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Israeli official discusses peace, misconceptions, war

by Maureen Carmody
Battalion Staff

The hope for peace in the Middle East hinges on implementing Camp David agreements to grant full autonomy to the Palestinian Arabs living in the West Bank and the Gaza district, Israeli consul general says.

Tzion Evrony, consul general of Israel, said in an interview Thursday that such peace agreements would require cooperation from King Hussein of Jordan, who has continually refused invitations from Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin to meet.

Evrony, who is stationed in Houston, will arrive in College Station to speak to the Corps of Cadets Thursday night.

Before any peaceful arrangements can be negotiated, the Israelis and all other foreign troops must pull out of Lebanon, Evrony said. And Israel is

willing to do this, he said, but certain criteria must first be met.

"We are ready to withdraw as soon as security arrangements are found," he said. "We are asking for security arrangements on our northern belt to assure (that) PLO terrorists won't attack the civilians in northern Israel. We are ready for a simultaneous withdrawal with the Syrian army."

Evrony also said that one of his main concerns about Israel is that there are so many misconceptions that people have about the country.

"First of all, Israel is the size of two or three counties in Texas. It's 26 times smaller than Texas. In its narrowest point it is only nine miles wide. We have a saying in Israel: 'Israel is the only country you can cross with less than a gallon of gas.' 'We are surrounded by 22 Arab

states and — with the exception of Egypt — our only friendly border is the Mediterranean Sea. People don't think of the fact that in the last 33 years we have known only war — or the threat of war — from our Arab neighbors."

Evrony also said that many people are not aware of the benefits Israel received from the recent war in Lebanon. Israel has succeeded in liberating northern Israel from the constant PLO threat, he said. He also compared Israel's situation to Texas' experience with Pancho Villa.

"Pancho Villa would attack innocent people," Evrony said. "This is similar to our situation. How long would you tolerate College Station being bombarded by Cuban artillery? When put this way you can understand it (Israel's situation) better."

Another achievement of the war is

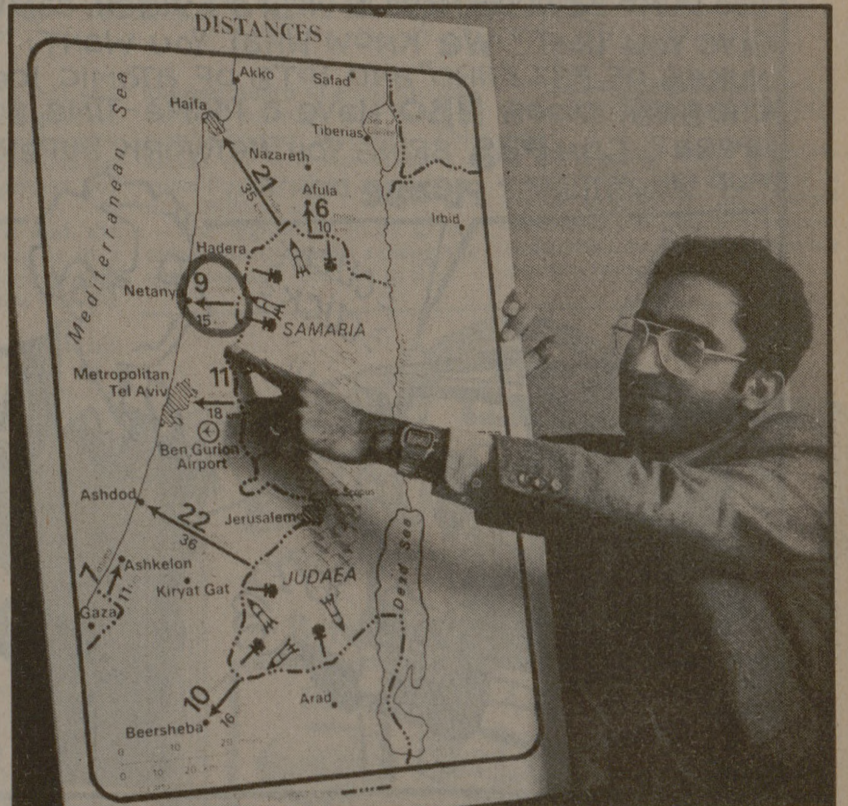
its benefit for all democracies, he said. "Terrorism is not just an Israeli problem. It is a threat to the entire free world. We discovered those terrorists were trained and supplied by the Soviet Union."

Israel's battles and victories against the PLO, Evrony said, were not only advantageous for his country, but for the United States as well.

"We shot down 75 of the Soviets' best weapons — including the T72 tank — with minimal losses to our side. We did it using the most sophisticated American weapons — the F-15's and F-16's."

"You (the United States) are facing the same types of weapons. We showed that they can easily be destroyed by what you have — the F-15's and F-16's. You now have a definite

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staff photo by David Fisher
Tzion Evrony, consul general of Israel, uses a map to show Israel's narrowest point, which is nine miles wide. Evrony uses the map during a speech to the Corps of Cadets Thursday.

