BELEAGUERED ISRAEL
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apparently ineradicable fear and resentment of the Arabs toward the Israelis and a determination not to accept the permanent existence of Israel or to accommodate themselves to this fact. Brooding like a vulture in the skies above the Near East is Soviet Russia, which on Jan. 22 cast a veto in the Security Council on behalf of the Arabs and which is always alert for mischief anywhere.

There never are easy and quick solutions to problems of this nature. It is not surprising that a cold war of global proportions should be duplicated locally or regionally. Israel and the Arab countries provide one more trouble spot in a troubled world. We have to live with it and so do they, but the cold war must not be permitted to get hot.

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Reading the news from the Near East it is hard not to get the impression of an embattled Israel, surrounded by enemies and fighting for its existence. The reality is not quite so dramatic, for the existence of Israel is in no sense at stake. It is too well guaranteed by United Nations policies and the sympathy of individual countries, especially the United States. Anyway, the unforgotten Kibya massacre was proof that the Israelis are not always merely defending themselves. There are two sides to nearly all questions and it would be wrong to ignore the genuine grievances and justified fears that the Arabs entertain.

At the same time, it is a fact that Israel is ringed around with enemies and is, in a sense, besieged. The discussion in the United Nations over the inexcusable blocking by Egypt of ships bound through the Suez Canal to Israel is a reminder of the sort of thing that is happening. Egypt considers herself at war with Israel and hence has no compunctions in violating the Security Council's 1951 resolution calling on her to cease interfering with Israel-bound ships.

In yesterday's newspaper we also read of a border clash with Jordanians—a now commonplace but always distressing event. There was, too, a dispatch from Washington about Eric Johnston's trouble in getting the Jordan Valley development proposal accepted. This is a reminder of the 850,000 wretched Arab refugees from Palestine whose existence would alone be enough to make the Near East a powder keg.

The whole atmosphere is dangerous because it is based on a profound and

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