

# Arab's chilling vow: 'U.S. to pay'

Examiner News Services

Palestine guerrilla chief Yassir Arafat said yesterday the United States would pay "an exorbitant price" — similar to that in Indochina — for sending technicians to man early warning stations in the Sinai buffer zone.

Arafat charged the United States was trying to get a foothold in the Middle East to make up for losses in Southeast Asia and Portugal, "but we tell Kissinger and all his old and new friends that the Arab region is not for sale."

"They will pay an exorbitant price . . . for getting involved . . ."

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Itzhak Rabin said there was practically no chance for another interim settlement with Syria, and that the Russians would try to undermine the new Sinai pact with Egypt.

In a radio interview yesterday, Rabin said there was no room to maneuver on the Golan Heights and he did not want to endanger Israeli settlements there.

"We shall not agree under any circumstances to a change in the demilitarized status of the Mt. Hermon region," he said.

Rabin said the Russians were dissatisfied over the "apparent establishment of a Pax Americana in the Middle East, and will attempt to undermine the agreement by means of Libya, the Palestine Liberation Organization and any extremist element in the Arab world."

Political observers meanwhile took surprised note of the fact that Israel apparently had abandoned a threat to back out of the Sinai agreement if the American technicians were not authorized by Congress.

Foreign Minister Yigal Allon was quoted by a newspaper Ma'ariv as saying Israel would "deliberate and seek counsel on how to implement the agreement without the technicians."

Rabin also tacitly admitted Israel was responsible for the final devastation of Quneitra, the capital of Syria's Golan Heights. Until now, Israel has been silent over Arab charges that withdrawing Israeli soldiers purposely destroyed the last remaining buildings in the war-ravaged town before it was returned to Syria in May, 1974.

Rabin said Israel would be testing itself by the manner in which it handed over the Abu Rudeis oil fields and other civilian installations in Sinai to Egypt under the new accord worked out by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger. He then added the key words: "We don't want another Quneitra."