

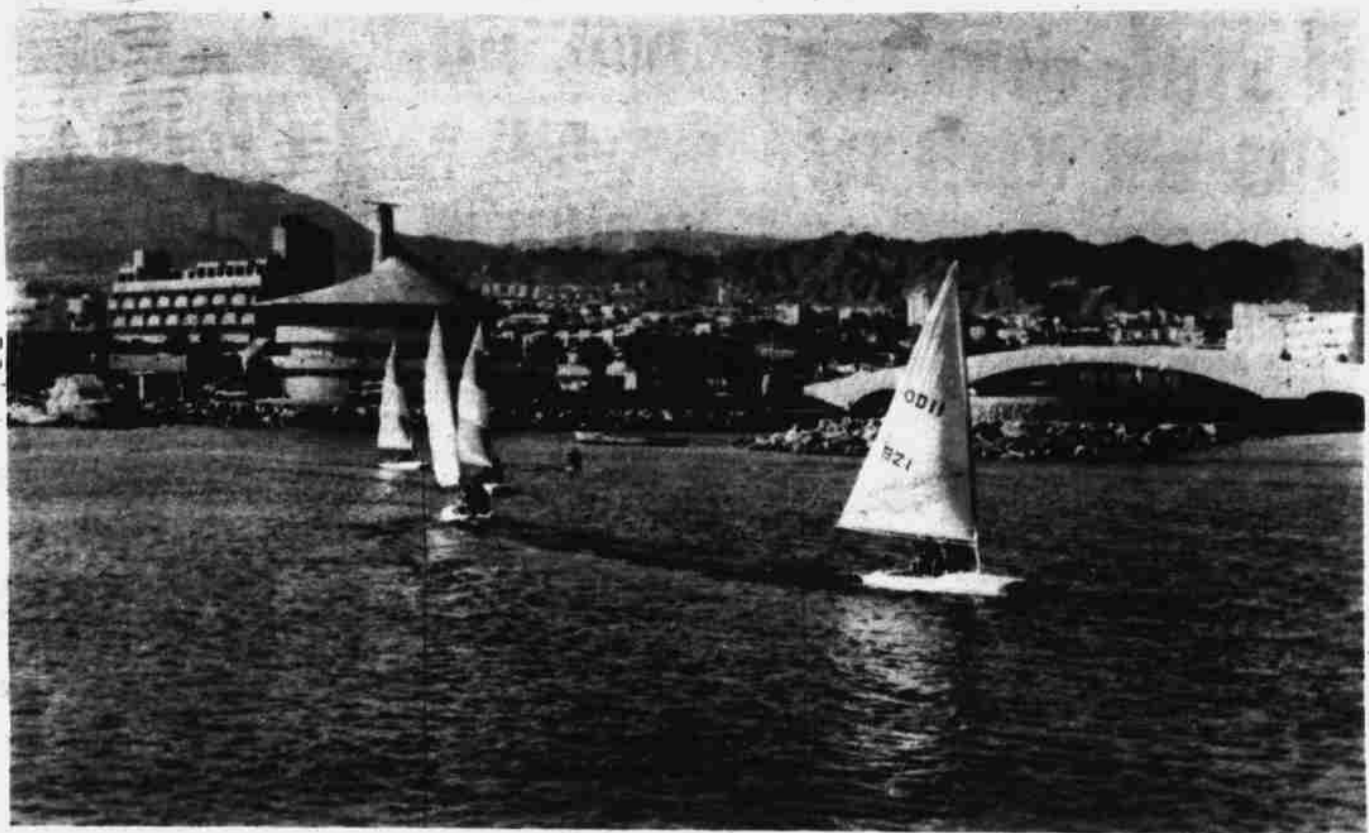
CARTER URGES SALE OF WARPLANES TO ARABS

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- The Carter Administration urged Congress to approve the proposed sale of sophisticated weapons to Saudi Arabia for its fleet of American-made F-5 warplanes, despite the fact that the sale would give the Saudis superiority over Israel in some weapons categories. Three administration officials testified on behalf of the package at a joint hearing of the House Foreign Affairs committee's subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East, and on International Security and Scientific Affairs.

Mrs. Benson said the situation in the Persian Gulf had become "increasingly unstable," that the Saudis "perceive a more immediate threat from Soviet-inspired regimes in the area," and that the munitions would not have "a significant effect on the balance of forces in the region."

She did not reply directly to a question by Rep. Jonathan Bingham (D. NY) on whether Saudi oil was a factor in U.S. support. Graves said that in 1975, the U.S. sold 1000 laser-guided bombs and 3000 cluster bomb units to Saudi Arabia and in 1967, 850 air-to-air Sidewinder missiles and 1600 Maverick missiles. The current proposal is to provide Saudi Arabia with 660 more Sidewinders and 1518 cluster bomb units.

He said Saudi Arabia has 117 F-5 planes and 60 F-15s. Montgomery said that if the sale to the Saudis was approved, Israel, which has some 1000 Maverick missiles, would have 450 fewer than Saudi Arabia. This sale also would give the Saudis an "inventory of 4435 laser bombs compared to 1500 for Israel." He said Israel's holdings of cluster bombs were of "far greater magnitude" than the Saudi "inventory" and that Israel's supply of Sidewinder, Sparrow and Shafir missiles were "quantitatively and qualitatively" superior to Saudi holdings.



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CIA THWARTS GOLDA ASSASSINATION

NEW YORK (WNS) -- The Central Intelligence Agency thwarted a planned assassination of Golda Meir when she was Prime Minister. Ray Cline, former CIA

Deputy Director, said that the target had been "a head of state of a friendly government," a woman and that the CIA aborted the plan in

New York 24 hours before it was to have been tried. It was understood Cline meant Mrs. Meir. He made the disclosure during a

terrorism symposium held by the Institute for Studies in International Terrorism and the Ralph Bunche Institute on United Nations.

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