

ISRAEL'S TECHNOLOGY

In the welter of news from Israel, one might be under the unfortunate impression that all information relayed from the Jewish State remains centered on political and domestic squabbles. This may include Israeli relations with the European Economic Community (EEC) nations, the eight-point proposal for peace in the Mideast by Saudi Arabia that has caused grave concern on Israel's part; the conflicts between Ashkenazic and Sephardic members of Israel's domestic population; the ongoing Palestinian question in the Gaza Strip and West Bank; and the continued hypocrisy in the United Nations that chokes one's senses. But overshadowed in the midst of this turmoil is the "other" Israel; highlighting its fundamental contributions to international technological developments.

"Isratech - 1981," an industrial fair featuring Israel made machinery, electronics, transportation, security and safety products and energy conservation systems took place this past week in Jerusalem. The primary purpose was to expose Israeli technology to foreign buyers while at the same time creating inducements for overseas investments. Potential investors cannot seriously consider investments in certain fields unless they see there is sufficient infrastructure.

The week long fair attracted an estimated 700 "serious buyers" as one official put it. As a result of Isratech Fairs, Israeli exports in the past three years rose from \$456 million to \$1.3 billion. Next year, exports are expected to reach \$1.5 billion. Sadly enough, however, it remains a part of Israel that few of us hear about. Prime Minister Menachem Begin said it best at the opening ceremonies at the Isratech Fair, the Israel's combination of brains and skilled hands compensate for its lack of natural resources.

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- A two day strike in East Jerusalem by local merchants and school children ended with shops reopened and pupils back to their classrooms. Israeli military continued to circulate in West Bank towns and villages.

U.S. IS COMMITTED TO CAMP DAVID

WASH. (WNS)-- The Reagan Administration tried to squelch the perception in Israel that the U.S. was moving away from the Camp David peace process and leaning more to the eight point peace proposal of Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

The Reagan Administration seized on this opportunity as exemplified by Secretary of State Haig, as he told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the only method of achieving Middle East peace which the Reagan Administration is committed to is Camp David. Haig did not comment on Fahd's eight point proposal, issued last August and categorically rejected by Israel and the U.S. at that time, except to say that it had been discussed a good deal in Washington through the week.

A pledge to stand by Camp David was sent by Haig to Premier Menachem Begin who was understood to have been pleased with the pledge. Political circles in Jerusalem said there was now a better understanding of Israel's position in Washington. They

said that position was that Israel might consider some steps in its participation in further peace moves if the Reagan Administration adopted the Saudi proposal.

Another placating

move was an invitation from Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger to Defense Minister Ariel Sharon to visit Washington on November 30 to discuss U.S. - Israel strategic cooperation. The White House also said it would "welcome" a delegation

being sent to Washington to oppose the Fahd plan. Begin told the Knesset Nov. 3 that Sharon will be preceded by a high level Israeli military delegation which will help work out the "memorandum of understanding" for Weinberger to sign.

THE MEWS HOMES

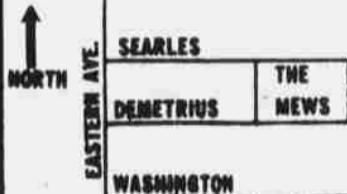


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