

## ARENS PREDICTS A TESTING TIME AHEAD IN ISRAEL - U.S. RELATIONS

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Defense Minister-designate Moshe Arens told the Cabinet at its weekly meeting that Israel - U.S. relations face a time of testing but at the same time there appears to be a growing appreciation in the West of Israel's role and position. Arens was formally sworn into his new post by the Knesset recently and attended his first Cabinet session and presented what Cabinet sources said later was a sober but not pessimistic analysis of Israel's relations with Washington.

According to Arens, President Reagan's Middle East plan, enunciated September 1, remains Administration policy, but there are second thoughts in some quarters as to the benefits accruing to Washington from the plan. He also said he was very much en-

couraged by a recent Gallup Poll which showed that Israel has recouped much of the public support it had lost in the U.S. following its invasion of Lebanon last June. Arens reportedly told the Cabinet that Secretary of State George Shultz was beginning to realize that the Israeli - Arab conflict was not as cut and dried as some Administration circles may have thought. He also pointed out that Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger is the key Administration official with close ties to the Arab world and that tended to influence his thinking in a way inimical to Israel.

Arens spent most of his time assuming his new post. He paid his first visit to the Defense Ministry where he was greeted with full military honors. He also held his first working

session with Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan. One of Arens' first jobs will be to find replacements for the senior officers dismissed or shifted in compliance with the recommendations of the commission of inquiry into the Beirut refugee camps massacre, and a replacement for Eitan who retires in April.

When Arens returned to Israel from Washington he declined to answer most questions by reporters about U.S. - Israel relations except to say that Israel must look after its own interests, one of which was maintaining as good relations with Washington as possible. He also said that he assumed former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon who he replaced still has a great deal to contribute in the area of defense.

## ADMIRAL RICKOVER KEYNOTE SPEAKER IN PHOENIX



ADMIRAL HYMAN G. RICKOVER

Leadership Conference taking place in Phoenix.

The Leadership Conference, to be held the week-end of March 18 - 20 at the Arizona Biltmore Hotel, is sponsored by the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science (ACWIS), which provides substantial support for and updates on the work of the Institute, Israel's primary scientific research center. The three-day gathering will present over 300 of its American as well as Canadian supporters with in-depth reports by scientists on the Institute's latest achievements and its growing international impact through the wide scope of its research battles against cancer and other diseases, and on behalf of high technology, solar energy and genetic engineering, among others.

NEW YORK, N.Y. -- Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, the colorful and dedicated architect of America's nuclear navy who has served under 13 U.S. presidents, will be the featured speaker at the gala March 19th dinner of the 1983 National Weizmann



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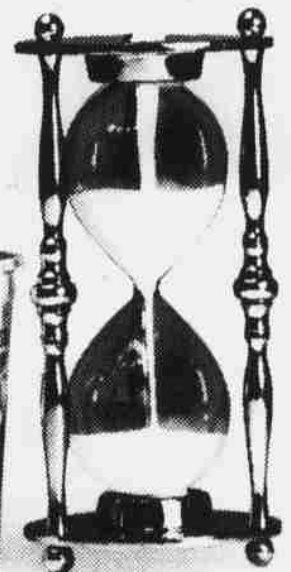
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