

MONDALE VOWS

(Continued from Page 1)

permanence and security of the State of Israel, the Vice President said: "We will not succumb to blackmail over Israel or over oil, nor will we succumb to it in Iran.

"I stand before you tonight representing the President of the United States and I say to you that we will stand by Israel always." That means, Mondale said, that "we're committed to an undivided Jerusalem with free access to the holy places for all faiths."

He continued: "We are committed to reliable economic and military aid to Israel, and never once did we threaten that aid at any time during this Administration -- nor will we. We are committed to peace between Israel and all of its neighbors. We are committed to being full partners in negotiations toward a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

"We are against the creation of a separate Palestinian state," Mr. Mondale said. "It would not contribute to a stable peace.

"We will not negotiate with the PLO and we will not recognize the PLO -- unless it first recognizes the right of Israel to exist, and accepts U.N. resolutions 242 and 338." The Vice President continued:

"It is past time for the PLO to recognize Israel. It is past time for a total end to terrorism against Israel. That is the basis for peace. And we must insist that everyone accept it."

As Israel, Egypt and the United States continue to work toward a "lasting Middle East peace," the Vice President conceded that "there will be problems." But, he added, "never will the security of Israel be compromised in that process."

The Vice President concluded: "We will never barter any element of a Middle East settlement for oil. We will never trade assurances of petroleum supplies or prices for Israeli security. Peace in the Middle East is not for sale. And succumbing to blackmail is not the American way."

ISRAEL, EGYPT SHARE SINAI AIR BASE

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- An agreement in principle has been reached between Israel and Egypt to share one of the Sinai airfields Israel is giving up in completing its Sinai withdrawal in 1981 -- but only on a civilian basis, according to a statement by Joseph Maayan, defense Ministry director general. Maayan also told the Knesset committee that a formal pact will have to be worked out in negotiations.

The Etzion air base, near Eilat, will be handed over to Egypt but, under the Egyptian - Israeli treaty, Egypt cannot use it as a military base. Instead, the two countries will use it

jointly for civilian traffic. He said it would supplement the Eilat commercial airport which cannot handle the large number of tourists who visit the resort area. Work is continuing

meanwhile on the U.S.-financed military air bases planned in the Negev to replace the two Israel is yielding in the Sinai. Maayan said the Defense Ministry will offer more jobs to local workers to offset

possible unemployment stemming from the government's stringent austerity program, even though foreign laborers employed by the American contractors continue to arrive in the

Negev.

An additional 111 workers came from Portugal on Nov. 28 to join an earlier group of 82 Portuguese workers at the Ramat Matred base near Mitzpeh Ramon. It was indicated that about 2500 workers are expected from Portugal in the next six months but they may be asked to leave if it develops Israelis need the jobs.

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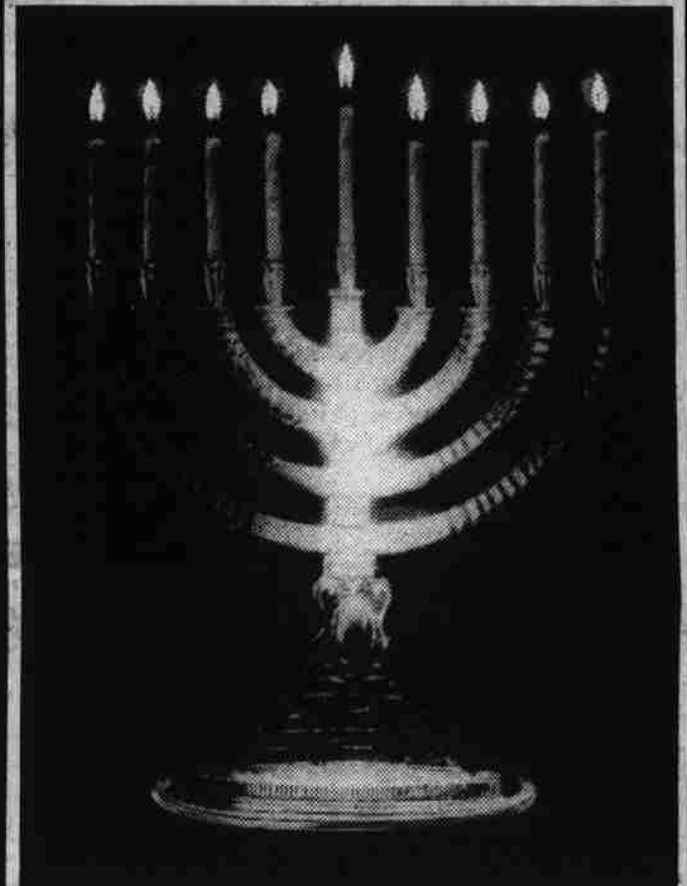
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