

U.S. Aid to Israel Seen Key to Peace in Mideast

By MOLLY JUDGE

A possible military confrontation between Israel and the Arab states could be avoided if a balance of power is maintained by the shipment of U.S. military aid to Israel, Azaria Rapoport contends. Rapoport is consul and press officer of the consulate general of Israel in New York.

During his address last week at a dinner hosted by the Jewish Community Federation of Rochester, Rapoport stated that the Arab countries would not start a Middle Eastern war unless they receive a sanction from Russia. Rapoport stressed that if the U.S. supplied Israel with armaments, the Russians would not risk a confrontation with the U.S. mainly because, he said, of

the Chinese "lurking" on the Russian border.

"This threat of possible war with the United States and China will create a balance of fear between the United States and Russia that would prevent a confrontation unless Russia believes that the U.S. is torn apart by another Watergate," Rapoport said.

"Many people in the United States ask me how they can help Israel. They usually feel that the best way to help us is to volunteer for the Israel Defense Forces. I tell them that the price of freedom isn't worth it if we can't fight our own battles. We don't need mercenaries but military tools. We need the tools since we

are actually fighting Soviet Russia who is the supplier of arms to the Arabs. It's up to Russia to make the war and the United States to make the peace," he added.

Prior to his present position as consul and press officer, Rapoport worked for the Israel Television Temporary Authority as a producer, announcer and emcee. The native Israeli was an actor for the Habima Theater and has written for Variety and Ma'ariv, Israel's leading daily newspaper.

Rapoport was serving as a representative for the Israel Aliyah Center in New York before his appointment to his current post in October 1973.

During his analysis of the Middle East situation, Rapoport expressed disgust with the United Nations. According to him, the U.N. has shown a decline in moral strength when it permitted Yasir Arafat, the head of the Palestine Liberation Organization, to speak as the sole representative of the Palestinian people last November.

Rapoport continued to score Arafat as the leader of a terrorist group that is responsible for the "mass murder of innocent women and children while they sleep." He expressed a feeling of shock at the U.N. for giving the PLO leader a standing ovation before he delivered his address. Rapoport also contended that the PLO is a minority group and could not represent all the Palestinian peoples.

The appearance of Arafat in the U.N. was an indication of weak support for Israel in the international "body," stated Rapoport. "We no longer have friends in the United Nations. The only friends Israel has now is the Jewish people and the United States, and with a change in winds or a little pressure, we could lose that support," he said.

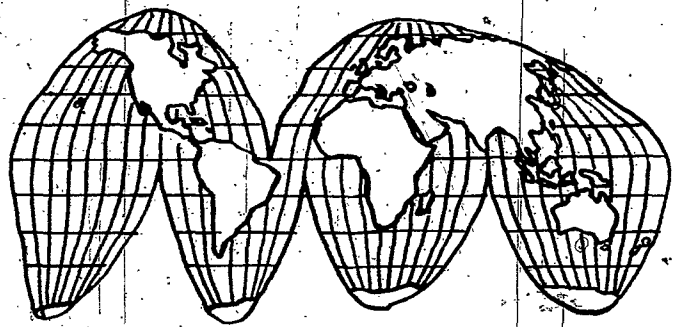
Nevertheless, Rapoport is optimistic about the future. "We are not alone. Others will have to support us," he said. Rapoport explained that "a few years ago, I was naive when I believed that the United States would support us because we are the only democratic country in that area. But now I have a mature attitude. I believe that we will get U.S. backing since a strong Israel is essential to American democracy. Israel and the U.S. must stand together for what they believe."

The new wave of optimism prevalent in Israel is due to the Arab oil embargo, Rapoport admits. "Now we are gaining support. The embargo has awakened the United States to the situation and is making it aware of the threat that the Arab countries are to global democracy."

A peaceful end to the Middle East crisis must begin with the Arabs, he said. He mentioned that Israel has always insisted on a peaceful settlement by being willing to begin negotiations all along. "Israel isn't asking for peace but for merely an indication of a viable co-existence with the Arabs by the opening of step-by-step negotiations."

Rapoport is married and has three children, two of whom are serving with the Israel Defense Forces.

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From Courier-Journal Services

Austria too. Despite strong resistance from the Catholic Church and two opposition parties, a law legalizing abortions within the first three months of pregnancy became effective in Austria Jan. 1. The law, sponsored by the governing Socialist party, allows women to terminate pregnancies within a three-month limit after consultation with a registered physician. On an ever greater momentum, religions are getting involved in politics. In Thailand, Buddhist monks led a massive rally of farmers and students demonstrating against agricultural policies. Newspapers and other monks have castigated the action, saying that the monks should tend to religion and let the politicians look after the farmers.

Reports have it that Church-state relations continue to deteriorate in Yugoslavia. Increased anti-religious propaganda in the government-controlled press and legal measures against the Catholic press and clergy have been cited as part of the basis for the reports. At least 300,000 pilgrims have flocked to view the remains of St. Francis Xavier which have been enshrined in Goa since 1552. The body, still remarkably preserved, is enclosed in a hermetically sealed glass casket. Incorruptibility has always been considered by some as a sign of sanctity and since his death in 1550, St. Francis' body has defied decay.

In San Salvador, Roman Catholic bishops have publicly condemned the killing of six farm workers by the national police force last Nov. 29 in the town of La Cayetana, charging that a "flagrant violation of human rights" took place. The government forces allegedly machine-gunned six of a number of workers accused of being guerrillas and thieves when they sought refuge in a farmhouse. Now that divorce is legal in Italy, reports have it that militant women's right groups and other organizations have mounted a campaign for an eventual referendum on abortion. Dominoes. Americans going to Rome during the Holy Year are cautioned against buying such unusual items as bricks from the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica. A huckster reportedly is offering the bricks, handsomely-lettered "Holy Door Awards," for \$500 each. There is no such thing, Vatican sources point out.

It is nothing new that some people in political power are leary of a free press and such sentiment has been aimed at the Catholic press as well as the secular. Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov has told Western reporters via telephone that secret police have searched homes in Moscow and Lithuania and arrested several persons thought to be connected with an underground Roman Catholic journal. The paper has been charging persecution of Catholics in Lithuania.

WELCOMED

Hornell — Father Leo Mans, pastor of St. Ignatius, recently extended a welcome to the new rectors and auxiliary ministers of the Eucharist. They are Joseph Baringhaus, Erin Barnett, Karen Emerson, Francis Henderson, Betsy Morrissey, Michelle Rohan, John Sleggs, David Stiles and Michael Stiles.

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CIM Opens Series

Elmira — The second series in the season's Christian Institute of Man (CIM) program opens with a lecture by Ross Burke, entitled "Recent Interpretations of Technology: William Kuhns," at the Park Church, Monday, Jan. 20, beginning at 7 p.m.

He has served in a number of administrative positions in the field of education and in health and welfare, both in New York and in California, and is a member of the American Sociological Association and the Center for a Human Future.

Burke is a consultant for the Educational Policy Research Center, a subsidiary of Syracuse University Research Corporation. He is engaged in a project on the future of adult education in America.

The CIM series is exploring The Spiritual Challenge of Modern Technology: The Revolution of Hope.

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