Reagan acting on defense plan

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Reagan is wasting no time in getting started on his proposal to develop a

new nuclear defense weapon. He planned to sign a directive to the Joint Chiefs of Staff today approving development of a new generation of weapons — as outlined in his address to the nation this week that would be able to knock out

incoming missiles. The new weapon is aimed at changing the longtime U.S. and

Soviet strategy of a mutual balance of terror that has barred the use of doomsday weapons for nearly 40 years.

A second part of the package will be revealed next week when Reagan unveils before the World Affairs Council in Los Angeles his new "interim" proposal to limit the number of intermediate range missiles in Europe.

The proposal backs away from Reagan's "zero-zero" option, which provided for the elimination of all

nuclear missiles from Europe. It calls for the removal of 600 medium range Soviet missiles targeted at Europe in return for the U.S. canceling plans to deploy 572 Pershing-2 and cruise missiles later this year.

In another move to bolster the nation's defenses, Reagan will receive the decision of a presidential commission on April 4 recommending a 10-warhead MX missile. The panel has had 25 meetings to review U.S. strategic nuclear capability.

High-level sources said the "basic impetus" for the presidential decision to go ahead with science fiction-like weapon came from the joint chiefs, who handed their proposal to the White House about a month ago.

The search for a workable beam weapon would be a longterm project taking perhaps several decades, administration officials said. They were vague about the type of weapon they envision, where it would be based and how much it would cost.

Final report, committee visit Last steps in accrediting process

By Robert McGlohon
Battalion Staff

Except for the "icing on the cake," Texas A&M has completed its self-study program, program coordinator R.J.Q. Adams said Wednesday. That icing is a final report which gives an overview of the two-year self-study program. The program consists of reports from each of the 88 departments and 10 colleges at Texas A&M — the final step of the program reports by 12 University-wide Standards Committees.

"Just about everything is ready now," Adams said. "All of the standards reports are done; they're all typed and they're all bound and they're going in the mail. The report itself consists really of the reports that are already done." Even the final overview is almost complete, Adams said; it lacks only

graphs, appendices and a final proof-reading.

"While I am very proud of this (the final overview) and it constitutes nothing less than my life's blood, it comes last," he said. "It's the icing on the cake. It (the report) is, to all intents and purposes, done."

The completed report is the University's judgment of itself — a review of its strengths, weaknesses, good points and bad points. It has been done in compliance with the rules of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, one of six regional accreditation bodies in the United States.

"What it boils down to, I guess, is peer evaluation," Adams said. "It's the colleges and universities within so and so many states saying: 'Everyone who meets these criteria is, within our eyes, doing a good job. And conse-

quently, everyone who meets these criteria is accorded all the rights and privileges and respect, et cetera, which a college and university ought to have. And if you don't meet them, we're not responsible."

While most students — and some faculty — take for granted or don't know what accreditation is, Adams said, it's a serious and vital matter.

"Most schools in the United States are accredited, or they find out what it takes to get accredited," Adams said. "And those who are not accredited — well you can imagine the worth of the degree."

"I would say, without putting too fine a point on it, (that accreditation is) a life and death matter."

It's life and death to students who need a job after graduation, that is. "If you (a student) go home and

hang (your diploma) on the wall and admire it, that's one thing," Adams said. "But if, in fact, you wish to be a professional engineer or a doctor of medicine or a professional journalist or a public school teacher or just about anything I can think of in which you need to use your degree, then you'd better have it from an accredited institution."

But accreditation is equally important to faculty members, Adams said.

Faculty, who desire research money, superior students or post-doctoral work, had better — in most cases — be teaching at an accredited institution, he said.

Despite its advantages, not all universities are accredited, or wish to be, Adams said.

