

## LEADERS DISCUSS AWACS

President Reagan has met with Premier Menachem Begin for the first time. Beyond all the pomp and circumstance, the brass bands from the four armed services and the 19 gun salute, the real meat of the discussions, at least for the President, should have been a lesson in Mideast foreign policy and hopefully a keener understanding into the policies that are formulated in Jerusalem.

The two leaders ran the gamut on issues ranging from the threat of Soviet expansion in Mideast to the regional strategic consensus which the Administration seeks to obtain, to the long stalled autonomy talks, to continued economic and military assistance to Israel. On these topics, Reagan and Begin seemed to have expressed generally similar views. Begin reminded the President that Israel is a strong ally and Reagan gave assurances to the Israeli Premier of U.S. commitment to Israel's security.

The one issue the two leaders splintered apart on concerned the Administration's proposal to sell AWACS reconnaissance planes to Saudi Arabia. Begin expressed the view that these weapons in the hands of the Saudis are a threat to the security of Israel. Begin said this privately, publicly and surely to other Administration officials and Congressional members during their rounds of talks.

Begin's skepticism of the AWACS package is shared by a large number of members of Congress who will have until late October to veto the proposed sale. The Administration has failed to provide adequate data supportive of the sale where the opposition has continued their assault on the credibility and justification of the package. Begin may just have provided the fuel needed to defeat the weapons sale, but the American Jewish community must continue careful scrutiny as to developments of this proposal. Begin may have presented a worthy case against the sale, but in the final analysis, it is the members of Congress who will make or break the deal.

## PLO RECRUITS YOUNG ARABS

BONN (WNS) -- The Federal Service for Domestic Security of West Germany reported that the Palestine Liberation Organization and Libyan agents have stepped up recruitment efforts of young Arabs and Moslems for military training. The report said that the PLO concentrates its activities primarily in West Berlin, where thousands of young Arabs reside. Most of them come through East Berlin which has a very cheap air connection to Lebanon. About half of the young Arabs come to West Berlin after having already received some kind of para-military training and political indoctrination in East Berlin.

According to the report, the PLO

offers the young people an opportunity to fly back to Lebanon and there join units engaged in fighting against Israel. The recruits are told that the cease-fire across the Israeli-Lebanese border is only temporary and the battle against the "Zionist aggressor" will take place soon. The Western powers in West Berlin do not check personal documents of people arriving here from East Berlin so that access to the Western side of the divided city is uncontrolled.

Meanwhile police in Nuremberg said they now know definitely that the Jewish publisher, Shlomo Levin and his non-Jewish woman friend Frida Poeschke, were

murdered last December by neo-Nazis, Karl Heinz Hoffman, the leader of a so-called sports group, and his woman friend, Franziska Birkmann, are under suspicion. Both are currently under arrest.

## ENVOY DID NOT SPEAK FOR U.S.

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- State Department spokesman Dean Fischer said that the retiring U.S. Ambassador to Syria, Talcott Seelye, was "not speaking for the Administration" when he made the statement that peace could not be achieved in the Middle East as

long as Premier Menachem Begin remains in office. "He was reflecting his own personal views," Fischer said.

Just before leaving Damascus, Seelye gave two reasons for his belief that Begin was an obstacle to peace. "In my view it is impossible to expect Begin to divest Israel of the West Bank and secondly because he is totally blind to the Palestinian imperative to any peace agreement," Seelye told reporters.

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MIAMI (WNS) -- Travelling "with first class care," more than 100 Florida alligators ranging up to 10-foot long departed to Israel aboard one of El Al's 747 jumbo jets, according to Henry Laskau, cargo supervisor for El Al in Miami. The alligators were flown to Israel to populate a swamp where gators roam wild.

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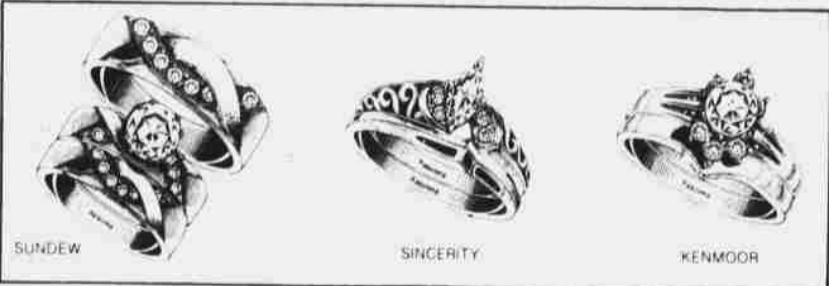
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