U.S. General Praises Israeli Scientists

TEL AVIV (WNS) -U.S. General James Abramson, head of the Strategic Defense Iniative -- SDI (Star Wars) program, said here that Israeli scientists had already made useful proposals for possible Israeli contributions to

Star Wars research.

Abramson is in Israel to attend the annual Israel conference on aviation aeronautics which opened in Tel Aviv and continued at the Haifa Technion the following

American Jewish Leaders Hail Shcharansky Release

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release will herald the opening of the doors of emigration to the many Prisoners of Conscience and the thousands of other Soviet Jews whose only crime is the wish to rejoin their families and live as free Jews in the Jewish State, Israel."

Other Jewish leaders who welcomed Shcharansky's release and stressed that the struggle must continue on behalf of other Soviet Jews who wish to emigrate were: Rabbi William Berkowitz, president, American Jewish Heritage Committee; Herbert Magidson. president, Jewish Labor Committee; Ernest Zelig, president, Bnai Zion; Dr. Barnette Zumoff, president, Workmen's Circle; and Hart Hasten, president, Herut Zionists of America.

He said that Israeli research work in this field would benefit not only the American program but would also let Israel enjoy a variety of spin-offs to meet its own needs in countering short and intermediate-range missiles such as the SS-21, 22. 23 and Scud missiles. which threaten this country.

"We want Israeli ideas for an architecture primarily against the shorter-range threats, and this is one of the ideas we are already discussing," he told a press conference

here. Abramson said that one Israeli proposal already made was "absolutely unique," connected to what is known as an "electro-magnetic railgun firing system."

"You also have some advanced work in electronics, in electronic counter-measures, you

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have some people here who have ideas about advances in free electron lasers -- there is a long series about specific kinds of things ...a whole range of your technical community (the Israel Aircraft industries, the Rafael weapons production industries. Technion and the nuclear research facilities) have already presented us with some good ideas."

Abramson said the SDI head already forced the Soviet Union to come up with some proposals for arms reductions.

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