

CIA Chief's Visit

Israel Tie-in to NATO Studied

TEL AVIV — (UPI) — Richard C. Helms, director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, ended a discussion with Israeli leaders today on the growing Soviet influence in the Middle East. Israeli newspapers said he discussed some way of incorporating Israel into NATO's defense flank.

Helms and his aides left as secretly as he arrived, aboard a U.S. government jetliner, for further talks in Iran and Turkey. He left from Lod Airport where a strike of civil aviation employees grounded commercial flights for four hours.

While here Helms talked with Prime Minister Golda Meir, Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, and Foreign Minister Abba Eban.

Israeli newspapers said he had made a "sober appraisal" of the Soviet Union's growing power in the Mediterranean and Middle East and the threat it posed to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's southern flank.

Yedioth Ahronoth said Helms favored "the bolstering and reinforcement of Israel and also regarded as realistic Israel's incorporation in some way in the Western military deployment."

According to the newspapers, the Helms visit grew out of an invitation Dayan is-

sued to him six months ago during a visit to Washington.

Sources close to Dayan said Helms' visit may influence Washington to show more consideration for Israel's political and security stance and its refusal to make a complete withdrawal from the Arab territory captured in the 1967 Middle East war.

According to diplomatic sources, his visit came at a time when Israel again is under strong pressure from the U.S. State Department to adopt a more flexible attitude towards a Middle East settlement.

The sources said American officials feared there would be a renewal of conflict in the Middle East this fall unless some breakthrough toward a settlement is reached.

They said the next two months may be vital, with September the most dangerous month. Then, they said, the Middle East may have reached a make-or-break situation.