

## Speaker says treaty makes peace a possibility

By Tricia Waters

Two years after the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty was signed, people are incorrectly calling it a disaster and over-emphasizing its negative aspects, said Dr. Chaim Shaked, professor of Middle Eastern history at the Shiloah Center, Tel Aviv, Israel.

Shaked spoke to about 230 people Thursday morning in the Sheldon Art Gallery's auditorium. The speech was part of UNL's Middle East Symposium financed through grants and corporate donations.

"The Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement is a qualitative leap forward for Middle Eastern history," Shaked said. "We should not take it for granted. We should not over-emphasize the negative aspects."

He said people should regard peace as a separate entity and not just a termination of warfare. Peace has led to significant changes in perception, Shaked said.

The Egyptian-Israeli treaty shows the impossibility of peace is possible and provides hope for future "impossible" things to happen, he said.

For the first time in almost 100 years, the dispute

became a normal conflict between groups, Shaked said. The normalization occurred through recognition that "all protagonists are legitimate protagonists."

The peace treaty was also significant for using compromise as a legitimate way to solve conflicts, rather than violence, he said.

Shaked said some persons in the Middle East still adhere to the "all or nothing cause," and as long as they do, not much progress can be made.

Another breakthrough for peace lies in the communication between people, he said. The Middle East treaty started as a fledgling dialogue between leaders, but it now encompasses the people of the nations, he said.

Three basic changes during the 1970s made the peace treaty possible, Shaked said. One was the relative stability found in the Middle East in the 1970s compared with the strife of the three previous decades, he said.

A growing overemphasis of local patriotism led to conflicts emerging between Arab countries, he said. An example of the increasingly "poly-centric" Middle East emerged in the 80s with the Iran-Iraq war, Shaked said.

He said peace also became possible through the change in perceptions and the recognition that the solution of a country's problems lies within the country.

Shaked said he also must refer to the negative side of the peace treaty.

"The Israeli-Egyptian peace is still inherently fragile and weak," he said.

The continued lack of American credibility in the Middle East threatens peace there, Shaked said. Danger also lies in the routinization of peace by sticking to its technical aspects.

Other facts that would endanger Middle East peace are assassinations of leaders.

"Undoubtedly, peace for Egypt and Israel has been a shock," he said. "This shock requires very painful adjustment and it will be a long time before the parties involved will adjust."

## Vietnam War vets begin petition drive to keep federal funds

By D. Eric Kircher

A state senator who fought in Vietnam was the first to sign a petition designed to publicize the plight of veterans and convince the Reagan administration to leave intact or even expand programs for Vietnam veterans.

If enough Nebraska veterans sign below Sen. John DeCamp's names, copies of the petition will be presented to state representatives and Congress. UNL sociology graduate student Richard Noddings said at a Thursday press conference at the State Capitol. Noddings is a Vietnam Veterans Club officer and an American Vietnam Veterans Association member.

The petition asks the government to provide medical care for veterans exposed to Agent Orange, a defoliant used in Vietnam that has been associated with chronic health problems and birth defects. It also asks for an investigation into reports that Vietnamese still hold soldiers missing in action, and for an extension of G.I. benefits.

The petition drive is part of a national movement, Noddings said. Congress will receive petition copies during a march scheduled for May 22-26, he said.

