

Israel Now Accustomed To Mid-East Turbulence

By ALPHONZO BELL, Congressman, 28th District

Arab-Israeli enmity is no less dangerous for having become an accepted premise in international relations. Fierce Arab opposition to Israel remains unabated by time and untainted by the admission that Israel is permanently established in the family of nations. So strong and so basic is the hostility of some Arab countries to the 17-year-old state that, as was shown in recent protests when Associate Justice Arthur Goldberg was named United States Ambassador to

the United Nations, it extends even beyond the borders of Israel.

Bordered by adversaries, Israel is accustomed to turbulence. The creation of a primarily Jewish nation in the Middle East caused Arab rioting long before Israel's emergence as a modern state. Continued war between Arab and Jew plagued the period of transition from mandate to world-wide recognition. Since the conclusion in 1949 of an armistice agreement between Israel on one side and Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon on the other, the atmosphere has been constantly threatening and occasionally explosive.

In ARID LANDS, where distribution of available water can easily cause disagreement (as it does even in the Southwest United States), the controversy over the Jordan River has intensified long-standing hostility. Completion of an Israeli system to divert water from Lake Tiberias in the north to the southern Negev desert almost precipitated an Arab attack. At subsequent summit meetings of the Arab leaders, attempts have been made to devise methods of countering the Israeli success; however, disunity has rendered the talks inconclusive. Partly to remove one of the causes of dissension, the United States plans projects to construct economic desalinization plants. A more ample supply of water would lessen some tensions in the entire area.

Nevertheless, hostilities continue. Aggression and threats of aggression on both sides are no less harmful for being almost commonplace. Sporadic border incidents occur almost monthly, and there has been a recent increase in their frequency.

THE FREE world obviously has great interest in maintaining peace throughout the Middle East. Sixty-seven African, Asian and Latin American countries receive expert technical assistance from Israel, and, moreover, profit from the example of Israel's dynamic growth. Rapport is readily achieved, for smaller nations can place confidence in a country of similar size and often of similar age. Above all, with an orientation to the West, Israel's government is firmly democratic.

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