

## **Israeli View:**

By Alfred Friendly Washington Post Foreign Service

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pg. A1

# **Israeli View: *Jerusalem Fears Plot To Destroy the Nation***

By Alfred Friendly

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JERUSALEM, Israel, May 25 — The Israeli government has reached the black conclusion that what it faces is the result of a carefully planned and concerted Soviet-Egyptian program not merely to choke off its southern port of Eilat but to extinguish the nation itself.

In the words of one high official, known to reflect a government consensus, "this is the end of the road."

Important foreign diplomatic representatives here have not the slightest doubt that the country will go to war rather than accept a blockade of their shipping in the Gulf of Aqaba.

From interviews here and in Tel Aviv the unvarying forecast emerges that Israel will go to war to defend what she sees as a calculated massive assault aimed at her destruction. The only element of doubt is whether the plan is for accomplishing that end here and now or whether it is limited for the time being.

Throughout last week and for a few days of this one, the majority opinion here was that President Nasser had been carried along to more and more achievement by a series of fortuitous events of which he was more the follower than the

See **ISRAEL**, A20, Col. 4

# Israelis Fear That Russia and Egypt Are Plotting to Destroy Their Nation

creator. That idea has now disappeared.

On evidence which they

decline to reveal, Israeli leaders are now convinced that they are witnessing a

carefully conceived progressive program formulated jointly by Egypt and the Soviet Union. They are not sure when it was formulated, but perhaps last month when Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko met with Nasser in Cairo.

If the blockade remains in effect, according to this analysis, its consequence will be not merely the strangulation of Israeli communication with Africa, all of Asia, including most importantly Iran, Japan and India, and the collapse of development in the Negev, which is pivoted on the port of Eilat. It will also mean such a stupendous political and psychological victory for Nasser, the argument continues, as to spell the instant doom of King Hussein of Jordan and the rather swift collapse of Saudi Arabia's anti-Nasser position. Equivalent changes in such West-leaning nations as Tunisia, Morocco and Libya will follow. A similar effect is seen for East Africa.