

Bush's Trip Helped Promote Mideast Peace

WASHINGTON (WNS) — The State Department said that Vice President George Bush's 10-day visit to the Middle East did not reflect any change in the United States Middle East policy, but demonstrated that progress toward peace is being made.

Five common goals by the leaders of Israel, Jordan and Egypt, outlined by Bush in Cairo, "are a measure of the steady incremental progress that has been made toward the goal of a negotiated peace," State Department deputy spokesman Charles Redman said. "It expresses our recognition of the commitment of all three governments to the common goal of a just and lasting peace in the region," he said.

Bush, at a press conference in Cairo before returning to Washington, said that the leaders of the three countries which he had visited had agreed on a joint statement listing the goals. He conceded some of the goals were not new.

The first goal endorsed by Israeli Premier Shimon Peres, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and King Hussein of Jordan is that "a just and lasting peace is essential, urgent and can only be reached through negotiations."

Bush said the second goal is that "negotiations should produce peace treaties between the parties based on the recognition of the rights of all states and peoples in the region to a life of peace and security."

The third goal said that "Negotiations must take into account the security needs of Israel, the security needs of all other states in the region and the aspirations of the Palestinian people." Negotiations to resolve the Palestinian problem within "the context of a relationship between Jordan, the West Bank and Gaza" was the fourth goal outlined by Bush.

The Vice President said the fifth point is that the U.S. believes "in the importance of face-to-face negotiations. We recognize that direct negotiations may involve the framework of an international conference or forum structured in such a way that permits progress and not paralysis, agreement, not dictates."

Redman took particular note of Bush's "call to Palestinian representatives, persons of peace and goodwill who reject violence and terrorism, to recognize this opportunity to shape their own future." This is part of the efforts to get Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza to join

with Jordan in negotiations with Israel, despite the opposition of the PLO.

Bush reportedly said in Cairo that an international conference would include the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council as Hussein has demanded. This would appear to be at odds with the policy of the Reagan Administration which has rejected Soviet participation in the Mideast process.

Israeli Premier Shimon Peres said that Israel would drop its opposition to Soviet participation "on the condition that they establish full diplomatic relations with us." He was commenting on the announcement that Israel and the Soviet Union will hold consular talks in Helsinki later this month.

Asked for a comment on Peres' statement, Redman said, "We have long said that we would welcome constructive Soviet contributions to peace in the Middle East. We and Israel agree that full diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel would be a positive step. We hope the Soviets will take a more constructive attitude toward the problems in the Middle East and the peace process." He added that the U.S. will be "consulting closely with Israel" on the issue.

Redman also pointed to a statement he made in which he stressed that restoring diplomatic ties with Israel was only one of the conditions the U.S. felt Moscow should meet if it wanted to participate in the Mideast peace process. He said that in order "to show that it's willing to play a responsible role," the Soviet Union should also do things like increasing Jewish emigration from the USSR and end support for regimes like Col. Muammar Qaddafi's in Libya.

Meanwhile, Bush left Cairo without achieving one of his hopes, a settlement of the dispute between Israel and Egypt over Taba. However, Richard Murphy, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, remained in Cairo to work on the issue, which Bush said was "very close" to agreement. "We intend to continue to work closely with Egypt and Israel in order to achieve an expeditious settlement of the Taba issue," Redman said.

Redman also welcomed the report in Israel by Anatoly Shcharansky that his mother, Ida Milgrom, his brother, Leonid, and Leonid's wife, Iraida, and their two sons, will be allowed to leave the USSR for Israel August 23. This is a "positive gesture," Redman said. "We hope it is a sign of Soviet determination to move forward

Governor Appoints Stern To Public Works Board

CARSON CITY — Governor Richard Bryan announced the appointment of prominent Reno businessman, Sidney Stern, to the State Public Works Board.

Stern is founder and president of Nevada First Thrift in Reno. He is chairman of the board of Nevada First Bank in Reno; and president, Silver State Thrift and Loan in Reno. Stern serves as a member of the board of directors for the Salvation Army and for Reno radio station KOH. He is on the board of trustees for Old College, and the University of Nevada Reno.


The State Public Works Board oversees all construction on state property, bids and awards contracts, and recommends capital improvements. Stern replaces Dr. James Jones, who resigned.

with significant sustained progress on Jewish emigration." Redman had no comment on Shcharansky's statement in Israel that the Soviets had agreed to allow his family to leave because of pressure from the White House and State Department.

Shcharansky said the U.S. had acted after he had revealed recently that the Soviet Union had violated a secret written agreement when he was released last February in an East-West prisoner exchange that his family would be allowed to join him in Israel soon.

While refusing to discuss whether there had been any U.S. pressure, Redman noted, "We've been extremely interested in this case as well as many, many other cases of a similar nature. And we continue to work all those cases to the best of our ability."

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