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M. T. Mehl, secretary general of the Action Committee on American-Arab relations, reacts to questions at a press conference

Palestinian rule called key to peace

By DON HARRIS

Lasting peace can be achieved in the Middle East if Palestine is returned to the Palestinians, a spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Organization said Tuesday.

This also would cause the Arabs to increase the flow of oil at reduced prices to the United States, said M. T. Mehl, secretary general of the Action Committee on American-Arab Relations.

Mehl, who was in Phoenix Tuesday as part of a national tour to secure U.S. recognition of the PLO, called for an end to the U.S. military support of Israel.

He urged the establishment of a democratic, secular state in the Middle East — not a Jewish state.

"A Jewish or Moslem or Christian state has no place in the Middle East," Mehl said at a press conference.

He described the Arab oil boycott as a defensive move. Since the U.S. was supplying Israel with military aid in the form of planes and tanks, the Arabs retaliated by cutting off oil in the United States, Mehl said.

"The Arabs were saying, 'Don't help our enemies in oil,'" he said.

However, Mehl described as blackmail a statement by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger indicating that the United States might be forced to go to war if the oil boycott threatens the nation's economic security.

He called the U.S. goal of energy independence "very good," but said there will always be interdependence among nations and this will enhance the security and prosperity of all.

Mehl said the PLO is considered to be made up of freedom fighters by most nations of the world, but in the United States PLO members are regarded as terrorists.

Referring to the PLO assassination of Israeli athletes at the Olympic Games in Munich in 1972, Mehl said:

"We have condemned the PLO terrorism at Munich and we have condemned the crime."

He said the Israeli athletes had displaced Palestinians at the games.

"Israel can never have peace if they continue to steal land," Mehl said.

There is no oil wealth in the Israeli-held land that belongs to Palestine, he said.

"The attachment to land there is deep-rooted," Mehl said. "It's their country, a home to a home."

He predicted U.S. recognition of the PLO within a year.

"The Arab pan is reasonable, and the oil will help," Mehl said with a smile.

Saudi king vows funds in Israel fight

Republic News Wire

DAMASCUS, Syria — King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, launching a war of Arab solidarity which he supports, declared Tuesday he will put all his oil-rich nation's resources at their disposal in the struggle against Israel.

"Arab unity is realized," a Syrian radio announcer shouted over and over as Faisal made a triumphant entrance into Damascus through thousands of cheering Syrians.

Syrian President Hafez Assad told Faisal their meeting will strengthen Arab solidarity, which he called "the only way to get what we want, liberation of the occupied lands and restoration of usurped Palestinian rights."

The two leaders exchanged their countries' highest decorations after meeting at the Damascus airport. They then drove into Damascus along a 20-mile route lined with wildflowers.

In other Middle East developments — Israel said Tuesday it held a news conference in New York that when

Egypt and Syria now have more planes and tanks than any western nation except the United States and the superpowers cannot prevent another war in the Middle East.

Information Minister Aharon Yaron told a visiting Italian delegation that Cairo and Damascus have 1,800 warplanes and 4,800 tanks at their disposal.

— President Anwar Sadat said Egypt will not reopen the Suez Canal and may not remove the blockade of the Strait of Tiran.

Yaron said a further extension of the mandate of the force on the Golan front is May 31. "We made crystal clear that this does not mean that Syria is ready to accept a further extension of the mandate beyond six months."

— UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim suggested that U.N. troops separating the Syrians and Israelis in the Golan Heights would have to pull out by the end of May.

He told a news conference in New York that when

Assad agreed last November to extend the mandate of the force on the Golan front is May 31. "We made crystal clear that this does not mean that Syria is ready to accept a further extension of the mandate beyond six months."

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Defense chief says Soviet strike could leave economy almost intact

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger says the Soviet Union would wipe out U.S. strategic forces with a limited nuclear strike that hardly would disrupt the economy and kill fewer than 4 million Americans.

In congressional testimony released Tuesday, Schlesinger said the psychological impact of such a strike probably would result in an initial "loss of confidence in government."

But he predicted survivors would adjust to the situation and "support reestablishment of normal cooperative relationships at all levels of community life."

