



Middle East Newsletter

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Kissinger Insites Tripoli Massacre, Puts Mideast At Nuclear Flashpoint

May 15 (IPS) — The Rockefeller forces are driving ahead unchecked for a thermonuclear show of force in the Middle East. The Lebanese civil war, pitting leftists and Palestinians against an array of NATO-backed right-wing and Syrian forces, has become the staging ground for an intended bloody NATO "victory," a symbol of the ruthless determination of Rockefeller's worldwide fascist offensive. The Israeli nuclear arsenal — brandished openly under the Schlesinger Doctrine of limited nuclear war — is the enforcer of this scenario.

Thousands of NATO-controlled Syrian army troops and paramilitary Saiqa commandos stormed into Tripoli, Lebanon May 13 and slaughtered hundreds of members and sympathizers of the pro-Iraqi Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party (ABSP) and other leftist forces, according to Cairo Radio. Overwhelming the defenses of the city with tanks, armored cars, and heavy artillery, the Syrian forces rapidly occupied all strategic points in what had been a major stronghold of the Lebanese left. Over 200 people were killed in the attack, and hundreds of prisoners were carted back to Damascus, Syria by the occupying forces.

The attack on Tripoli, part of a general offensive launched earlier this week by Syria and the fascist Lebanese Falangists, has pushed the year-old Lebanese civil war into a new stage. The deliberate provocation of the Lebanese left and the Palestinians — and of Iraq and the Soviet Union — has raised the danger of a full-scale Arab-Israeli war. Israeli hawks, known to favor a pre-emptive strike against Lebanon and Syria, have repeatedly warned that a leftist victory in Lebanon or an occupation of the country by Syria would be cause for war.

In Washington, Henry Kissinger met yesterday with Israeli Ambassador Sincha Dinitz to discuss the "danger of a general war in the Middle East arising out of the Lebanon fighting," according to the Baltimore Sun.

Israel, NATO on Alert

The growing crisis in the Middle East has been paralleled by a military buildup by NATO forces in the Mediterranean. Krasnaya Zvezda, the Soviet military newspaper, reported May 11 that the U.S. Sixth Fleet and NATO forces had scheduled naval maneuvers in the eastern Mediterranean for mid-May. On Malta, the Soviets reported, a British air force base was the scene of a heavy concentration of jet fighters "from all over Europe," and a large contingent of British Navy vessels was expected shortly.

"Even more alarming," reported Krasnaya Zvezda, "are the feverish military preparations by Israel." The report cited the fact that Israel had rockets "capable of carrying

nuclear warheads," and noted that tests of these missiles had recently been completed by the Israelis. Finally, noting that Israel also possessed atomic weapons, the Soviet daily concluded by warning that a preventive strike by Israel against the Arab states was a "real possibility."

The array of force by Israel and NATO, and the threat of a general war involving Israeli nuclear weapons, is the deliberate result of a blatant policy of nuclear brinkmanship pursued by the secretary of state. The bloody provocations in Tripoli, Lebanon, and the stepped-up Syrian offensive was ordered with the full knowledge that an expected leftist counteroffensive — and even overt Iraqi or Soviet military involvement — would be the likely result. The Rockefeller forces, including the Moshe Dayan military and intelligence faction in Israel and the Saudi-Aramco complex, are prepared to use such an occasion to test — live — the Schlesinger Doctrine of "limited" nuclear war.

Former U.S. Defense Secretary James Schlesinger described his view of Israel as a test case for demonstrating the U.S. will to resist "Soviet pressures" in May 12 Washington Post "Israel does represent an excuse, an opportunity for Soviet regional intervention in the Middle East," said Schlesinger. "But it also represents a deterrent against such intervention in active form." Israel's strategic importance, he concluded, was "as a symbol of American intention, American steadfastness."

President Ford — captive in the White House — and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin have taken partial steps this week to block the extremist Rockefeller-Dayan forces from triggering a nuclear holocaust. But prospects remain grim. Ford has not yet acted to dump Kissinger, and therefore remains hostage to the anti-Geneva Conference policies of Kissinger and his employer, Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller.

Peres Threatens Rabin

In Israel, a powerful and growing peace movement led by former Foreign Minister Abba Eban and moderate members of the ruling Israel Labour Party is providing a modicum of support to Prime Minister Rabin. But this week open war erupted in the Israeli Cabinet, as Defense Minister Shimon Peres — the leader of the Israeli hawks — angrily reacted to rumors that Rabin was trying to fire him by announcing that Rabin should "dismiss himself."

The overt challenge by Peres to Rabin carries an ominous threat. Peres, with Dayan and the Israeli General Staff, effectively controls the Israeli military, and in the present emergency has the potential to make a virtual coup d'etat should Rabin seriously consider ousting from the Cabinet.

