



Rabin vs. Colby

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DESPITE the cordial smiles that abounded during the recent visit of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to Washington, his secret talks with U.S. leaders were marked by bitter complaints against the CIA.

The fluttering blue and white Israeli flags along downtown streets, the warm greeting by President Ford on a rainy White House lawn and Rabin's address to Congress created an impression that U.S.-Israeli relations were trouble-free.

In private talks, however, Rabin pulled out sheafs of top secret Israeli intelligence reports in an attempt to show the CIA and its recently departed director William Colby tried to undermine Israel.

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COLBY advised key senators late last year that Israel had a respectable military advantage over its Arab neighbors. Partly as a result, President Ford is asking only \$1.8 billion in aid for Israel, at least \$500 million less than the Israelis are seeking.

But during his visit, Rabin denounced Colby's estimates as incomplete, citing figures from his own highly respected intelligence services. For instance, he charged, Colby had deemphasized Jordan's 600 to 700 tanks and another 1000 tanks in Iraq.

Rabin was particularly furious over the CIA's estimates on Iraq which supplied three large units of troops to the Arabs in the 1973 war. At that time,

Rabin acidly pointed out here, the Iraqis were distracted by Kurdish rebels.

Recently, however, to Israel's dismay, the CIA has withdrawn its support of the Kurds, thus freeing four more Iraqi divisions for possible action against Israel.

In addition, Rabin said the United States is unrealistic in thinking that Saudi Arabia with its sophisticated U.S. arms, is not a potential Israeli opponent.

Meanwhile, the Soviet bloc, according to Rabin's top secret reports, is replenishing its Arab friends with planes, tanks and other war supplies at a rate five times faster than the United States is restocking Israel.

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FOOTNOTE TO HISTORY: During the years that Richard Nixon misused the Internal Revenue Service, hundreds of employees retired in silent disgust.

The exodus was headed by Commissioner Randolph Thrower, himself, who resigned in 1971 for reasons that he said were "between me and the President." His successor, Johnnie Walters, also didn't last long.

Before Nixon began using the IRS to harass his enemies, the number of retirees ran about 1400 a year. But in 1971, the year of the enemies list, the number jumped to 2046.

In 1972, another 2281 retired, and in 1973, the number hit 2308. But after Nixon resigned in 1974, the number of retirees dropped back down to 1625.