

ד א ש ה מ מ ש ל ה
THE PRIME MINISTER

TOP SECRET

Jerusalem, 12 May 1974

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I should like to put before you certain matters concerned with our future security:

1. For reasons which were fully outlined in our many conversations, we now feel the urgent need to take up with the United States Government the question of Israel's long-term defensive needs. We propose that Israel enter with the United States into a long-range military requirement agreement that will guarantee Israel's military capacity relative to the combined Arab military strength as it presently exists and as projected over the next ten years. By way of illustration, I list the following major items:

- (A) AIRCRAFT: The Arab states (Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Libya, Algeria, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia) possessed in 1967, 480 combat aircraft and on the eve of the Yom Kippur War 1418. They have since replaced their losses and it is projected that by 1984 they will have approximately 2500.

By 1984 Israel shall require 750 aircraft. This means that we will require about 200 additional combat planes of the more advanced type, over and above those already on order.

Dr. Henry A. Kissinger
Secretary of State
U. S. A.

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- (B) TANKS: The above Arab states possessed 2450 tanks in 1967 and 6500 tanks on the eve of the Yom Kippur War. They have about the same number today, and it is projected that they will have about 11,000 by 1984.

Israel's needs by that time will be approximately 4900 tanks. We therefore require 1400 tanks in addition to those already on order. Also, calculated on the basis of three A.P.C.'s for every tank, we shall need 15,000 A.P.C.'s by 1984. At present we have 5,000.

- (C) ARTILLERY: Against 1,700 pieces of artillery in 1967 and 4800 on the eve of the Yom Kippur War, the Arab states have 5,000 today and it is projected that they will possess 7,500 by 1984.

By 1984 Israel shall need 1,400 pieces of artillery of both 155 and 175 mm, i.e. 700 pieces beyond those already requested.

- (D) NAVY: To bolster the strength of the Israel Navy, we will require a number of Hydrophile boats with advanced missiles.

- (E) GROUND-TO-GROUND MISSILES: We have raised this subject with the United States Government on a number of occasions. There is a growing emphasis on the supply by the Soviet Union to Arab countries of the "Frog" and the "Scud" type missiles. According to our estimate, both Egypt and Syria possess today some 450 "Frog" rockets, and about the same number of the "Scud" variety. The projection for 1984 is that both countries will have in their possession something like 1,000 "Frog" and 1,300 "Scud" missiles. It is important, therefore, that we be furnished with ground-to-ground missiles with parallel striking capacity at a time when increased attention is being paid to this type of weapon (and as aircraft activity becomes increasingly risky and limited because of ground-to-air missiles). The reference is to the Lance and Pershing missiles.

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In cataloguing the above I refrain at this time from entering into matters of timetable, etc. Let me emphasize furthermore, that this list is not inclusive of the many other required items, especially in the field of electronic warfare, intelligence (real-time) and surveillance equipment that will be necessary to bring the Israel Defence Forces in 1984 to a level which would enable them to repel any attack. I therefore urge that the President of the United States give his approval and support for Israel's long-range military requirements and will consent to an Israel military mission to come to the United States in June 1974 in order to reach an overall agreement between our two countries on this subject and work out all pertinent details regarding timetable, technical assistance, production in Israel, etc.

2. Financing: Israel is, of course, unable to carry the financial burden involved in such a large-scale military procurement program. Much as we appreciate the United States aid already granted us, we foresee future financial requirements for military purchase to be of a magnitude calling for continued and substantial United States financial assistance. We are mindful of the fact that this is a matter for Congressional legislation which will have to be voted annually.

What I request of the President is that we have his support on this matter and that he agree to present for Congressional approval those sums needed to facilitate the execution of the envisaged military requirements program.

3. Emergency military supplies in time of war: The October war indicated to all that in time of emergency, military supply of both ammunition and replacement of major equipment can be of crucial and decisive importance. It is therefore suggested that a contingency plan be worked out to provide for the availability of the items needed in case of war, the speedy replacement of major equipment, and route and mode of transfer.

We have in the past supplied information to the United States Government regarding our requirements in case of emergency and we are ready to furnish additional information necessary to work out such a contingency plan. I ask the President's approval for the joint elaboration of such a plan which could prove so vital in the event of an emergency.

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4. Oil supply: The continued supply of oil to Israel is a subject that must necessarily concern us since situations can conceivably arise in which the supply of oil to Israel might be threatened.

We therefore attach great importance to reaching an understanding with the United States Government designed to guarantee the uninterrupted supply of oil to Israel at the required level of annual consumption.

Mr. Secretary, if I dare put before you, and through you to the President, requests of such dimension, it is because I know that in undertaking the current actions we are assuming grave national risks. We do so because of our firm conviction that these steps are an imperative of the joint course of policy which we both hope will advance the prospects of peace. I know of the President's fundamental conviction of the need for a strong Israel and that at no time will its continued survival and security be placed in jeopardy. To assure this, all the elements of strength - political, military and economic - have to be assured so as to enable us to continue to pursue our policy of negotiations and peace.

Sincerely,

Golda Meir