The chief danger in the Peres mutiny is that it will serve to justify an Israeli "breakaway" from the U.S., such that an Israeli pre-emptive strike into Lebanon, Syria or Iraq would appear unconnected with its real sponsors, the Kissinger-NSC cabal. The issue of expanded Israeli settlements in the West Bank and other occupied territories which was denounced this week by Ford — is the political cover for a phony Israeli resistance to the U.S.

Lebanon: Left Counteroffensive

Christian rightists and Syrian allies opened a general offensive against the left May 9, the day after the election of Sarkis, bringing large tank brigades, heavy artillery, and helicopters into a central Lebanon battle. Parallel offensives were launched into eastern Beirut and Tripoli, Lebanon's two major cities and strongholds of the leftist coalition which includes the Communist Party, various left militia, and the Palestian movement. Le Monde reports that 4000 Syrian troops entered Lebanon May 9 in a convoy of 100 trucks and deployed alongside the Falangists to strengthen the rightist offensive.

The Tripoli massacre of Ba'ath party cadre and militants served to unify the left as never before. Kamal Jumblatt, the leader of the Lebanese left, and Ahmed Khatib, the commander of the rebel Lebanese Arab Army, announced the formation of a joint command for their forces soon after the Tripoli attack by Syria was launched.

Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, held a ten-hour meeting of his Executive Committee and decided to throw the full military weight of the PLO behind the Lebanese left. Previously, the PLO had remained officially neutral. In his statement, Arafat called Syrian President Hafez Assad a "traitor," and — in an open challenge to Assad's authority — demanded that Palestinian forces under Syrian control desert their units and join the PLO and the left in fighting the rightist Christians in central Lebanon.

The public attack on Assad by Arafat served a mortal blow to the Syrian president's credibility as a "revolutionary" Arab leader. One source openly predicted a coup d'etat against the Assad regime, and the Washington Post reported that diplomats in Beirut and Damascus now think that a Syrian attack on the PLO would "run great risks of inspiring a rebellion among Syrian military commanders."

The Tripoli attack by Syria also spurred a redoubled leftist assault against the stronghold of the fascist Lebanese Falangists and their allies. The PLO and the Lebanese left together launched an attack from the south and east toward the heart of the Christian right's stronghold surrounding the port of Junieh. According to the New York Times, Junieh itself was shelled for the first time, and the two key towns of Faraya and Broumana fell to the left. Without a vastly stepped up — and politically dangerous — new Syrian offensive, a complete leftist victory and the destruction of the Falange is likely.

But Rockefeller has placed a nuclear "tripwire" around the Falange. Without the appropriate political measures, including an expose of the Schlesinger Doctrine scenario and its puppet actors — the Falange, the Saudis, and the Dayanists — and an appreciation of the willingness of certain

Israeli forces to pursue an overall settlement, then the Lebanon crisis can only touch off a global nuclear holocaust.

Israeli Factional Struggles

Peres' calls for a government collapse climaxed a bitter factional struggle precipitated by the moves of Peres and his close ally Moshe Dayan toward an NSC-planned military coup in Israel. A sign of the growing strength of Peres and Co. was provided May 9 when the Israeli Cabinet was slated to decide government policy toward stepped-up Jewish settlement of areas occupied by Israel during the 1967 war. The Cabinet decided to establish a large number of new settlements, a direct provocation to the Arabs, reportedly capitulating to rightist pressures from Peres and his factional ally Ga'ad Yaacobi, who threatened to resign if opposed.

Representing the ruling Labour Party's center, and strongly pressured by the party's moderate and leftist forces, the ambivalent Rabin and his backers have shown the first timid signs that they recognize the warhawks' threat by hinting that Peres will be ditched.

Any further hesitation, however, could force a fullscale government crisis within days, possibly bringing a consolidated military clique into an emergency government of national unity — the first step toward an NSC-staged regional thermonuclear war. However, with sufficient international support, appropriate diplomatic signals from the Arab sector and the socialist sector, and the articulation of a clear program for regional detente and development from Israel's peace forces, a government led by moderate former Foreign Minister Abba Eban could emerge out of the crisis.

Eban, just returned from several days of diplomatic talks in Paris, called this week for early national elections and for a policy of substantial Israeli territorial compromise. Eban counterposed his policy to last weekend's "unreasonable" decision by the Israeli Cabinet to authorize new settlements by Jewish religious fanatics in the Arab-populated West Bank. Informed sources insist that Eban will soon announce for the premiership on a strong pro-peace program.

