

Terror Scandals Endanger Mideast

Peace Chances

Tensions in the Middle East are heating up despite efforts to immediately reconvene the Geneva Peace conference which are being vigorously pursued by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. The suspicious suicide of Israeli Housing Minister Ephraim Ofer, a leading dove, coupled with an increase in terrorism and assassinations and heightened instability in Lebanon, have created immediate obstacles to the Arab call for peaceful negotiations.

In each case, the responsibility for the new turn of events in the region can be traced to the Carter-allied Institute for Policy Studies (IPS), an internationally connected pseudo-left think tank.

The Israeli Committee for Israel-Palestine Peace, which has personnel connections with IPS, played a critical role both in provoking the Ofer death and in attempts to infiltrate and subvert the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, both operations designed to sabotage a comprehensive Arab-Israel settlement which would include the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

It was the Israeli newspaper *Ha'olam Hazeh*, edited by Committee executive Uri Avineri, which recently initiated a press campaign of scandal-mongering against Ofer, according to the Dec. 4 *Baltimore Sun*. The campaign was escalated only days before Ofer's death. Housing Minister Ofer was a close ally of Prime Minister Rabin who favored Rabin's position in support of a negotiated settlement with the Arabs, which Rabin seeks to make the election issue in his bid for a new term in the upcoming Israeli balloting. The Ofer death has already served as an excuse to trigger a wave of criticism against Rabin and the ruling Labor Party by the right-wing opposition in Israel.

Simultaneously, efforts on the part of IPS and the Committee to undercut the existing leadership of the PLO surfaced last week when two IPS agents in the Palestinian movement, in unauthorized meetings in Paris with Committee representative General Mattei Peled, signed documents effectively recognizing the existence of Israel. The move, which was calculated to send shock waves through the numerous factions of the PLO on the eve of the Palestine National Council meeting to decide on the crucial issue of whether or not to attend the Geneva Conference, was immediately denounced by

PLO acting Foreign Minister Farouk Kaddoumi in a message from Beirut.

The same Palestinians were denounced weeks before by Kaddoumi following their efforts to open a Washington, D.C. office where contacts were made with IPS official Arthur Waskow. At the same time, Al Fatah leader Abu Hassan recently denounced the IPS maneuvers around the Geneva Conference issue as "only an attempt to divide the ranks of the Palestinians."

Within days after the Paris meeting, a former high-ranking official in the PLO, who was currently a supporter of the Iraqi-backed Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, was assassinated in Paris. The PFLP has been targeted by IPS "moderates" in the Palestinian movement as their most formidable adversary in taking over the movement.

The Soviet Union is strongly supporting the current leadership of the PLO. *Pravda* again this week affirmed the PLO as the only representative of the Palestinian people, and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev sent a message of support to PLO leader Yassir Arafat.

Lebanon Heating Up

In line with predictions made by the *Washington Post* last month that Lebanon would soon see a wave of terror, the worst bombing since the ceasefire was instituted ripped through a section of East Beirut last week, destroying a Falange headquarters and killing 25. Right-wing Falangist ally Camille Chamoun immediately pinned the blame for the incident on the Lebanese Communist Party, and warned that the incident will add to an inevitable rekindling of the Lebanese civil war. In the same vein, the speaker of the Lebanese Parliament, Kamal Assad, predicted in an interview with a Jordanian newspaper that with the continued tension between the PLO and the Falange in southern Lebanon and the presence of Israeli troops along the border, the situation may well get out of hand.

A prominent left-leaning British Labour Party member, Lord Caradon, this week issued a strongly worded statement to the incoming Carter administration to heed the repeated attempts on the part of the Arabs to move the U.S. to support their call for the immediate reconvening of the Geneva conference. In a letter reprinted in the *London Observer*, Caradon stressed the

urgency of peace in the Mideast and warned that renewed fighting in Lebanon posed a serious danger for the entire region.

Bell:

'The Closer a Mideast Settlement, the More Terrorist Spectaculars'

The following is an interview with J. Bowyer Bell, Columbia University terrorism expert, recent author of a book favorably portraying the Jewish Irgun terrorist movement. Mr. Bell had just affirmed in the interview that right-wing extremism of a violent variety is a thing of the past in Israel.

Q: If "Jewish terrorism" is unlikely at this point, what about the other side of the picture, the Palestinians, is this a thing of the past too?

