

Rockefeller, NSC Act To Upset Lebanon Accord

Lebanese Falange, Peres Keep Nuclear Threat Alive

April 18 (IPS) — Bloody new provocations by Lebanese and Israeli right-wing forces sponsored by Rockefeller, Henry Kissinger, and the National Security Council threatened this weekend to set off an uncontrollable chain reaction in the Middle East leading to a thermonuclear holocaust. The provocations, by the fanatic Lebanese Falangists and by extremist Zionists controlled by Israeli Defense Minister Shimon Peres, were directed to upset an extremely fragile political accord emerging in Lebanon as the result of parallel interventions into the Middle East by the Soviet Union, the French Gaullists, and the Ball-Harriman wing of the Atlanticists.

The continued commitment by the Rockefeller forces to push the Middle East to the brink of nuclear war is the most dangerous application of a policy of deliberately provoking regional confrontations around the globe. This insane policy, recently enunciated by Kissinger in an April 16 speech to the Rotary Club in Phoenix, Arizona, includes backing up a conventional arms buildup with the NATO nuclear arsenal in a series of local conflicts to confront "Soviet power." Together with the resurrected "Schlesinger Doctrine" of limited nuclear warfare, the Kissinger policy threatens to spread from the Middle East, already at the boiling point, to Latin America and southern Africa. Further, the Middle East crisis is being used as a rationale for a Rockefeller-NATO military buildup along NATO's southern flank from Portugal to Turkey, in the eastern Mediterranean, and into south Asia through the revitalized CENTO pact of Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan.

Unless there is rapid motion to defuse the dangerous crisis in the Middle East and begin peace negotiations, the region will remain on a 48-hour-long fuse, in which time any one of a number of scenarios could unfold, pushing the situation beyond the point at which it can be controlled. Henry Kissinger and the Rockefeller brothers must be removed from their positions of power immediately, and their extra-governmental terrorist apparatus dismantled, or the world will continue to face the danger of sudden thermonuclear annihilation.

Tension Remains

Despite the deceptive calm in Lebanon today, the highly delicate and explosive situation involving particularly Syrian and Israeli forces and Lebanon's various factions remains virtually unchanged. On Friday, April 16, a tentative agreement between the NATO-allied Syrian regime, the Lebanese left, and the Palestine Liberation Organization was announced. While the paper accord essentially does not differ from past Syrian ceasefire proposals, all of which were categorically rejected by the revolutionary Lebanese left and the PLO, the basis of the agreement this time includes "secret Syrian political concessions" to the left and the Palestinians, according to the Washington Post. Among the reported secret provisions of the pact are the withdrawal of the thousands of Syrian army troops in Lebanon and an end

to a Syrian army and navy blockade of Lebanese ports and highways aimed at preventing arms, food, and fuel from reaching the Lebanese leftist forces.

By keeping the concessions secret, the leaders of the Lebanese left, including Kamal Jumblatt and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, have given Syrian President Hafez Assad a "face-saving compromise," as the New York Times described it, to extricate Syria from Lebanon. With at least two divisions of the Syrian army frozen inside Lebanon and along its borders, the Assad regime had placed itself in an extremely vulnerable position — unable to retreat without being humiliated, and unable to advance without heavy battles with Arab nationalists and Communists and the Palestinians, an event which expert observers believe would spark a revolt among nationalists and pro-Iraqi officers in the Syrian army. Crucial to the Syrian-Lebanese agreement was the mediation of both the Soviets, through Ambassador Soldatov in Beirut, and the Gaullists, whose mediator, Georges Gorse, spent the last two weeks in Beirut and Damascus.

Kissinger Provocations

Simultaneous provocations in Lebanon and Israel by Kissinger and the NSC already threaten to make the pact a dead letter. Its collapse, and a new round of all-out warfare in Lebanon, would immediately force a full-scale Syrian invasion and an Arab-Israeli war, with incalculable results.

In Lebanon, right-wing terrorists of the Falangist and National Liberal parties, both fascist creations of the Rockefeller forces, launched the bloodiest offensive of the year-long civil war on April 16, deliberately shelling hospitals and bread lines in an orgy of violence that left over 400 dead. The attack, which was set off to coincide with the tense negotiations in Damascus between Assad and Arafat, was clearly a last effort by Rockefeller to upset the accord, and Beirut observers speculated that the Falangist-NLP offensive was designed to force Syria to march into and occupy Beirut.

In Israel, meanwhile, the Rockefeller-sponsored warhawks led by Peres and former Defense Minister Moshe Dayan acted to heat up Arab-Israeli tensions. A march by 10,000 extremists of the "Land of Israel" movement, discreetly backed by Peres and Dayan, entered the Israeli-occupied West Bank today in a purposeful attempt to provoke the Palestinian Arabs and force Israel to annex the territory. At the same time, Arab demonstrators in Ramallah on the West Bank were provoked by Israeli police and armed forces, put on the alert for the occasion of the march, and the resulting clashes left three Arabs dead today, including a six-year-old boy. Such provocations can only spill over into Syria and Lebanon, fueling rising Arab nationalists feelings there.

In Israel itself, according to informed sources, Peres has launched a drive to consolidate the right-wing "Rafi" faction of the dominant Labour Party in preparation for an alliance with the opposition Likud bloc, and is seeking to become

prime minister in a warhawk government. General Yitzhak Rabin, the current prime minister, is already a seeming captive of the Peres-Dayan clique. On Friday Rabin warned that if Syrian troops in Lebanon crossed an unspecified "red line" in Lebanon, Israel would go to war. By deliberately keeping the tripwire for Israeli intervention vague, Rabin exacerbated tensions and opened up Rockefeller-Dayan options for an Israeli war drive at any moment.

ICLC Mobilizes To Stop War

Following the issuing on April 14 of an emergency executive statement on the Middle East crisis by the ICLC, hundreds of highly thorough, professional briefings were delivered by telephone to the entire spectrum of U.S. policy makers, financial interests, and political leaders from NCLC Intelligence officers. Key targets were leading figures of the Harriman-Ball faction, who were given marching orders to contact the White House immediately on cooling down the Middle East and beginning moves toward convening a

Geneva Conference to negotiate a peace-and-development settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Some of those reached, like Cyrus Vance — who was actually issuing policy statements on the Middle East this week — were found to be stupidly unaware of the actual extent of the crisis until briefed by the Labor Committees.

The continued, stubborn refusal of Harriman et al. to commit themselves to the pro-development perspective for the Middle East outlined by the ICLC, including a regulation of the regional crisis in the context of a reorganization of East-West relations according to the new world economic order, ensures that no fruitful negotiations between pro-peace forces in Israel and among the Arabs can take place under the present U.S. Administration's mediation. In fact, the various Arab and Israeli forces seriously concerned to establish peace in the Middle East would find it more productive to use channels kept open by the Labor Committees.