Kissinger Sabotage

Israeli United Nations Ambassador Chaim Herzog was officially rebuked this week by Israeli U.S. Ambassador Simcha Dinitz, an intimate ally of Henry Kissinger, for having raised "dangerous subjects" in discussions with Soviet Ambassador Yacov Malik. According to yesterday's Jerusalem Post, the "dangerous subjects" included "superpower guarantees for an overall Arab-Israeli peace settlement" and the means for overcoming Israel's refusal to talk to the Palestine Liberation Organization, thus far the main impediment to peace negotiations.

Dinitz met yesterday with Kissinger to discuss "general war in the Mideast" and stepped-up U.S. military aid to Israel. He then cabled Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon accusing Herzog of raising matters with Malik that Israel "does not even discuss with the U.S.," an open admission of the Kissinger faction's sabotage of peace efforts.

Allon, a possible ally of Eban's in a government crisis situation, unexpectedly cabled Herzog praising his UN diplomatic efforts, a move seen as "especially significant" in view of the Dinitz attacks, according to the Post. The U.S.

press has blacked out reports of the Herzog-Soviet meeting as well as Dinitz's and Allon's UN actions.

Dayan and company continue to maintain a high-pitched terror atmosphere within Israel. The warhawks are openly encouraging the expansionist Gush Emunim religious fanatics to settle lands in Arab-populated territories. This month as well, a suspicious terror wave, attributed to "Palestinians," has broken out in the cities of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. The increased terror has provoked calls in the right-wing Israeli press for additional security measures in the cities.

Turmoil in Egypt Gives Saudis Leverage

The pressure on the Egyptian regime of President Anwar Sadat to repay its \$12 billion in external debt continues to create a political crisis within Egypt. The Soviet Union's failure to grant Egypt a moratorium on the \$3.8 billion owed to it by Egypt has exacerbated the problem.

This financial pressure on Sadat gives the U.S. State Department controlled Saudi Arabian government leverage in its drive to consolidate right-wing regimes throughout the Arab world. Despite repeated calls this week by Sadat and his Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmi for an immediate resumption of the Geneva Mideast peace conference to discuss an overall peace settlement, Saudi pressure could rope the Egyptians into another — and suicidal — Mideast war.

With the IMF and World Bank demanding that every penny of Egypt's loans be repayed on time, Sadat has complied with the "request" of these agencies to eliminate government subsidies on food and other commodities. He has also moved to make the Egyptian pound convertible, opening up the country to more profitable looting arrangements at the hands of Wall Street.

Such actions can only be taken under increasing police state conditions. A series of suspiciously planted bombs in public buildings and factories in the Nile Delta were all discovered and defused in time. This and similar "terrorist" activities have provided Sadat and his Interior Minister Gen. Hassan Abu Basha all the excuse needed to clamp down on centers of opposition to the regime's austerity policies.

Sadat has also conducted a purge within the government-owned press, reshuffling editors and journalists, the May 10 Financial Times reported. Two editors of the Marxist monthly Al Talia were among those removed, while the monthly's employees were thrown out of their government-owned office buildings. The economic fortnightly Ahram Ektesadi which had recently criticized the government's policies was given a similar treatment. Sadat however is fighting a losing battle. While he may block left opposition, he is opening himself up to attacks from the right. Knowledgeable sources are now reporting a recent step-up in the activity of the Moslem Brotherhood, a fanatic religious-based fascist grouping directly controlled by the CIA's Saudi-Aramco intelligence network, in Egypt against Sadat.

Saudi Arabia has taken full advantage of Sadat's paralysis. Saudi deputy Prime Minister Prince Fahd will be meeting this week in Saudi Arabia with the Prime Ministers of Syria, Egypt, and Kuwait, in preparation for a summit of the leaders of these countries next month. These meetings come amid a major Saudi effort to push the Russians off the Arabian Peninsula. Their most recent initiatives have involved waving substantial sums of petro-dollars around to convince their neighbors that it is more rewarding to cooperate with Saudi Arabia than the Soviet Union.

Saudi Arabia has agreed to finance the purchase of more than \$100 million worth of military material from the U.S. for North Yemen. In exchange, President Ibrahim el Hamidi is to expel the last 150 Soviet military advisers in the country.

But the Saudis — and their masters — are far more interested in the openly pro-Soviet government of the Popular Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen), which has several thousand Soviet advisors in charge of training the army and maintaining installations used by the Soviet fleet. Western press sources report that the Saudis have convinced the South Yemenis not to permit the Soviet fleet to use the Island Perim in the Bab el Mandeb Straights in the Red Sea in exchange for \$40 million.

Although the Saudis would rather deal with an entirely different government, they have reportedly promised another \$250 million over the next five years to the present South Yemen government if it moves away from its strong pro-Moscow line.