

Senate Okays More Aid To Israel

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\$1.8 billion in military grants -- a \$400 million increase over the fiscal 1985 level. Israel would receive \$3 billion in fiscal 1987. Now that the Administration has concluded that Israel has made sufficient progress in implementing economic reforms to justify meeting its request for emergency supplemental aid, Israel is virtually assured of Congressional approval, if not through a comprehensive aid bill, then through amendments to a "continuing resolution" that carries over foreign aid levels from the preceding fiscal year into the new one. Unable to pass an actual aid bill in recent years, Congress has regularly resorted to the continuing resolution.

Although neither the aid to Israel - nor to Egypt, which would be the only other country to receive supplementary assistance - have met or are expected to meet resistance in Congress, an alternative bill to be introduced by Rep. William Broomfield (R. Mich.) would eliminate a clause that bases military sales to Jordan on "the expectation" that the Jordanians will enter into direct negotiations with Israel on the basis of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the Camp David accords.

The Broomfield version would remove the clause on Jordan from the bill but adopt it as a sense of Congress resolution.

Optimism About Mideast Peace Process

WASHINGTON (WNS) — Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Dam predicted that progress toward peace in the Middle East can be made this year. "The United States shares the view of the key players in the region that 1985 can be a year of opportunity, if the parties take advantage of today's promising conditions," Dam said in a speech to the American Law Institute.

He noted that Secretary of State George Shultz, in his recent visit to Israel, Egypt and Jordan, found difficulties; but he also found a positive atmosphere, a genuine sense of movement, a widely shared desire to see things move forward, and an increasing sense of the importance of finding a way to

get negotiations going." Dam added that when King Hussein of Jordan meets with President Reagan here on May 29, this "will provide yet another opportunity to improve the prospects for negotiations."

Dam gave the reason for his optimism the "warming" of relations between Israel and Egypt and "a growing cooperative spirit and unity of purpose among the moderate Arab states" to seek peace.

"Within the Palestinian community, we have seen a more realistic attitude," he noted, although he did not give any explanation of this comment. Dam also stressed that "a strong, visible and permanent American commitment to Israel is essential in the search for peace. History demonstrates that improvement toward peace can come only when no one in the Arab world or elsewhere has any doubt of the central reality that America's support for Israel can never be weakened."

NEW YORK (WNS) — Amy Eilberg was ordained a Rabbi to become the Conservative movement's first woman rabbi in its 100-year existence. She was among 80 students who received degrees at commencement exercises at the Jewish Theological Seminary here.



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