

IT IS NOT GOOD FOR ISRAEL

The Reagan Administration has yet to unveil a specific and detailed Middle East policy. But even before it does, there are unmistakable signs that it intends to pursue a hard line towards Israel. The underlying thrust of this policy appears to be what's good for the U.S. may not be good for Israel, but what isn't good for Israel doesn't really matter as long as it is good for the U.S.

And what's good for the U.S. at this time is conciliation toward "moderate" Arab states like Saudi Arabia and -- whether by design or accident, in view of a Mideast non-policy -- a softer attitude toward the Palestine Liberation Organization, despite disavowals on this score by Secretary of State Alexander Haig.

Consider the PLO issue: Haig, who appears to be a maverick in the Administration's top circles so far as Israel's security is concerned, is the only high official to have asserted repeatedly that the U.S. will not deal with the PLO unless it recognizes Israel's right to exist and accepts UN Security Council Resolution 242 and 338. Haig, who appears to be the only outspoken pro-Israel official in the Administration has taken this position publicly. But what about Reagan himself?

The President has been ominously silent on this of late and refrained from saying anything about the PLO when President Anwar Sadat of Egypt raised it repeatedly during his visit to the U.S. this month. More important, Reagan, who characterized the PLO as a terrorist group when he was running for office and castigated President Carter for not saying the same outright, has not used this characterization since taking office.

Consider, too, the fact that Reagan clamped an embargo on warplanes Israel had already contracted for, with signed agreements. The clampdown followed Israel's bombing of the Iraqi nuclear reactor in June and Israel's

raid on terrorist installations in Beirut in July. In both instances Israel made it clear that it did so in a measure of self-defense against mortal dangers to its security.

After the cease-fire was effected, Reagan said he would continue to withhold the planes to see if the cease-fire held. It has held, but there are no planes. Even if Reagan decides to announce that he will resume delivery, he has already made the point: he, not Israel, will decide what's best for Israel in staving off a threat to her existence and will punish her if she transgresses his wishes.

There is no question but that the U.S. has to look out for number one -- the U.S. Its foreign policy needs must be decided in Washington, not in Beirut, Riyadh, Cairo or Jerusalem. That would be good, except for one fact: its policies are being decided by Beirut, Riyadh and Cairo. Only Jerusalem seems to have been frozen out.

SIG HAS HOT SHOW



That vixen from "Beyond the Valley of the Dolls," Edye Williams, was one of Sig Sakowicz' guests on a recent edition of his Superstar Show (telecast over KLAS-TV, Channel 8, in Las Vegas). Edye, who was married to movie producer Russ Meyer for two years ("He wanted me to sit home and be a housewife," she revealed; "I couldn't handle that"), will be performing in San Francisco Sept. 11-18.

Also guesting with Sig were Aladdin Hotel co-stars Teddy Pendergrass and Stephanie Mills (Shown above). Asked Sig of Teddy: "Do you have any ego?" Teddy: "Yes." Sig: "Does it bruise easily?" Teddy: "No. And how about Stephanie?"

"When I was young," said the former Dorothy of the Broadway production "The Wiz,"

"a bad review would bother me. But now I have more confidence."

And what is Teddy Pendergrass' ultimate goal? "To have black music accepted universally as country music is now." Pendergrass, who is often referred to as The Reverend, stated that he is and always has been a single parent, with children from 7 years in age down to 7 months.

Sig's Superstar Show is seen in Las Vegas over Channel 8 every Sat./Sun. at 1:30 a.m. and repeated every Mon./Tues., also at 1:30 a.m. His Hot Line segment is viewed in Chicago every Sat. afternoon, over WCIU-TV and his Hot Line reports are heard daily over KLAV radio, 1230 AM in Las Vegas. Sig has been keeping people up late over the years with his interesting guests and reports.

ISRAEL IS NOT A "STRATEGIC ASSET"

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Defense Minister Ariel Sharon said Israelis are neither mercenaries nor beggars, could look out for themselves and should not be regarded as anybody's strategic asset. Addressing graduation ceremonies at the Israel National Staff and Defense College, Sharon declared, "We are not mercenaries. For us it is a matter of life or death. For almost 25 years we have stood alone in this

part of the world against Soviet expansion. We should not tell ourselves or anybody else that we are a 'strategic asset.' We don't belong to anybody else, and we should not try to persuade anybody else we are such

..We are capable of doing a lot, and there is sufficient proof of that. We are not beggars standing at anybody's gate, but there is a price for our assistance."

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