

## the mideast

### Iraq Government Wavers Toward Soviets; CIA's Fatah, Sadat Apply Pressure

June 30 (IPS) — A series of ominous moves by the Baath government of Iraq indicates that the carefully applied pressure by Rockefeller-CIA forces is on the verge of paying off. IPS has learned from reliable Arab sources that Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat, a CIA operative, is considering a state visit to Iraq in the near future, possibly immediately after his current trip to Eastern Europe.

Combined with the sudden dismissal of the Iraqi Foreign Minister Abdel Baki last week and the unexpected return of Michel Aflaq, anti-communist founder of the Baath party, to Baghdad after four years of self-exile in Beirut, a Sadat trip to Baghdad means nothing less than the beginning of Iraqi capitulation to the Sadat-Rockefeller axis in the Middle East.

Furthermore, the motion toward reconciliation between pro-Soviet Iraq and the collection of Rockefeller allies led by Sadat and Saudi King Faisal is being mediated by the counterinsurgent army Fatah led by Yasser Arafat. Fatah's announcement claiming responsibility for the June 21 terrorist attack on the Israeli coastal town of Nahariyya was made conspicuously from **Baghdad!** This startling fact was overlooked by the capitalist press — the same press which has played down the armed clashes between Fatah and the Iraqi-backed PFLP. What it signifies is that Fatah, lavishly funded by the CIA via Faisal's treasury, is being used to cover possible Iraqi moves rightward by providing a "militant" Palestine nationalist frenzy.

That — and nothing else — is the reason behind the sudden "escalation" of the Israeli-Arab terror and counter-terror war in southern Lebanon. While Leonid Brezhnev and the Soviet Politburo toast Nixon and try to make the world go away, the Soviets' lone remaining ally in the Middle East is wavering under pressure. Essentially nationalist, the Iraqi Baath cannot long resist the calls for Arab solidarity in the face of Israeli aggression.

#### "The Arab Reality"

First indications of the growing success of the CIA offensive against Iraq came in a June 5 speech by Iraqi strongman Saddam Hussein. For months Iraq had been threatened by the CIA-directed forces of the Shah of Iran, weakened by the phony rebellion of the Kurds in northern Iraq, and surrounded by Turkish NATO troops in the north and King Faisal's U.S.-equipped forces in the south. When Syria signed the Israeli disengagement accord, Iraq's strategic — and psychological — position

collapsed. Right-wing forces in the Iraqi Baath, aided by the CIA, could use the Syrian capitulation as an excuse to push Iraqi acceptance as well.

Hussein's speech came simultaneously with the signing of the Israeli-Syrian accord. "The Arab reality, my comrades and friends, is a very complicated and intermingled reality, and it is not possible in my opinion to make general judgements about how to deal with basic issues presented. In addition, it is not always possible to resort to estimations that were based on past conditions and information, for in this arena it is clear that issues are moving with unusual speed," Hussein said.

Translated into plain English, Hussein's remarks show that because of the rapid changes in the Middle East effected by Rockefeller operative Sadat, the policy of Iraq must adapt to "new realities." Unless the Soviets evince clear evidence of their full support for Iraq, Hussein will reconsider Iraq's pro-Soviet stance.

#### The Changes Come

Soon after Hussein spoke, the startling events mentioned above occurred in rapid succession. The Iraqi Foreign Minister Abdel Baki was fired, and sent to Moscow as Iraq's ambassador — a standard method for neutralizing pro-Soviet politicians. As a result, should Iraq attend the scheduled July 3 meeting of 21 Arab foreign ministers, called to "emergency" session by Kuwait to deal with the Zionist raids into Lebanon, Iraq will be represented by its nondescript new minister, Chazel Taka.

At the same time, Baath "guiding light" Aflaq returned. As a revered intellectual and a fervent Arab nationalist, Aflaq will be useful in holding party factions together should Iraq begin a replaying of the bloody purge of communists in 1963.

#### Arafat vs. PFLP

Since January, Arafat's CIA faction of the Palestinian movement has waged an escalating war with the pro-Iraqi Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). In fact, late in February the Palestinian Revolutionary Committee in Iraq expelled the pro-Arafat Hawatmeh group as "capitulationist" and Fatah responded by trying to cut off arms and supplies to PFLP centers.

The Iraqis and the PFLP, increasingly isolated from their brother Arabs, resorted to militant demagoguery, accusing Sadat and Arafat of sabotaging

the "Palestinian cause." By taking responsibility for raids into Israel, Fatah has provided Iraq with the excuse for collaboration with the Sadat-Arafat forces without weakening its militant pose. The fact that the Fatah communique was issued from Baghdad and not Damascus or Beirut indicates that the process is already far advanced.

Should Iraq fall into Rockefeller's hands, the Soviet bloc would be vastly weakened because Iraq's immense oil production would then be controlled by the CIA. Furthermore, Italian and other workers who seek allies internationally when considering the debt moratorium proposed by the Labor Committees will have lost a vital source of oil needed to break a Rockefeller embargo.

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### Israel: "Economy Lousy, Business Great"

July 8 (IPS) — The June 1 issue of *Business Week* quotes Aharon Dissentshik, chief economist of Cial Israel Investment Co., one of Israel's largest private holding companies, as saying: "The Israeli economy is in lousy shape, but business is great." Two weeks ago Tho Sanbar, Governor of the Bank of Israel, evinced the same misplaced optimism when he proposed cutbacks in public spending and private consumption which "don't warrant outcries." According to Sanbar, the economy is all right because "the U.S. doesn't want [debt] repayment this year nor the next."

Only the chemical and electronics industries are propping up the Israeli economy. The Histadrut-owned Makteshim Chemical Works Ltd. (Koor Industries) just received \$3.5 million from Rockefeller's International Finance Corporation for the development financing of a pesticide for export.

Meir Amit, presently head of Koor Industries, the Histadrut-owned octopus whose business is swallowing bankrupt factories, spoke recently at Columbia University's Council on Economic Affairs. According to Amit, whose background includes a stint as Chief of Israeli Military Intelligence, Koor's principal task is to earn more money "in every way it can."

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