vegas favorite, Shecky is in top form again after being forced to cancel a previous MGM appearance due to back problems.

Jack Albertson is known to millions of television viewers

primarily as grumpy Ed Brown. Starting in burlesque and vaudeville, Albertson has proven that he is one of the most talented and versatile troupers in the business.

A busy song and dance man in numerous Broadway productions and movies, Albertson won the Tony Award for his first dramatic role in "The Subject Was Roses." He also won an Academy Award for the motion picture version of that play.

The singularly hilarious Shecky Greene and the multi-talented Jack Albertson will appear twice nightly in the 1200 seat Celebrity Room through October 14. Dean Martin follows for a one week stint.

The Las Vegas Recreation Department's Doolittle Center is now forming a men's volleyball league. Call Doolittle Center, 386-6374.

All children 8 to 12 who enjoy playing bumper pool, ping pong, monopoly and many more fun games, can now come to the Las Vegas Recreation Department's Doolittle Center's children's game room Monday thru Friday 3:30 P.M. to 5 P.M. 386-6574.

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