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JAMES RESTON

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Professor Lincoln P. Bloomfield
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Dear Professor Bloomfield,

Thanks so much for the copy of your commentary.

It has always been a puzzle to me why this simple formula for the security of Israel has not been carried out. As you know, similar suggestions have come from the most diverse sources.

I personally have talked to every Israeli prime minister since Ben-Gurion in support of the idea of an American commitment giving legal force to the so-called "alliance." Even Chairman William Fulbright of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who was no great friend of Israel, supported this idea on several occasions.

For many years, however, the Israeli government has rejected the proposal on the grounds, I suppose, that this might place the security of the state in the hands of the United States. I can understand the Israelis' concern, but I still think that a legal commitment between Israel and the United States is a better idea than any other available to Israel at the present time.

Sincerely,



James Reston