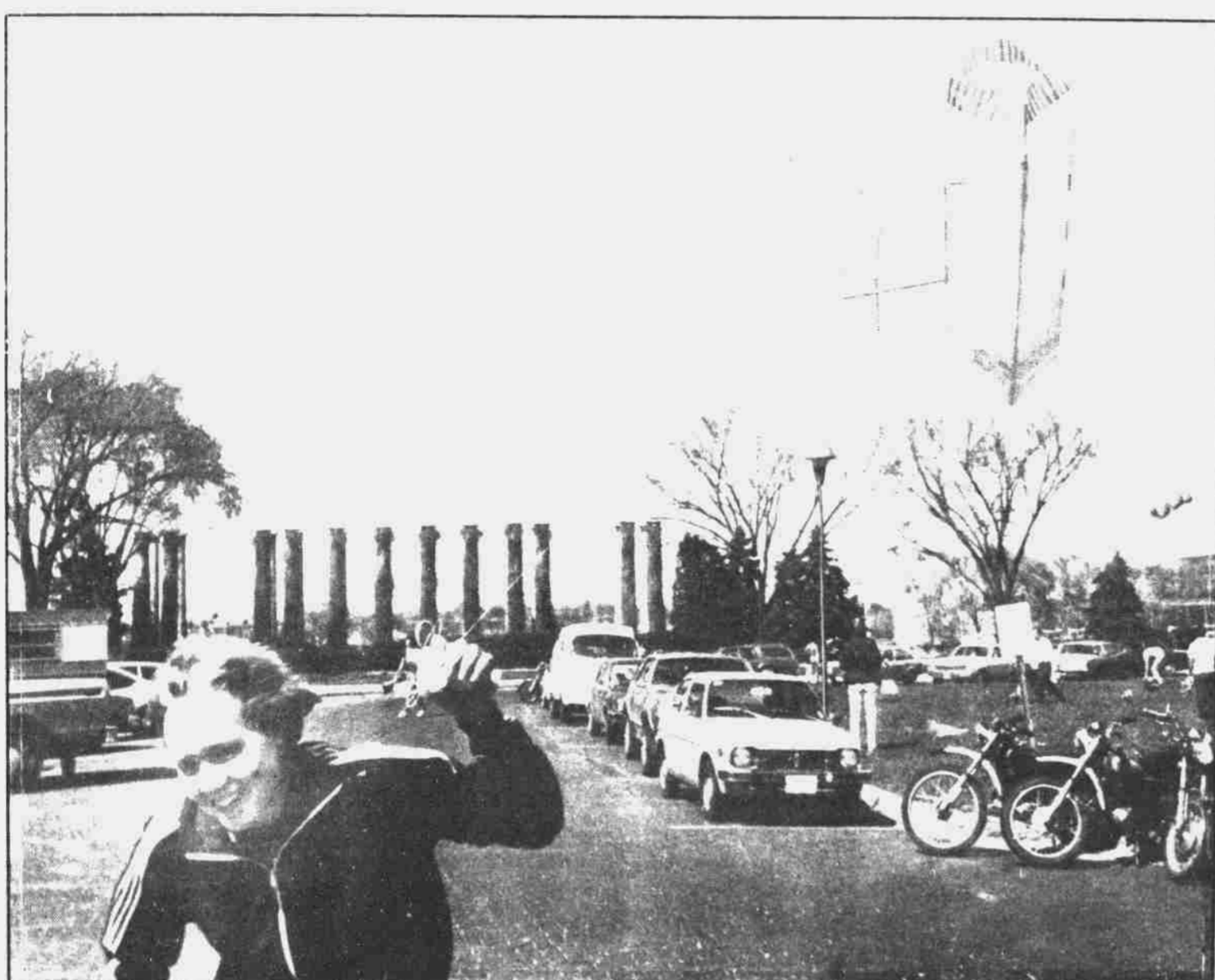
The veteran's club has permission to start an outreach program but funds for the program have been frozen by Reagan's administration, Noddings said. With veterans' programs on the "Reagan chopping block," veterans feel unsupported, he said.

Another problem Vietnam veterans experience is the public's dislike of the war and horror about the actions of the military there.

"The public doesn't want to know about it," Noddings said.

He said that veterans of other wars won't talk about Vietnam. Noddings said World War II veterans at VFW halls tell war stories, but when a Vietnam veteran starts to tell about his war, other veterans say, "We don't want to hear any more."

