

Today is considered to be a battle, a battle with no winners. Everyone loses today no matter how the vote comes out. There are three losers:

- 1) The United States loses because it has only two options;
 - a) disappoint a friend who at the suggestion of two Administrations depended on us, or
 - b) dramatically escalate the weaponry in the Middle East, pushing that weaponry into a vacuum created by a foreign policy that focuses in on containing the Soviets while ignoring the two bedrock issues of the right of Israel to survive and a resolution of the Palestinian issue.
- 2) Saudi Arabia loses because it has only two options:
 - a) be serious embarrassed by this vote;
 - b) receive weaponry that inevitably raises a specter of their involvement in a Middle East war while doing nothing to resolve the festering sore Palestinian unrest and despair.
- 3) Israel loses because it has only two options:
 - a) endure the escalation of weaponry in the Middle East that also maximizes for the first time the likelihood of Saudi involvement in a regional war.
 - b) Endure the inevitable backlash caused by the charge that Israel has affected U.S. foreign policy, a charge that takes hold not only because of the insensitive

policies of Menachem Begin on the settlements, on the bombing of the Iraqi reactor, and the senseless bombing of Beirut.

So how does one choose? For me the choice is clear. Absent a policy that ^{both} assures the right of Israel to survive and serves the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, the escalation of sophisticated weaponry into the Middle East is not responsible and should not be allowed.