

(Continued from page 1)

"speed up" the Lebanese negotiations since the President felt the lack of progress there was holding up the overall peace process. Berman said there is an "assumption" by the President, based on Administration talks with King Hussein of Jordan, that Hussein will come into the peace negotiations once there is an agreement on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon. Reagan indicated that Hussein was not demanding a freeze on Israeli settlements on the West Bank as a condition for his joining the talks, but that none be built while the negotiations were going on, according to Berman. In his speech, Reagan noted that the "events of the past year" in Lebanon "have created new opportunities for peace that must not be lost." The President stressed that "its vital to the United States, to Israel and to all those who yearn for an end to the killing that we not let these current opportunities pass by."

Reagan also noted that the U.S. and Israel share the same goals in Lebanon -- a speedy withdrawal of all foreign forces, a strong central government for Lebanon and "full and effective guarantees" that southern Lebanon will no longer be used as a staging ground for terrorist attacks against Israel.

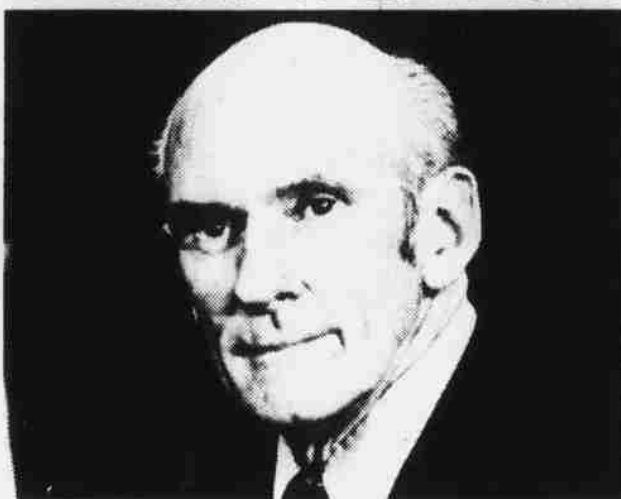
Reagan in his speech stressed that his September 1 peace initiative is "based on an historic U.S. commitment to Israel's security" and reaffirms "the Camp David accords which deem that peace must bring security to Israel and provide for the legitimate rights of the Palestinians." He declared that "Israel and Arab leaders must take the necessary risks for peace to take root and bloom if we are to succeed. It

is riskier to do nothing, to let this time pass with no tangible sign of progress."

Reagan again called for "great courage and some risk" by both sides. "Israel must be prepared to engage in serious negotiations over the West Bank and Gaza," he said. "As I stated previously, the most significant action demonstrating Israel's good faith would be a settlements freeze. On the other hand, King Hussein should step forward ready to negotiate peace directly with Israel."

Reagan stressed that "America's commitment to Israel remains strong and enduring." He noted that "We've had disagreements as would be expected between friends, even between good friends. Our friendship continues, however, and it should be no doubt that America's commitment to Israel remains as it always has been."

**SEN. CRANSTON TO RECEIVE AWARD**



Senator Alan Cranston (D-CA) will receive B'nai Zion's 1983 America - Israel Friendship Award at the organization's 75th annual awards dinner in the New York Hilton Sunday evening, February 20.

Some 1500 persons are expected to attend the event which will usher in the diamond jubilee of America's oldest and largest Zionist fraternal organization, Judge Arthur Markewich, Chairman of B'nai Zion's 75th anniversary committee, will serve as dinner chairman.

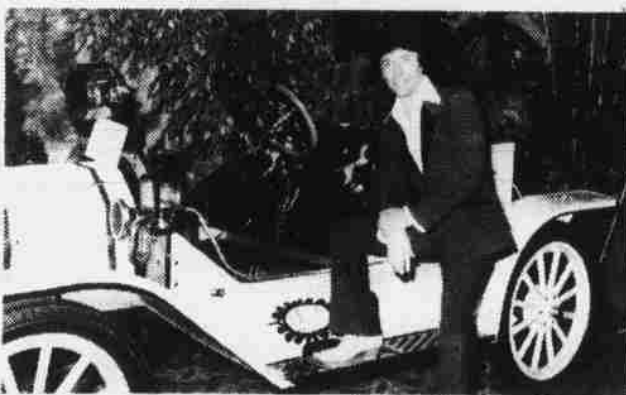
Sidney Wiener, B'nai Zion president, will present the gold medal to Senator Cranston for "his steadfast support of America-Israel friendship and an enduring peace for Israel."

Since his election to the Senate in 1968, the California legislator has been intimately involved in Congressional action regarding the Middle East, an area in which he served as a foreign correspondent before World War II.

"He has been forthright in calling for direct negotiations and opposing efforts to impose a solution to the Arab - Israel conflict," Mr. Wiener said. "Senator Cran-

ston has consistently backed increased military and economic assistance to Israel and was in the forefront of the effort to defeat the sale of Awacs to Saudi Arabia."

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