

### Rabin Sees Increased Soviet Navy Activity In Mediterranean

JERUSALEM (WNS) — Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin said that the Soviet Navy has increased its activity in the Mediterranean to deter Israel from attacking Libya. He said Israel was not acting against Libya directly in its war against terrorism.

Libya has been accused by Israel and the United States of supporting the Abu Nidal terrorist gang held responsible for the fatal attacks on El Al passenger facilities at the Rome and Vienna airports December 27. The U.S. has imposed economic and legal sanctions against Libya.

Rabin, addressing a conference of the World Union of Jewish Journalists here, said operations against terrorism is a continuing process that includes both preventive and punitive measures. He added that Israel would not do the obvious nor would it react automatically to every act of terrorism.

Stepped up Soviet fleet activity was also confirmed by the U.S. The Pentagon reported that two Libyan MIG-25 jet fighters "buzzed" a U.S. Navy surveillance plane over the Mediterranean. The Pentagon said the Libyan jets were in contact with Soviet surveillance aircraft and hinted that Libya and the Soviet Navy might be exchanging intelligence.

Rabin also remarked on the recent confrontations between Knesset members and Moslem militants on the Temple Mount in East Jerusalem.

He warned against turning a political conflict in the Middle East into religious warfare and urged Israelis not to behave in a way that could provoke Moslem religious sensibilities. "This would be the greatest mistake we could make," he said.

According to Rabin, the Cabinet's decision to submit Israel's border dispute with Egypt over Taba to binding arbitration was one of the most important decisions of recent years to cement Israel's relations with Egypt.

Rabin referred to another important Cabinet decision in remarks to reporters in

Tel Aviv. It was the first anniversary of the decision to pull the Israel Defense Force out of Lebanon and Rabin noted on the occasion that not a single civilian has been killed or wounded in northern Israel since the IDF withdrew last June. He noted that two Israeli soldiers have been killed in the south Lebanon security zone. "That is a dear price to pay but it cannot be compared to the human

TEL AVIV (WNS) — Premier Shimon Peres said there was no need to declare war on Libya. It would be enough

and economic price paid while we were deployed" in Lebanon, Rabin said. He said Israel's position toward Lebanon is "live and let live" but in no case will Israel tolerate terrorist attacks across the Lebanese border.

An explosion heard in several northern bor-

### Peres Sees No Need To Declare War On Libya

der villages on January 13 was apparently a Katyusha rocket that was aimed at Israel territory but fell short in the security zone. Bad weather prevented the IDF from searching the area to determine where the rocket exploded.

Peres spoke to high school students hours before President Reagan announced at a Washington press conference that he has ordered full economic sanctions against Libya. The Premier noted that Israel agrees with the U.S. call for international cooperation against Qaddafi -- made before the President announced sanctions. He observed, however, that some European countries are reluctant

of aiding the perpetrators of international terrorism.

to cooperate in sanctions for purely economic reasons. Peres described the Libyan leader as "a clown, a murderer and a liar, all at the same time." Reagan referred to him as a "barbarian" who is a "flake." Peres also told the students that while the Syrians may not want war with Israel because they have not achieved strategic parity, war could erupt as a result of some incident which developed into something more serious than intended.

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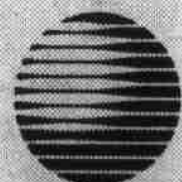
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