

End to Persian Gulf

Arms Sales Urged

Washington

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (Dem-Mass.) called yesterday for a six-month moratorium on all arms sales to the Persian Gulf states because the United States is helping "to hook these nations on the heroin of modern arms."

Kennedy told a Senate foreign relations subcommittee that because the administration has no firm policy concerning the Persian Gulf region, a massive arms race is developing there.

He accused the administration of trying to solve the problem of high oil prices by selling arms to oil-rich Persian Gulf states.

"It is no coincidence that the arms buildup in the gulf is taking place at the same time that the revenues of the oil-producing states are increasing by leaps and bounds," he said.

"We are only helping to hook these nations on the heroin of modern arms."

Part of the arms race "re-

flects the ambitions of countries like Iran, which seek to turn economic potential into political and military power," Kennedy said. "But part of it clearly reflects a desire by the U.S. government and other oil-consuming states to trade arms for oil."

"This is the nub of the problem. Can we solve the problem of high oil prices through selling arms? I doubt that we can."

Kennedy said the United States also must calculate the value of arms sales on the U.S. economy "if the consequences are likely to be heightened tensions and a greater likelihood that the United States could be dragged into yet another foreign conflict."

"This possible penny wisdom is surely dollar foolishness," he said.

Kennedy said a moratorium would permit the administration and Congress to assess U.S. policies in the Persian Gulf.

United Press