

Senators oppose sale of weapons to Jordan

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The mere idea of a U.S. sale of warplanes and rockets to Jordan has sparked opposition in Congress despite President Reagan's assurance this week that he will stand by Israel.

Eighteen senators — 14 Democrats and four Republicans — signed a letter Wednesday urging Reagan not to propose such a sale until the administration has thoroughly consulted Congress and U.S. allies.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., one of the signers, said the type of sale discussed "would represent a serious and un-

acceptable threat to the security of Israel, our most reliable ally in the Middle East."

Israel's new ambassador to the United States, Moshe Arens, met with Secretary of State Alexander Haig Thursday to register Israel's objection to sales of advanced U.S. arms to Arab countries.

Arens said most of their discussion at the State Department was "directed at the dangers we in Israel perceive in the supply of advanced weaponry" to Arab countries.

Arens said he will see Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger on Friday.

Weinberger triggered an international flap last week when he told reporters at Jordan's Amman Airport that he had discussed with Jordanians the possibility of selling them F-16s and mobile Hawk anti-aircraft missiles.

Tuesday, Reagan wrote Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin: "Israel remains America's friend and ally. However, I believe it is in the interest of both our countries for the United States to enhance its influence with other states in the region."

Warped

By Scott McCuller



U.S. sanctions suggest bans, tightened Soviet credit limits

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The White House is considering new sanctions in response to the Polish crisis — one that would tighten credit on Soviet purchases

and another that would ban imports of non-essential goods, such as Russian vodka.

Officials said the Reagan administration is trying to line up allied support for the possi-

ble measures against the Soviet Union, which it has blamed in part, for the crackdown in Poland.

They said Wednesday, Undersecretary of State James Buckley is being sent to Europe in the next five days as head of an American delegation of experts to line up allied support.

The White House has

warned that one plan — for overseas-based subsidiaries of U.S. firms to be sanctioned — probably will be illegal in some countries and politically unwise.

One official listed two measures under active consideration:

- Limiting credit on Soviet purchases in the West in effect, making the Soviets spend more hard currency for everything they buy.
- Further cutting Soviet hard currency earnings by banning the purchase of certain "non-essential" Soviet products in the West, such as automobiles, beer and vodka.

Such products provide more than 2 percent of Soviet export capacity in the West, but the restriction would hurt the Soviets without causing any real economic hardship elsewhere.

It is expected the credit restrictions would apply only to future sales, not current contracts.

The current options being considered by the administration do not include any cuts in U.S. grain exports to the Soviet Union, which has raised problems for American officials dealing with allies.

One official said it has been a "nightmare" with each U.S. suggestion for Europeans to join joint sanctions being answered by questions of why the United States does not hit the Soviet Union where it really hurts, in the case of grain.

Sales of high-technology oil and gas equipment by U.S.-based firms to the Soviet Union already are banned by a Dec. 1979 executive order from President Reagan.

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