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'Unrestrained devastation' in Lebanon cited

U.S. political leaders urge Israeli arms ban

By Mark A. Bruzonsky

WASHINGTON, Sat. FOR the first time, important American political leaders are calling for a cut-off of U.S. military aid to Israel because of Israel's unrestrained devastation of southern Lebanon.

Former U.S. attorney general in the Johnson administration, Ramsey Clark, told a Washington audience of about

300 this evening: "The U.S. has to stand up on this issue and we ought to stop supplying Israel with all arms while these aggressions continue."

Clark made the statement at the opening session of the national convention of the Palestine Human Rights Campaign (PHRC) after just returning from a tour of southern Lebanon. Clark came specifically to Washington from New York for his 10-minute speech and then flew directly back to New York.

Joining Clark in his call was Congressman Paul Findley (Republican, Illinois) who described the Israeli government as "shaken and unprepared" for a recent letter from U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, in response to a Congressional inquiry.

The letter indicated that Israeli actions "may" be in violation of U.S. arms sales laws and the 1952 agreement between the two countries.

Findley said: "Yasser Arafat (PLO chairman) is a freedom fighter who all through his life has used armed struggle, but who is now, I'm convinced, ready for a Palestinian state willing to live at peace with all his neighbours."

Findley further noted that Arafat had told him such a state would be willing to renounce military expansion either westward (Israel) or eastward (Jordan).

"There's been a very great advance in the attitude of the American people" toward the Palestinian issue in the past year, Findley concluded.

New alliance

Also speaking at the PHRC conference was David Dellinger, a long-time anti-war figure who visited southern Lebanon with Clark. Dellinger called for a new alliance similar to the old anti-Vietnam war alliance to change American Mid-east policy.

"This coalition will include Blacks, the anti-war and anti-nuclear people, the American Indians and the feminists," Dellinger suggested.

"We need an anti-war coalition today which will reach across the borders and underneath the governments to the people of the Mid-east, both the Palestinians and the Israelis. We have to include in our movement the people of Israel who are unhappy and protesting."

Done Luce, from the organization known as Clergy and Laity

can people. "It's an American war because we carry the weapons and we call it a Southern war."

who visited Lebanon with Clark. "It's a plea that the American press begin telling the true story of