

Reporter: What's in store for the Palestinians?

Brown: The Palestinian resistance is in grave trouble. It's probably breaking up. What to do next is a big problem for them.

Reporter: What about Kuwait being a flashpoint for Palestinian activity and confrontation?

Brown: Kuwait? Not in the close future. Kuwait has a good control system, police and money, security, holding these over the Palestinians. No one will accept Palestinian unrest. The Kuwaitis are very good at giving the first plane ticket out to troublemakers. The Syrians don't really want to destroy the resistance, they want to reorganize it. Anyway, you can't destroy the Palestinians as such, there's too many of them, you can't drive them out. . .

NSC Mideast Director Confirms:

"The Lebanese Left Will Be Slaughtered"

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 14 (NSIPS) — The following are excerpts from an interview with Robert Oakley, the National Security Council Director of Middle Eastern Affairs. The interview coincided with demands for Soviet and Iraqi aid by the Palestinians and Lebanese leftists and indications from Comecon sector media that the Soviets were planning some form of help.

NSIPS: Mr. Oakley, are recent reports that the Soviets are planning "urgent action" in Lebanon correct?

Oakley: (Leftist leader Kameal) Jumblatt and (Palestine Liberation Organization head) Arafat were told that today by the Soviet Ambassador. But I have no idea what it might mean.

NSIPS: Do you think the Soviets will take strong action, even military action, to aid the Palestinians and left?

Oakley: I doubt they will intervene militarily.

NSIPS: But they obviously will not stand by while the Syrians massacre the Palestinians and left.

Oakley: My personal assessment is that the editorial of the New York Times of yesterday was correct in saying that the Palestinians and left have missed their chance for discussion. I'm not sure they can make an agreement. I'm hoping something will happen — but there are too many people involved.

NSIPS: So you believe the Syrians will slaughter the left, and that the Soviets and the Iraqis, who are now saying they will not allow this, will just watch?

Oakley: The Middle East is noted for its talk, less for its action. October 1973 (the Arab-Israeli War - ed.) was an exception and that includes the Iraqis.

NSIPS: You are agreeing that the Syrians are planning to slaughter the left?

Oakley: If you want to call it slaughter. There were earlier reports that the Palestinians and left slaughtered the Syrians.

NSIPS: (Syrian President) Assad will not last long if the Syrians continue their assault. Yesterday apparently there was an attempted coup against him.

Oakley: You and some of your friends have said that Assad is about to go but he hasn't. Syria has a history of rumors like that. . . Go back and match what has been said by the parties in the Middle East to what they have done! We are not playing the games you claim! We're not controlling the situation despite what you might think!

Eugene Rostow Calls For U.S.-Soviet Confrontation In Mideast

July 17 (NSIPS) — The following conversation between Eugene Rostow, currently of Yale University and the Citizens Alliance for Mediterranean Freedom (CAMF) and former top State Department official, and a reporter on the Mideast crisis on July 13, has been obtained exclusively by NSIPS.

Reporter: Has CAMF formed a policy for the Middle East and Lebanon?

Rostow: Not yet as far as I know. They are in the throes of sitting down and working out a policy which will be similar to the U.S.'s and the Atlantic Alliance, that is, peace between Israel and her neighbors before we do anything like deploying and mobilizing both politically and militarily to reverse Soviet penetration.

Reporter: What about Soviet support and action on behalf of the Palestinians?

Rostow: I'm not surprised. The Economic Intelligence Service said over a month ago that the Soviet Chief of Staff had his HQ in a warship off the Lebanese coast. It must be fearful and bewildering for them. After all, someone must be supplying the Christians.

Reporter: Who?

Rostow: The French and the Israelis of course.

Reporter: But this sounds like there could be an intervention by the Israelis and possibly the U.S. and there would be one big war.

Rostow: What do you think has been going on, girl? When the Israelis kill any Soviets they smuggle them out of the country. They don't want people to know about it. Remember in '67 — over the canal, you never heard about it again.

Reporter: But why, . . . you would think the Israelis would want to publish it.

Rostow: They don't want to provoke the Russians. They are terrified.

Reporter: Are the Soviets moving?

Rostow: Are the Soviets moving? — Well, I am up here in Vermont and not at the State Department. We are forming another group; we don't want it (CAMF - ed.) to be tied into each episode that comes along.

Reporter: What do you mean another group forming?

Rostow: You didn't hear I said that. I didn't speak. It's a slip of the tongue.

Reporter: What do you think about the Uganda hijacking?

Rostow: I'm not following it too much, and CAMF has not yet drafted anything on this, though they might. . . I was very pleased that Scranton said what he did finally. I had a public letter ready saying just what Scranton said.

Reporter: What about the Seventh Fleet moving into the Indian Ocean?

Rostow: I didn't know about that but it's a good idea. The threat to the Horn of Africa is great. Of course the French are working closely with the U.S. over this. It looks like a renewal of the Red Sea Regatta concept of '67 and '73.

Reporter: What about Kuwait — with the Israelis blaming Kuwait for the hijacking, has the emphasis moved to the Gulf?

Rostow: It already has. The question is what will Soviet policy be around the U.S. elections. They always do something crazy around election time. The problem is, they assume — falsely — that Ford and Kissinger are paralyzed.

Reporter: Will NATO act in a situation like this (the Mideast)?

Rostow: I wish I did see NATO moving into the situation. A NATO strike force is preparing to go to the area. But it isn't ready yet.