



# The JEWISH VETERAN



JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND LADIES' AUXILIARY  
THE OLDEST VETERANS' ORGANIZATION IN THE UNITED STATES

## Carmen Tells Congress JWV Mid-East Views



Commander Carmen as he testified before the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

### Testimony Text

Chairman Gordon. Thank you very much for your statement, Mr. Carmen. As I said before, we will recess until 2:30 and the members will present their questions to you.

(WHEREUPON AT 12:35 P.M. THE COMMITTEE ADJOURNED TO RECONVENE AT 2:30 O'CLOCK P.M. THE SAME DAY).

Chairman Gordon. The committee will come to order.

This is a continuation of this morning's meeting.

Mr. Carmen, will you resume the witness stand. As you know, this is the period of questioning by the members. I am sorry that many of the members are detained, no doubt in their offices, but we will carry on with the ones who are present this afternoon.

Mr. Carmen, I have a question: What can the Congress say in some resolution which will bring about peace between Israel and the Arab states? Have you any idea?

Mr. Carmen. I would like to suggest, whether it be in a resolution or whether it be an act by the

President of the United States, or from the United Nations, I think that generally the end result might be some kind of conference which would be convened at which we would have representatives of the State of Israel and the Arab Nations and where the United States might take the lead, or the United States might take the lead through its ambassador in the United Nations and try to resolve some of the differences at the peace table where we have been so instrumental.

I might make reference, as a matter of fact, to House Joint Resolution 600 which was introduced by a member of this committee, by Congresswoman Edna Kelly; and I would like to make reference also to a telegram that our organization submitted to the President with a similar suggestion. We hope that such a conference will be in the offing in the not too distant future.

Chairman Gordon. Do you believe that a statement of the United

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### Commander's Statement

(Given Before House Committee on Foreign Affairs)

My name is William Carmen. I am the National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America. My home is in Newton, Massachusetts, and the National Headquarters of our organization is located at 1712 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C.

Allow me, first, to express my appreciation to this Committee for giving me the opportunity to appear in behalf of our organization and to express our views with regard to House Joint Resolution 117.

Let me begin by saying that we support the proposals in House Joint Resolution 117 designed to develop economic strength of nations in the general area of the Middle East for the purposes of maintenance of their national independence and improving their living standards.

We further support the proposal to authorize the President to employ the Armed Forces of the United States as he deems necessary to secure and protect the territorial integrity and political independence of those nations, requesting aid against armed aggression from any nation controlled by international Communism, particularly in the light of the proviso in House Joint Resolution 117, that such employment shall be consonant with the treaty obligations of the United States and the charter of the United Nations.

We are likewise in whole-hearted agreement with the proposal to authorize appropriations for the purpose of carrying into effect the economic aid and the military provisions embodied in the resolution.

If the situation in this area had not disintegrated to the point where it presently is, these proposals might be enough to accomplish the purpose designed. Unfortunately, however, the situation in the Middle East had been allowed to deteriorate to a point where the proposals are not enough. Communism can never gain a foothold in a healthy political organism. The fact that it has been able to make the headway that it has in this area finds its basis in the conditions which have been allowed to exist. The conflict in the Middle East within the last two months has demonstrated the fact that the Sinai Peninsula was intended to become a staging area for a Communist base in the Middle East. The threat of Soviet volunteers in itself exposed a basic flaw in the thinking and implementation thereof on the part of the free world, a flaw which, in our judgment, this resolution if properly implemented will go a long way to relieve. There are many problems, how-

ever, in this area which cannot be solved by the measures the resolution presently provides. Actually, the resolution will in the sense in which it has been defined by the Secretary of State create a wall around the Middle East. Reliance in walls, as demonstrated by history, has been unfounded. Take, for example, the Maginot Line of the French and the Great Wall of China. Each created a delusion which ultimately resulted in disaster. A wall is not enough. The problem always is what is permitted to exist behind the wall. It is in this area that we must do everything within our power to make the area which this wall will encompass a healthy, a vital, a dynamic one, an area of peace where the peoples within it will have equal opportunity, each family to have bread, a decent place in which to live and in which the fundamental rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are to be the right of all. It has been demonstrated that the chief source of friction in the Middle East has been the inability of the nations in the area to establish a way and a standard of living which would permit the peoples thereof to enjoy the fruits of progress as other nations have. Statistics recently published have shown, for example, that in this area the average income is the lowest in the world.

In our judgment, it is essential to realize that no prospect for peace exists unless the nations of the Middle East can come to an agreement—Israel with the Arabs, and the Arabs with Israel. It is, therefore, imperative that in this resolution or in any other resolutions, which the Congress may find it necessary from time to time to enact in the implementation of this program, to recognize the necessity of dealing with the vital questions, aside from the creation of the wall of protection against outside aggression which this res-

olution, as it now stands, envisages.

History shows that the area now occupied by Israel was the road between the East and the West, between Asia and Africa, that when the use of this road was free and untrammelled, and the nations which it served were at peace one with the other, it served as the granary of the world. Through their exchange of goods and services one with the other, and the development of commerce between these nations and the rest of the world, there was established and maintained an economy which permitted the highest standard of living in the then known world. Today this is the lowest subsistence area on earth.

At the risk of repetition, I must again call your attention to the fact that assurance from Communist aggression from without as contemplated by this resolution does not insure the peace of this area nor will it prevent Communist subversion from within. Already apparently a new weapon has been created by the Communists, viz., the threat of volunteers. So today we have the infinitesimal kingdom of Yemen threatening to call volunteers from the Soviet countries in the pursuit of its quarrel with the United Kingdom.

As the nation which was ultimately responsible for bringing its moral weight into the scales and thereby securing the passage of the United Nations resolution of November 2nd, 1956, we must recognize that that resolution called for, in addition to the withdrawal of the Israeli forces and the British and French forces from Egyptian territory, on the Egyptians themselves to meet certain conditions which they have not yet done. Notwithstanding the Armistice agreement of 1950 and the Tri-Partite Agreement of 1950, Egypt has continued to declare that a state of war exists between herself and Israel and pursuant to that

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