

**SALE TO SAUDI ARABIA**  
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regular training and coordination with Syria, Jordan and Egypt.

Despite the U.S. ban on the transfer of American-made weapons to third countries, Administration officials, in testimony before Congress, have conceded that there are no firm guarantees that such transfers would not be made in the event of war. In fact, the large number of Sidewinders proposed for Saudi Arabia, far exceeding that country's legitimate needs, would intensify pressure on Saudi Arabia to transfer the missiles to other Arab states. As Senator Clifford P. Case (R, N.J.), the ranking Minority Member of the Foreign Relations Committee, rightly warned: "These Sidewinders could end up being used against Israel. They could also fall into the hands of the Soviet Union."

The Sidewinder sale would strengthen the Arab states' military capability against Israel. The Arabs already enjoy an overall 3 - 1 advantage in weapons and manpower over Israel. Another 2,000 Sidewinders added to the Arab stockpile of arms would reinforce the Arab goal of gaining air superiority over Israel in any future conflict. Egypt, reportedly deficient in air - to - air missiles, would be a logical destination for the Sidewinders in the event of a war -- or even prior to it.

**BILLIONS IN ARMS TO SAUDIS**

The Defense Department announced that Saudi Arabia has now become America's number one arms purchaser, having concluded more than \$4 billion worth of military contracts this year alone. Pentagon officials privately point to the desire of the Saudis to match the growing Iranian arsenal. The Saudis apparently find it "prestigious" to acquire the last word in U.S. military technology. Acquisition of these lethal status symbols is financed by their vast oil income.

The Defense Department, eager to promote these sales for a variety of reasons, is concerned over the negative reaction the disclosure of the Saudi deal has initially caused in the Congress, the public and the press. The New York Times (June 30) and The Philadelphia Inquirer (June 21) have editorially opposed the sale.

In an apparent effort to allay this concern and win approval for the Sidewinder deal, Deputy Secretary of Defense, William P. Clements, Jr. told the Times July 8 the Pentagon was advising the Saudis that their air force was not yet ready to maintain and fly advanced F-14 and F-15 fighter planes, as they desire. Clements cited this advice as an example of how the Defense Department, rather than promoting military sales, frequently attempts to impose restraint on foreign arms customers.

But Clements' self-serving interview is not likely to allay the continuing concern over the Sidewinder deal and other arms sales to Arab states. Even before a formal letter of offer has been sent to Capitol Hill, there are strong indications that the Congress will use the provisions of law applicable to government-to-government sales in order to disapprove it entirely, if there is no drastic reduction in the quantity of missiles involved. In view of the high risks, this course would be in the best interests of peace.

Israelite Ads Pay

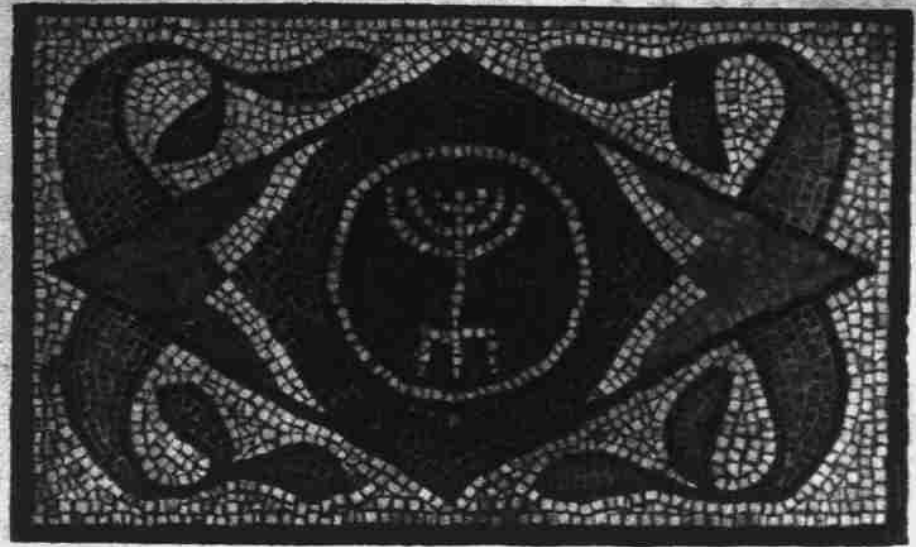
**PLO HOLDS ARAB LEAGUE RESPONSIBLE**

**UNITED NATIONS**

(WUP) -- Yasir Arafat sent an SOS to the Arab Foreign Ministers meeting in Cairo last week demanding immediate military and other aid to extricate his PLO guerrillas and Leftist partners from the perilous situation in which the Syrian invasion has placed them.

His SOS was released here at the UN by Wafa, the PLO news agency, which maintains an office in New York City. Terming the Syrians and the Christian Phalangists fascists "who have shelled our homes with unprecedented savagery," Arafat bemoaned in his SOS that his PLO fighters "have few hopes and fewer illusions as to the possibility of achieving an early solution to this crisis, because we know that a solution to the problems in Lebanon will take a very long time."

He warned the Arab Foreign Ministers, and especially the Egyptians, that the PLO has "decided to



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hold you fully responsible for the actions of the Syrian invaders who are now a party to the conflict and not mediators." He added that "we are sorry that this letter we send you must be an open one, but the critical state of things forces us to hold you publicly responsible before the Arab masses and the world."

**COMMON HERITAGE OF ISRAEL, U.S.**

**JERUSALEM (WNS)** -- The common heritage of Israel and the United States was stressed by Premier Yitzhak Rabin at a special session of the Knesset devoted to the American Bicentennial.

He praised the U.S. not just as a "rich uncle" to Israel but also as "a people and a state who have faced tyranny and dictatorship in two world wars." He said if the U.S. retreats into isolation and turns its "back on the free world, democracy and freedom will be in

danger." Rabin added that while Israel recognizes the U.S. as the leader of the free world, a nation that is not ready to use all of its human and material resources to defend its independence will not be saved by others. Likud Leader Menachem Beigin, speaking for the opposition, praised the U.S. and urged it to move its Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Malcolm Toon, the American Ambassador in Israel, thanked Rabin and Beigin for their speeches.

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