

### Weinberger: Israel-U.S. Relations Have Never Been Stronger

WASH. (WNS) — Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said that while the United States continues to remain committed to the security of the State of Israel, "Israel cannot make peace by itself and we understand that the United States cannot impose peace and should not try." He said the U.S. should try to provide security and help to bring about peace, which he added was best achieved through President Reagan's 1982 Middle East peace initiative.

Addressing the four day conference of the American Jewish Press Association, Weinberger also said that the Navy has bought remotely controlled vehicles from Israel, which used similar reconnaissance drones to help destroy Syrian

The U.S. sent the injured marines to U.S. facilities instead of using the Israeli facilities which were much closer.

Meanwhile, at the opening session of the conference of the AJPA, Elliott Abrams, the Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, addressed the group, denying that it was the Administration's "tough talk" which has resulted in the Soviet Union's harsh treatment of Jews. "Let us stop looking everywhere but the Kremlin for explanations," Abrams said. "Jews are jailed in the Soviet Union, Jews are forbidden to leave the Soviet Union, Jews are persecuted for practicing their religion in the Soviet Union because of decisions made in Moscow, not in Jerusalem or Washington."

### U.S. Withdraws Request For Funds For Jordanian Strike Force

WASH. (WNS) — The Reagan Administration has withdrawn its request for Congressional approval for a \$220 million plan to arm and equip a Jordanian strike force, pending review, State Department spokesman John Hughes announced that Congress was asked to defer action "without prejudice" following consultations between the U.S. and Jordan.

The purpose of the proposed strike force was immediate response to any emergency that might develop in

the Persian Gulf states. It was strongly opposed by Israel and its supporters in Congress on grounds that the weapons could be used by Jordan against Israel. Jordan is technically in a state of war with Israel.

Hughes said that the U.S. and Jordan had agreed that the proposal should undergo further review.



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