

**YES! IT WAS THE UNITED STATES**

The United States did apply pressure on Israel to cancel the sale of a \$HK2-billion, state-of-the-art, advance airborne warning radar system.

The reason that the US Government applied pressure on Israel was because the US Government fears that the People's Republic of China (PRC) may attack Taiwan if Taiwan's President, Mr Chen Shui Bian, is intransigent with regard to Taiwan's claim for independence of the PRC Mainland.

This is despite platitudinous statements to the contrary, statements which have recently been uttered by high-ranking, PRC Government officials.

A former political aide to the Prime Ministers of 3 successive Israeli Governments and the former head of one of Israel's most important uniformed branches granted TARGET an exclusive interview on the subject of the abortive sale of the Israeli-produced radar system.

TARGET has agreed not to public this high official's name, but he gave permission to TARGET to explain what led up to the cancellation of the \$HK2-billion sale which, officially, was scrapped on July 13, as far as the world was concerned.

Israel's Prime Minister Ehud Barak told President Bill Clinton of Israel's decision to cancel the sale of the radar system on Wednesday, July 13, Washington time, with Prime Minister Barak, making the statement that the decision was predicated by *'the need to have intimate relations with the US.'*

TARGET's source, extrapolating from his intimate knowledge of the facts, coupled with his intimate knowledge of the people, who were involved in the negotiations to sell the radar system, explained that, while the PRC Government may state, today, that it has no intention to attack Taiwan, militarily, it does not follow that there could not be a change of heart -- tomorrow.

*'We don't want to get involved in this matter,'* the official told TARGET. *'We have enough security problems, as it is.'*

*'If there should be a situation where there is no turning back, politically speaking, and China sends an invasion force to try to conquer Taiwan, don't you think that an Israeli-manufactured early warning radar system, permitting China to identify, track and target an airborne invasion force, would be an embarrassment to my Government?'*

*'And how would we be viewed by the United States, our biggest supporter and biggest ally, if such a thing were to happen?'*

The official explained that only the tense Taiwan situation caused the cancellation of the sale.

He said: *'We just want to make some money, but not at the expense of straining international relations with our friends.'*

He explained that there was a great deal of diplomatic pressure applied on the Israeli Government from *'the highest echelons'* of the US Government.

Israel, today, is one of the leading lights in the world in the development of high technology and armaments, and it sells to nearly every country in the world.

It is Number Six in the world in the exportation of armaments; and, this export brings in more than \$HK1,000 million into the Israeli coffers annually, according to official reports.

That statistic does not include sales of such things as materiel and radar systems, which may be used by the military.

Entire higher-learning institutions are devoted to science and technology in Haifa and Tel Aviv.

These institutions work closely with the Israeli Government to help to create the requirements of the Israeli State in respect of such devices as, inter alia, early warning systems.

The Government of the PRC is well aware of this fact, the official said, and *'China knows only we can supply her needs.'*

But it appears that money is not the only criterion when it comes to making a sale of a highly sophisticated radar system, the likes of which the PRC Government covets.

While it was true that the decision not to sell the radar system to the PRC was, solely, an Israeli one, the official explained that the Israeli Prime Minister's Office takes advice and then passes on that advice, hoping that Israeli manufacturers and middlemen will consider the advice.

The official explained that this means, on translation: *'Do what I tell you ... or else.'*

*'Business is business. Yes! But there are other considerations, too, you know,'* the official said.

The United States Secretary of Defense, Mr William Cohen, visited the PRC just as the decision was made by Israel to cancel the confirmed order for the radar system.

When questioned about the matter of the cancellation of the Israeli-designed and built early warning radar system, it was reported that Mr Cohen skirted the matter, but intimated, in no uncertain terms, that the US Government would like a compromise to be reached across the Taiwan Strait.

Mr Cohen met all the top PRC Government Ministers during his 5-day trip to Beijing.

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