A: Not by any means! Generally speaking, terrorism is a growth industry, it is labor-intensive and has rewarding capital benefits. The closer we get to a Mideast settlement, the more we will see terrorist spectaculars. Five-six people gathered together can take over television networks.

Q: When you say terrorism is a growth industry, are you talking only of the Palestinians?

A: No, not simply the Palestinians, not at all. Why, if I were a Puerto Rican independentist, I'd set off bombs on Wall Street after what happened this weekend. We'll see terrorism from the IRA, in Scotland, in Wales, Catalonia, the right and left in Italy, also in Germany, from the Croats. In the U.S. the danger will come from Cuban exiles, from Puerto Ricans, maybe even from Chicanos, with the Spanish-speaking in this country you have an awful lot of them and there's a big nationality issue. How would you like a Southern California Liberation Front? It's possible, you know. Countries that have not been known for indigenous terrorism, like Sweden, Iceland, and the U.S., will be more vulnerable.

Q: What exactly do you expect from the Palestinians? Terrorism in the U.S.?

A: Sure. It's a lot better to go after a World Trade tower than some dinky hotel in Amman. This is very likely, hard to prevent, you can buy an M-16 anywhere. The terrorism will come from the Palestinian "rejectionists," the Habash PFLP people, the so-called General Command, ad nauseum.

Q: Will it be aimed at the Israelis?

A: The Israelis have hit teams everywhere, they sit around at airports looking for trouble. In the Mideast, as peace comes, there will be terrorist rockets all over. It will cause us, and the English, big trouble, they'll say. Why not pick on the Americans, after all, they're the ones who arm the Israelis? But as for Israel itself, there's no chance of terrorism against Israel, there's too much security. The safest airline to fly will be El Al. The whole thing is, indeed, unfolding as if by choreographed drama. But the Palestinian "fedayeen" are disastrous terrorists. The only efficient revolutionary terrorist organization ever was the Irgun. I liked them.

Factionalism Within The Palestinian Movement

The following is a paraphrase from the Milan Corriere della Sera, Jan. 3 reporting on factionalization within the Palestinian movement.

A few hours after General Mattei Peled revealed documents signed by reported representatives of the Palestinian movement and the Israeli Committee for Israeli-Palestinian Peace in the Mideast, effectively recognizing each other's existence, acting Foreign Minister for the Palestine Liberation Organization Farouk Kaddoumi sent a message from Beirut to Paris "categorically denying" the documents.... "In the name of the PLO Farouk Kaddoumi denies everything from A to Z."

Asks *Corriere*: "Is it that Peled invented out of the blue sky that Palestinians had agreed to the text out of which emerges the PLO's acceptance of the creation of a Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza and peace with Israel?"

"Most of the Israeli political observers, among them the editors of Ha'aretz, do not doubt the authenticity of this text." Journalists who received reports of the documents note that it "highlights the aggravation of the struggle between factions within the PLO. The journalists quote an interview with a Palestinian in a Kuwaiti newspaper in which he demands the liquidation of the faction beginning with the rejectionists.

"It is not a secret that the two PLO delegates (who attended the Paris meeting — ed.) Sartawi and Jirius, belong to the moderate wing of the PLO and are pro-American. On the other hand, Kaddoumi, although not a member of the rejection front, does not intend to accept an American peace to the Mideast conflict."

Says Arie Eliav, an executive member of the Peace Committee: "...the Palestine committee, its activity, the meetings at Paris represent a catalyst in the factional struggle within the PLO...Kadoumi's statements however do not facilitate our work but we will not stop fighting to convince Israeli public opinion and the Israeli government that today we think that within the PLO there are sound people that we can talk to and that they represent the most important and influential faction. We will not stop repeating that there are such people in the Palestinian movement and that there are issues that we can jointly treat."

Arafat and Hassan on PLO Solidarity

The following are excerpts from statements on solidarity within the PLO by PLO leader Yassir Arafat and Al Fatah official Abu Hassan.

Arafat's message on the 12th anniversary of the Palestinian Revolution, Dec. 31, 1976:

Kissinger has stated that what took place at the Rabat Summit in 1974 had disrupted all his plans and calculations. He thereafter had to begin striking at the essence of Arab steadfastness, and particularly, at the allies of the October War: Egypt, Syria, and the Palestinian

Revolution, and then to disarm the Arabs of the oil weapon.