At a closed session of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Sept. 11, Schlesinger told why he announced last January a change in U.S. policy of massive retaliation to include smaller selective strikes against Soviet military targets.

In written answers supplied the committee, Schlesinger said:

"Medical-care facilities and supplies, except in some of the specific attack locations, would scarcely be damaged by the attack and would be available to care for the local sick and injured and to aid in the damaged areas."

"Almost 99 per cent of the nation's total manufacturing capacity could survive, although a few sectors could be reduced to 50 to 90 per cent of capacity. Stocks of surplus food, stored grains and other foods in process and in various parts of the distribution system would be unaffected by the attack."

Armed with charts and graphs, Schlesinger told the senators:

"In the first example of a selective counterforce strike by the Soviet Union — in which they attack nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine bases and Strategic Air Command bases, as well as ICBM (Intercontinental Ballistic Missile) silos — the mortalities could be as high as, say 3 or 4 million."

"In an attack on the ICBMs alone, the mortalities could run on the order of a million, not for SAC bases, the mortalities would be less than that — on the order of 500,000."

Schlesinger said the Soviet Union had the military capability to make even smaller and cleaner strikes — such as against U.S. strategic command and control centers.

An attack against two command and control centers (identifications withheld for security reasons) would result in an estimated 40,000 to 45,000 fatalities, Schlesinger said.

He argued that in case of such a selective Soviet strike, the United States should have the ability to respond with a roughly equivalent strike in order to avoid immediately escalating nuclear war to its most devastating level.

"It would be a serious error and I believe a serious moral lapse to provide the South Vietnamese the resources they need," he said. The effect of the cutback, he said, "has been to drive casualties to a higher level."

Schlesinger said that in case of Soviet attack, there would be at most a minute and as little as five minutes warning if the attack were launched from nuclear submarines.

Giant missiles observed in move to Soviet bases

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger disclosed Tuesday that the Soviet Union has started moving its big SS9 missiles, capable of carrying multiple warheads, to their bases.

The SS9 is "the world's largest intercontinental ballistic missile, and is the first Soviet missile in which the warheads can be directed independently to separate targets."

Schlesinger told a Pentagon news conference that "we are confident, evidence of the deployment of the SS9, the largest of the new generation of Soviet missiles."

The Soviets had been expected to place the new missiles in their silos, Schlesinger said, adding that the move did not call for a change in American policy.

The basic question, he said, is not the timing of the deployment but "the pace and ultimate extent of that deployment."

The SS9 can carry eight independently targeted warheads and has a total payload of 15,000 pounds. The largest modern American missile can carry 10 smaller warheads weighing a total of only 1,000 pounds.

On another subject, Schlesinger said it was militarily feasible to invade the oil-producing countries of the Middle East but repeated four times that the United States would only consider such moves "in the gravest emergency."

He defined a grave emergency as "the imminent collapse of the western economy."

"We do not anticipate the necessity of taking military action," he said. "We do not think the circumstances

favor it."

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N. Viets hurl protest back at U.S.

Associated Press

SAIGON, North Vietnam — The North Vietnamese sharply Tuesday in a U.S. protest note accusing the Hanoi government of grave violations of the cease-fire.

Both turned the charge back on the United States, claiming that it is increasing its military involvement in Indochina.

On Monday, the United States sent a protest note to the government of President Nguyen Van Thieu, it continued.

The note says that the United States has stepped up its military involvement and interference in South Vietnam's internal affairs and given a green light to the Thieu clique to commit a million cease-fire violations.

A Vietnamese spokesman accused the United States of having "increased its interference."

The note said the United States had violated the cease-fire by sending in 100,000 troops, 600 armored vehicles and artillery and anti-aircraft weapons into the South during the cease-fire.

A commentary over Radio Hanoi said the State Department had distorted the situation by the South Vietnamese press and armed forces of their legitimate right to self-defense to punish the Saigon troops and defend the Paris agreement.

On Tuesday, a State Department spokesman in Washington repeated the U.S. accusations, saying North Vietnam had committed "grave violations of the cease-fire."

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