

Kirkpatrick; Israel Played Only A 'Marginal Role' In Iran Arms Sales Deal

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Jeane Kirkpatrick, the former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, maintained here that "Israel has every reason of its own to aid the Contras," the Reagan Administration-backed rebels trying to overthrow the Sandinista government of Nicaragua. But she added that Israel played only a "marginal role in the Iran arms sales deal."

Kirkpatrick made her comments at the opening session of the "Jeane Kirkpatrick

Forum" at Tel Aviv University, so named for her championship of Israel at the UN. At a press conference earlier, she discussed the troubles facing the Reagan Administration from the sale of arms to Iran and the diversion of the proceeds to the Contras in possible violation of the law as it stood at the time.

According to Kirkpatrick, the Sandinistas are "Sworn enemies of Israel" who have "forged ties of blood" with the Palestine Liberation Organization. "The first Embassy to open in Nicaragua after the Sandinistas took over was that of the PLO," Kirkpatrick claimed.

Says Israel Had Right To Aid The Contras

She said the small Jewish community in Nicaragua was forced into exile and even if the struggle in Central America was not Israel's fight, Israel had the right to aid the Contra underground. And if the U.S. turned to Israel for advice, Israel had to do so to the best of its ability, she said.

Israel, while acknowledging a role in the shipment of U.S. arms to Iran at the request of the Reagan Administration, has firmly and repeatedly denied any involvement in or knowledge of the transfer of monies from the sale to the Contras.

U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese, at a November 25 White House press conference, implicated Israel directly in the transfer, saying that "representatives of Israel" transferred profits from the Iranian arms deal to Swiss bank accounts maintained by the Contras.

Kirkpatrick said "I do not believe the relationship between Israel and the United States will suffer because of the events surrounding Iran and the hostages."

The Reagan Administration said at one point that the arms deal was an effort to free American hostages being held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon. At other times it insisted it was not trading arms for hostages but was attempting to send a "signal" to Iran that it wanted to improve

relations with Teheran and to establish links with Iranian "moderates" who might eventually replace the Islamic fundamentalist regime of the Ayatollah Ruhollah Kohmeini.

Defends President Reagan

Kirkpatrick defended President Reagan in her press conference remarks and appeared to hold others in his Administration responsible for Reagan's difficulties. The President bore "ultimate responsibility," the former envoy said, but direct responsibility rested on Secretary of State George Shultz, White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan and Meese.

She said the affair has shown "shocking levels of disagreement" between Reagan and his senior advisors. Shultz, appearing before the House Foreign Affairs Committee in Washington Monday morning, upheld the President's overall policy in the Middle East but reiterated that he had opposed arms to Iran and that he knew "zero" about the transfer of funds to the Contras.

"I have a sense that at a certain critical point, the President was sort of pushed on the stage, out front, and given the burden of trying to explain and defend policy, that his principal advisors were sort of bringing up the rear," Kirkpatrick said. "They had initiated a policy in which they had failed."

At another point she said she was "amazed" to learn that senior Administration officials were responsible for the sale of arms to Iran via Israel, and the flow of funds to the Contras.

In reply to a question, she said she was not a candidate for the Vice Presidency in 1988. She hinted, however, that she might replace Shultz should he resign.

President Chaim Herzog of Israel, who attended the opening of the Tel Aviv University forum, praised Kirkpatrick as a "great American and true friend" of Israel. "We are happy that your long-term and courageous connection with Israel now receives a permanent stamp," he said, referring to the naming of the forum in her honor.

Delegation From Nicaragua Cancels Scheduled Visit To Israel

TEL AVIV (JTA) — A delegation from the Nicaraguan Ministry of Agriculture which was to have visited Israel next month at the invitation of Mapam has indicated it will cancel the trip. It would have been the first official delegation from that Central American country to visit Israel since the Sandinista government came to power in 1979.

The apparent cancellation follows widespread reports that

Israel was instrumental in transferring money paid by Iran for American weapons to the Reagan Administration-backed Contra rebels seeking to overthrow the Sandinista government.

Israel's involvement in that transaction was alleged by U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese at a White House Press conference. Israel has vigorously denied that it was ever aware of the transfer.

Syrian Nationals In Switzerland Are Under Police Surveillance

GENEVA (JTA) — Syrian nationals, including diplomats in Switzerland are having a hard time getting around. The Swiss government has given strict instructions to the police to keep a watchful eye on their movements through Switzerland.

The government's orders stem from Syria's involvement in an attempt to smuggle explosives aboard an Israeli airliner at Heathrow Airport in London last April 17. Britain broke diplomatic ties with Damascus after evidence of Syrian complicity emerged in the trial of Nezar Hindawi, the Jordanian national convicted of the crime.

As a result of the Swiss actions, even Syrians holding diplomatic passports have been subjected to police action. One Syrian employed at a United Nations agency in Geneva has been stopped several times at the airport here and questioned at length, causing him to miss his flights.

Syrian businessmen and resident students have curtailed travels

around Switzerland to avoid humiliating incidents. One Syrian diplomat here has requested a transfer to a different post. Another advised his family who wanted

to join him for a winter vacation to go to France or Austria where Syrians are more welcome.



1083 E. TROPICANA AVE.
LAS VEGAS, NV, 89101
(702) 736-4306



AMARETTO CAKE
"We specialize in all kinds of liquor cakes!"

Happy Chanukah

Happy Chanukah

Thank You Las Vegas!

The Flame has proudly served over one million people in the last 25 years.



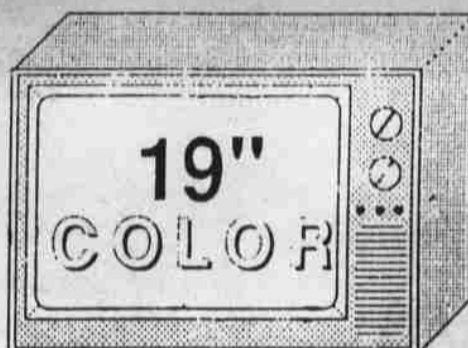
OPEN 24 HOURS
STEAK-SEAFOOD-SALAD

1 Desert Inn Rd., Las Vegas, Nev.
(Next to The Desert Inn)

For Reservations Phone 735-4431

SALES

RENTALS



TRUCKLOAD SALE

- 19" RCA Color TVs
- Solid State XL-100
- Full 100% Warranty

Sale
\$125.00
RCA

- 19" Color TV Rentals
- Rent By Phone
- No Credit Needed
- No Deposit
- Rent-To-Own in just 12 Months!!

Rent-To-Own
\$22.95
per month

Happy Chanukah Las Vegas Television Exchange

2585 E. Flamingo Rd.
(Near Eastern)
737-0499
East

Mon.-Fri.
10am-7pm
Saturday
10am-2pm

4300 Spring Mountain Rd.
(At Arville)
873-8008
West