"In fact, a lot of small, newer See SELF STUDY, page 16

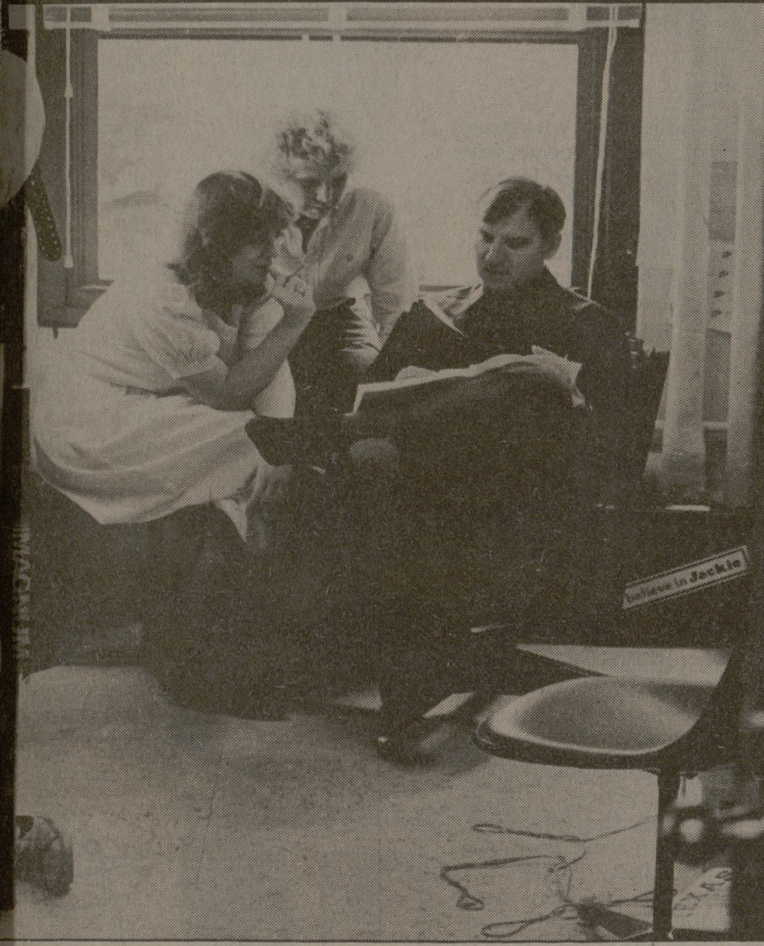


photo by Guy Hood

Just call him "Pops"

Charles Cross, a senior economics major from Dallas, advises Becki Bell and Sharon Paul about a computer program. Cross lives in Spence Hall; his son is a junior in the Corps. Cross says he enjoys life on the Quad.

Bonfire safety debated again

Bonfire options discussed

by Maureen Carmody
Battalion Staff

Texas A&M's annual bonfire has come under scrutiny again. Jimmy D. Ferguson, manager of administrative services of the University Center Complex, said the main concern of University and city officials are fire safety hazards.

About 20 representatives of the city, the University and the student body gathered Wednesday to discuss possible elimination of bonfire or an alternative place for it, Ferguson said.

Texas A&M President Frank E. Vandiver received a letter from College Station Mayor Gary M. Halter which suggested that the fire creates a hazard to homes south of the bonfire

area. Halter also said that the city was paying too much money in overtime to the fire and police departments which must be on standby for any accidents during bonfire.

Michael W. Holmes, corps commander, said he is afraid Texas A&M students will have to "face reality" about the future location of bonfire.

"I think the location of bonfire now is a prime source for a building somewhere down the road," he said. "It might be better to find a good permanent home for it before all other good land is taken."

Holmes said he thinks income bonfire brings to the community, through people coming into town and

through the log gathering process, greatly offsets any extra money the city pays employees.

Koldus said the general reaction of those attending the meeting was to keep bonfire.

"But everyone was concerned with the safety of bonfire," he said. "Everyone is concerned with reducing the odds of a major disaster happening."

Koldus said that no decisions have been made about bonfire but said that the main purpose of the meeting was accomplished.

"The purpose of the meeting, and my primary responsibility, was to listen to comments and concerns of those who attended," he said.

Water proposal criticized

United Press International
AUSTIN, Texas (UPI) — A proposed water conservation program which could save billions of gallons per year and give farmers a financial boost drew effusive support from state leaders but was opposed by the Sierra Club.

"We've got to have a special focus on agriculture," Hightower said of a proposed constitutional amendment to create a state Agricultural Water Conservation Loan Fund.

But the Sierra Club Thursday said it will oppose any state water program that does not effectively address water quality. Ken Kramer, legislative chairman

for the environmental protection group's Lone Star Chapter, said the 10-year proposal revealed Monday by Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby and state Sen. John T. Montford, D-Lubbock, failed to address contamination of state fresh-water supplies by oil and gas pollution.

He said the Sierra Club would consider supporting the package if it included legislation to transfer authority over surface water oil and gas pollution from the Texas Railroad Commission to the state Department of Water Resources.

The proposed amendment sponsored by Montford and Sen. Bill Sarphalus, D-Hereford, would authorize

the sale of \$200 million in state bonds. Proceeds from the bond sale would be available to farmers as low-interest loans. The loans would be only for converting to more efficient irrigation systems, Hightower said.

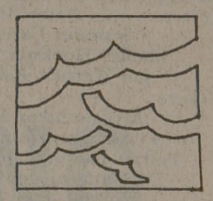
Agriculture consumes 71 percent of the fresh water used in Texas, and water use reaches 95 percent efficiency on only 30,000 of the more than 7 million irrigated acres in Texas, he said.

Hightower said if all farmers in the state converted, water savings could total 900 billion gallons per year, "almost 200 times as much water as Texans presently drink."

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forecast



Partly cloudy to cloudy skies today with a high of 68. Southerly winds of around 15 mph. Partly cloudy tonight, becoming mostly cloudy by morning with a 40 percent chance of thunderstorms. Tonight's low near 48. Partly clear skies Saturday with a high near 68.