

## Israeli Official Calls For Mideast 'Common Market'

*Yohann Meroz, Israel's Ambassador to West Germany has stated that his country would welcome the establishment of a development-based "Common Market" encompassing the entire Mideast region. Meroz's call echoes that of A. Robert Abboud, Chairman of the First National Bank of Chicago, who said at a meeting of the American-Israeli Chamber of Commerce and Industry on May 10 in Chicago that the only way to Mideast peace is through a "Common Market" — development and trade integrating the entire region (see Executive Intelligence Review, Vol. V No. 19, May 16). The interview with Mr. Meroz, which is excerpted below, appeared in the West German daily Die Welt:*

*Q: How do you evaluate the present political situation?*

*A: Certain emphases have shifted since the Federal Republic of Germany's entry into the United Nations, and also through membership in the European Community. Much that was previously dealt with on a purely bilateral basis is now more often pursued multilaterally. Nevertheless, the Federal Republic remains, after the United States, one of our most important partners, and in many areas is the most important. To put it very concretely, this relates to economic relations, youth exchanges, scientific relations and numerous other questions.*

*Q: Could these ties contribute to the relaxation of tensions in the Middle East?*

*A: I believe so. The Federal Republic, like the European Community, has signed parallel economic treaties with Israel and with some Arab countries, such as Jordan and Egypt. These could be utilized to create the effects which would promote peace.*

*Q: Do you mean in the sense of a future "Common Market" in the Mideast?*

*A: When Robert Schumann presented his plan for the European Coal and Steel Community on May 9, 1950, he said: "The solidarity created in this way will be a proclamation that any future war between France and Germany is not only unthinkable, but is also materially impossible." Something similar could hold true for the Middle East. We would welcome this.*

*Q: Wouldn't a German contribution of this nature to peace in the Middle East also have to take into account its "special relations" with Israel?*

*A: In my experience, these are now generally recognized as axiomatic, with only a few exceptions, by all democratic forces in Germany. It would be tragic if this were to change because these special relations somehow turned into a point of dispute.*

*Q: How do you judge the prospects for peace?*

*A: In his government declaration, Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt correctly pointed out that, after thirty years of division, peace cannot be made overnight. But an important bridgehead has been created — by the meeting and the talks. In spite of all differences in viewpoint these can and must turn into real negotiations, and that is an encouraging change.*

*We regret that, up to now, the discussion has been conducted with only one Arab country, even though it's with such an important one as Egypt. It is to be hoped that others will join in. In any event, the Egyptian-Israeli talk already represents a good omen.*

## The Policy Framework For A National Export Program

### Draft Proposal For The Weil Task Force On Exports

#### *Introduction: A Revealing History*

*The document printed below was prepared on May 14 by Warren Hamerman of the National Executive Committee of the U.S. Labor Party at the request of a major*

### TRADE

*international trade organization in the United States. Last week, one corporate official walked into a meeting of the organization with mimeographed copies of the proposal which were distributed to the assembled executives. He motivated its adoption as the organization's policy input into the task force on exports headed by*

*Frank Weil of the U.S. Department of Commerce. The proposal was the only agenda item at the meeting.*

*Nonetheless, after a lengthy debate, the trade club in question adopted the formal position that they had had "insufficient time" to pull together a comprehensive trade policy as input into the Weil task force, although "individual companies" might of course state their individual positions on the matter. Meanwhile a liaison committee would be set up within the trade club to study the "feasibility" of the proposal printed here.*

*It should be noted that members of this very same trade organization have been among the most vocal in complaining of the interminable red tape and lack of decisiveness of the Washington bureaucracy.*