

Eagleburger Calls 'Closest Relations' With Israel Fundamental To U.S. Interest

WASHINGTON — Former Undersecretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger called the "closest relations with Israel" fundamental to the interest of the United States.

Addressing the Board of Governors of B'nai B'rith International here, Eagleburger said that such a relationship is important because of Israel's position in the Middle East and because Israel is the only democracy there. All democracies must stand together, he stated.

B'nai B'rith presented the recently retired State Department official its Distinguished Government Service Award for his dedicated public service and for advancing the highest ideals of mankind. The award, a replica of a 19th-century menorah from Prague, was presented by B'nai B'rith Honorary President Philip M. Klutznick, Secretary of Commerce in the Carter Administration.

Discussing the probability of peace in the Middle East, Eagleburger called the Egyptian-Israeli treaty "just as important" to Egypt as it is to Israel. Noting Egyptian President Mubarak's recent anti-Israeli moves, Eagleburger said that there is a limit beyond which Mubarak will not move.

The former number three person in the State Department asserted that Syria is finding it difficult to act constructively, a problem, he added, that is compounded by instability triggered by President Assad's poor health.

On the other hand, King Hussein of Jordan, who has been intransigent in his refusal to negotiate with Israel, will ultimately be unable to find any reasonable alternative, Eagleburger said.

Touching on the Iraq-Iran war, he told the top policy makers of the world's largest Jewish service organization that there are degrees of insanity on both sides, making for a "terribly dangerous and unpredictable" situation.

He called the ability to bring out oil from the Middle East "absolutely fundamental to the economic health of the West," and declared that the United States is doing precisely what it should: attempting to calm things down. "The worst thing the United States and the West can do there is to posture," he said.

Eagleburger pointed out that President Reagan has been in a unique situation: the only American president having to deal with three consecutive Soviet heads of state. Praising Reagan, he stated that "when it comes to difficult decisions, it is safest to take the hard line."

Asserting that Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko "is more in charge of" the U.S.S.R.'s foreign policy, Eagleburger accused him of being "part of the problem in U.S. - Soviet

relations, not part of the solution."

He added that the Soviet military also has increased its influence in the Communist country's decision-making.

Eagleburger said that he is "worried" over the growing possibility of a major confrontation between the U. S. and the Soviets. The Kremlin's response to the Olympic games shows dangerous irritation and frustration, he said, adding that the United States "must be careful and cautious."

He predicted that it is "extremely unlikely" that the U.S.S.R. will loosen its grip on dissidents and Soviet Jews or that it will use "any reasonable judgment" regarding physicist Andrei Sakharov and his wife.

Eagleburger said that although the Soviets are not likely to return to the arms negotiating table this year, the odds favor their willingness to do so in 1985. "But it will be hard for the Soviets to

Fourth Century Mosaic Stone Work Uncovered In Galilee Excavation

TEL AVIV (WNS) — Archaeologists excavating a fourth century synagogue in Galilee have uncovered what is said to be the oldest portrait, in mosaic stone work, of a Jewish warrior.

The Mosaic floor was discovered by archaeologists Zvi Ilan and Emanuel Damati beneath the stone floor of the synagogue which they had uncovered two years ago in their first excavation at the site of ancient Meroth, four kilometers west of Tel Hatzor.

The Mosaic shows a Jewish warrior wearing a short Roman tunic and surrounded by his sword, helmet and shield, which leads the excavators to believe he died in battle and was memorialized in the synagogue.

The archaeologists

say the depiction of a non-religious figure in a synagogue was rare at that time, as it was only in the fourth century that the ancient injunction against the depiction of portraits was waived by the rabbis, at least as far as Mosaics were concerned.

dig themselves out of the hole they put themselves in," he said.

In response to a question by Warren Eisenberg, director of the International Council of B'nai B'rith, regarding demonstrations against the deployment of U.S. missiles in Europe, Eagleburger noted that a fundamental objective of the Soviet Union is to split the United States and Western Europe. He described Soviet policies over the last few years as poor and said that Western Europe realizes that "the real roadblock to peace is the U.S.S.R., not the United States."

It is time to face the fact that no matter what the U.S. does, the U.S.S.R. is in no position to work for detente, he said. The best path for the U.S. to take, he added, is to tell the Soviets "to cool it."

Declaring that a solid defense budget is important to the United States, Eagleburger said in answer to a question by Joseph Domberger, president of B'nai B'rith's European district, that the response by the continent's peace movement is wrong. America's nuclear deterrence has largely insured world peace, he said.

It "is immoral to argue about doing away with something unless you are ready to replace it with an adequate substitute," Eagleburger concluded.

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