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Daily Nebraskan photo

Chris Leigh races against the wind Thursday afternoon attempting to get her abstract rendition of 'The Twin Towers' airborne. Leigh and about 40 students had an almost perfect afternoon flying their unusual kites, as part of an Architecture 236 class. The students construct kites to resemble buildings. Leigh's kite disintegrated moments after this photo was taken because of stress.

## Speaker: U.S. Middle East policy in shambles

By Ward W. Triplett III

Both sides of the Israeli-Arab conflict have been betrayed by vague goals of victory, and neither side knows what to make of the other, a professor of international politics said Thursday.

Dr. Abdul Aziz said of American University's School of International Politics spoke on the troubles plaguing the Middle East as part of the Middle East Symposium.

Aziz said chaired the first of six panel discussions held at the Sheldon Art Gallery Auditorium. Bela Vago of Israel and Iqbal Ahmed from the Institute for Policy Studies of Washington, D.C., joined Aziz said for the discussion titled "Birth and Rebirth of Nations in the Middle East."

Noting that solid information is hard to get from the region, Aziz said Americans need to broaden the conceptual formulation they have of the Middle East.

### Balance needed

"To do this we need to seek a balance between the Israelis and Arab nations," Aziz said. "For me, it would include three ingredients."

"First, the United States should take a part in the development of common goals for the countries. Second, we should have

a common appreciation of the threats we see to peace, and last the development of some joint program."

The threats Aziz said he was speaking of were not only communist intervention, but the erosion of hope, social injustice, and political occupation.

"These are the diseases that can hurt the Middle East the most now," Aziz said.

He said military resources may well suppress and aggravate the system.

Vago, chairman of Holocaust Studies at the University of Haifa in Israel, spoke mainly on Zionism and the effects of the Holocaust. He quoted several Israeli historians and professors in his presentation and indicated that the holocaust was the leading cause to the current state of Israel.

### Holocaust is Israel's matrix

"A well-known historian of France called the French Revolution the matrix of French history. I have adopted the view that the Holocaust is the matrix of Israel," Vago said.

Others have objected to the idea, saying, Israel would have formed without the stigma of the holocaust, he said.

But Vago said the holocaust is important in the Israeli national consciousness.

"Six million lives paid for this land.

That is why it is so important to maintain," he said.

Ahmed said at the outset of his presentation that much of what he had to say would displease the audience.

"I cannot help but regard that a Palestinian or Arab, could not be here," Ahmed began. "For I cannot tell you exactly how a Palestinian feels and that should be heard as well."

Ahmed said that the Zionist Jews have been unwilling to see the sorrow of a kindred people who have paid the price of what Vago calls the restoration of a biblical state.

### Impasse is fear

"There is an impasse between the Arab and Israeli nations that consists of two countries' fear, and each is unable to cope with the other's fear," Ahmed said.

"Do not forget the complexity of the situation."

Ahmed also criticized the Camp David accords, saying they had absolutely nothing to offer Palestinians in occupied territory or unoccupied territory.

"Twenty-four hours after the accords were signed, Israel announced 20 new Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

"Only Sadat thought by relieving the fears of a few Jewish people the expansion would end," he added.

With what Ahmed called the inevitable collapse of the accords, affirmation of the worst distrust Egypt and Israel had for each other would occur.

"I have made a special study into the American policy with the Middle East, and it is in absolute shambles," Ahmed said. "An absolute failure."

"Failure by the United States is always followed with military action. Mr. Muskie said there were 95,000 American troops around the region, and the White House is now saying something about 350,000. The situation is dangerous."

"Five months ago, I asked Muskie, 'Do you still think rapid deployment is still necessary?' He said it was not needed, and it is not force that will solve the situation."

"Yesterday I was completely surprised at what he told people here," he added.

This adds to the basic American confusion on the situation, Ahmed said.

"I would beg of students to please inform yourself on the Middle East," he said. "There is much misinformation floating about, but it is important that the entire situation is understood."