

MILITARY AID GOOD-BUT NOT GOOD ENOUGH

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Defense Minister Ezer Weizman returned from Washington pleased by the United States military aid he had negotiated.

But he was criticized here for not getting enough. Weizman said that after his talks with U.S. Defense Secretary Harold Brown the U.S. agreed to provide Israel \$3 billion to aid its withdrawal from the Sinai of which \$2.2 billion would be a loan and \$800 million a grant. He also said that the U.S. will provide Israel with military items that have been denied up to now. "This is quite fair on their part," he said. He said that Israel is also to get 100 F-16 jets and that delivery will be speeded up.

But many government sources, especially in the Finance Ministry, believe he should have received U.S. approval for the full \$3.9 billion Israel had asked to cover the move from the Sinai.

They also said that more of the U.S. aid should have been in grants. Weizman noted that when he was in the U.S. he heard Americans speaking about inflation and high prices. "America has its problems and it is nice that they gave us what they said they would," Weizman said.

Meanwhile, at the White House, Presidential Press Secretary Jody Powell disagreed that the \$5 billion in U.S. aid to Israel and Egypt would have to come from needed social programs in the U.S. He said the allocations would be stretched over three or four

NEW YORK (WUP) -- Some 170 retired Generals and Admirals, in a communication to President Carter, have warned of Soviet peril to the entire Middle East crescent and noted that Israel stands as the single deterrent to Communist penetration.

The letter to Carter, captioned the "Quiet War," was published on a full page of the N.Y. Times on 21 January. After noting that "Soviet influence and power are increasingly evident in the Eastern Mediterranean and Red Sea and Persian Gulf littoral," the officers remind the President of the fact that "Soviet imperial objectives appear to include the neutralization of Western Europe, in part by denying it access to critical raw materials, the encirclement of China, and the isolation of the U.S."

"The Soviet focus on the Middle East, as a way of obtaining these aims," they add "represents a real and growing threat to Western security. We strongly support the pursuit of friendship and improved relations with all responsible governments in the Middle East. However, the ability of the U.S. to protect its security interests in the Middle East is closely linked, if not dependent on, the maintenance of a potent Israeli military capability in the area..."

U.S. GENERALS WARN CARTER OF USSR PERIL

"We urge you, Mr. President, to recognize that Israel's value as a strategic asset depends on its ability to defend itself, and to reinforce Israel's military capability so that we will not be forced to deploy our own armed forces to the Middle East."

The former Generals' warning, released under the sponsorship of "Foreign Policy Perspectives," Boston, concludes with an appeal to President Carter "to lead in building a coalition for genuine peace in cooperation with the NATO nations, Japan, Israel and other proven friends and allies who share our commitment to freedom and human dignity."

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Despite the increasing number of Soviet Jews going to the United States and the large number of Iranian Jews who have come here, Israel is still the major country for Jewish immigration.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Premier Menachem Begin has sent a personal message to Premier Moraj Desai of India urging his support for the Israeli - Egyptian peace treaty.

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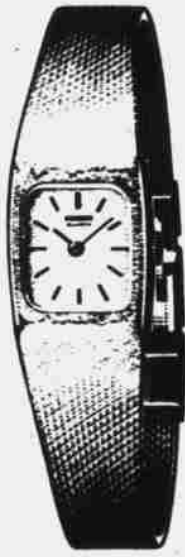
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