We must admit that Kissinger has realized remarkable success in his counterattack.

The American imperialist Zionist conspiracy has not ended. On the contrary, it will become fiercer in the next phase. For imperialist-Zionist forces have concentrated their efforts on liquidating the Palestinian Revolution in its capacity as the factor which complicates their plan for the future of the region. And if they are unable to liquidate the Revolution, they are not adverse to taming it or trimming its wings, thereby turning it into a disarmed helpless force....

Abu Hassan in an interview with the Algerian daily El Moudjahid:

People are now acting to force a split inside the PLO...all that is said right now around the Geneva conference is only an attempt to divide the ranks of the Palestinians....We must first be officially invited and study this invitation and can have the opportunity to expose and examine the points of view of the Palestinian people...We will not accept the UN resolution 242 where the Palestinian question is only expressed as a "refugee question."

Caradon Urges Swift Agreement On Overall Mideast Settlement

Britain's Lord Caradon delivered a direct message to the Carter Administration in a letter to the London Observer, Jan. 2, on the need for an immediate peace in the Mideast:

I do not doubt that there are those in Washington who would wish to continue the policy of divide and delay in the Middle East. Kissinger's Sinai agreement had three evils; first, it divided the Arabs, secondly, it alienated the Soviet Union, thirdly, it neglected the main issue of the Middle East — the problem of the future of the Palestinians. The horrors of the Lebanon war were one of the by-products of the policy of delay.

If such a policy is continued by the new American Administration the present favorable opportunity to work for a full and peaceful settlement by early return to the Geneva conference will be lost, maybe forever, and the Middle East may be condemned to a long, bitter, bloody conflict in which all, including Israel most of all;

will dreadfully suffer.

We must hope that President Carter and his new Secretary of State will realize the dangers in time and be eager to participate in an urgent international endeavor — certainly including the Soviet Union — to secure a comprehensive and lasting peace on principles long ago unanimously approved.

Waskow Links IPS Intervention In Geneva Preparations To Brzezinski Strategy

The following is an interview with top Institute for Policy Studies coordinator Arthur Waskow. Waskow is IPS' Mideast expert and is the top IPS operative in the Jewish liberal Breira group, which is part of attempts to open a split in the Palestinian movement.

Q: Do you really believe that the Carter administration will be more pro-Palestinian in view of Mr. Carter's extreme pro-Israel statements during the election campaign?

A: Sure, Carter said what he said by Brzezinski is part of the Middle East study by Brookings Institute (sic!), and that is the key policy thing right now. Anyway, the Saudis have given out the carrot and the stick, and now the Arabs are united behind a clear policy. The U.S. can't reject it, it's that simple. What will happen now is that the Palestinian National Council will meet in Cairo in February, they will issue a statement in support of two states, Arab Palestinian and Israeli, the U.S. will support Geneva, will push the idea of one Arab delegation going to Geneva including the PLO, the Israelis will scream, then they'll accept a second U.S. offer.

There are lots of churnings around the Labor Party in Israel, even before this meeting in Paris where the PLO not only came out in favor of a state of Israel, but a Zionist state, it's overwhelming! Almost incredible! The changes in Israel won't all come at once. Rabin is not De Gaulle, if he were, everything would be wrapped up in three weeks. And Eban is not in position to pull anything off. But things are moving in the right direction.

As for the PLO — it's gotten the bottom and top line from all the Arab governments and both lines are the same: a West Bank state. The Palestinians have gotten the message from the united Arab governments, that you better buy it, or you're fucked. It's that simple!

Tensions Rise in Aegean; Vance Implicated

Exclusive to NSIPS

A series of "isolated terrorist incidents" perpetrated by extremist EOKA-B hit squads will soon occur in Cyprus, according to a former high-level U.S. State Department official who is now an advisor to Secretary of State-designate Cyrus Vance (see interview below). The incidents will trigger a "brutal response" from Turkey, he predicted, and possibly a Greek-Turkish

confrontation. "There's an awful lot of hot-headed Greeks on the island," the former official commented; "I have a feeling that they're not going to sit tight. They've been too quiet for too long."

The impending revival of terrorism on Cyprus comes amid rising tensions on the island which threaten to spread throughout the Aegean.

Turkish occupation forces in Cyprus are continuing