

## Impending Attack

We might as well brace ourselves for the fact that Israel is going to come under new and severe verbal attack in America this year—this 25th anniversary year.

This past week, one national columnist called Israel "the Prussia of the Middle East." A Bay Area radio station carried an interview attacking Israel as the imperialistic arm of America; and a Bay Area "ethnic" newspaper carried a front-page column repeating the same sentiments. One of the leading clergymen in the Bay Area sent out a newsletter quoting King Hussein, warning Americans not to be taken in by pro-Israel propaganda.

These are just harbingers of things to come. It is not unexpected. To begin with, the war in Indochina is over — for the United States, at least.



Raab

The isolationist wing of the peace movement will now be able to concentrate on "keeping us out of the Middle East." Those for whom the main enemy always was, not so much war, as the American "military-industrial complex," or America itself, will be able to concentrate on seeing Israel as the evil spearhead of American imperialism. This will fit the line of those who see Israel as a particular enemy of the "Third World."

Meanwhile, as attention gathers on the Middle East, those church establishments which have an evangelical investment in the Arab world, will also be able to concentrate on expounding their viewpoint—which will inevitably include a strong line of the "return" of Jerusalem.

All of this is bound to be aggravating to those worried about Israel's continued existence, but whether it will finally add up to anything significant depends on the American government. The Middle East is obviously going to be the next point of foreign policy concentration for the administration. Our current foreign policy strategy has been called Metternichean. It is built around balancing the relationship of the big military powers: the U.S., Russia and China. In other words, the American stance towards the Middle East is not going to be shaped by some general attitude towards Israel—favorable or unfavorable—as much as by the practical push and pull of negotiating with the Soviet Union and China.

In such negotiating, the Russians and the Chinese will see various Arab groupings as their clients. As a matter of fact, they will try to outdo each other on that score. The Chinese government has supported the most militant and irresponsible of the Arab leaders, including Syria and the various Palestinian terrorist groups. China angrily berated Jordan for its attempt to contain these terrorist groups, and stated that "the Chinese government and people firmly support the Palestinian people's armed forces in fighting back (against Jordan) in self-defense and firmly support the Palestinian and other Arab people in their just struggle against U.S. imperialism and its lackey, Israeli Zionism."

**Presumably, Israel will be the American "client." But the negotiations will include a dozen factors which have nothing to do with Israel or the Arab nations. The broad wheeling and dealing may require the United States government to apply pressures on Israel for concessions with which the Israeli government may feel unable to comply.**

The situation may then become tense with respect to American public opinion—which could then become softer and more vulnerable to the kinds of groups described above. Then, as American Jews express themselves "against the grain" of prevailing opinion, some of the focus of attack could shift from Israel to American Jewry. This could turn out to be the Jewish community relations problem of 1973.