

Israel Adopting 'Pre-Emptive Strike' Posture On Carter's Behalf

Israeli Chief of Staff Mordechai Gur, speaking during a cabinet meeting last week, claimed that Israel now faces a "Yom Kippur war" situation because of troop maneuvers by Syria, Jordan, and Egypt. Gur's alarmist "assessment" of troop movements which are *unconfirmed* by the Arab side, has been used to place the Israeli military on high alert. The growing consensus within the Israeli military is that Israel must adopt "pre-emptive strike" as its military posture. According to a former advisor to the State Department on Israeli affairs, the pre-emptive strike notion is quickly becoming dominant in Israeli strategic thinking.

The hardening of Israel's position towards the Arabs began to emerge immediately following the takeover of the premiership from Yitzhak Rabin by Defense Minister Shimon Peres, a well known exponent of the preemptive strike approach. The bellicose Peres put forward an unprecedented ultimatum to the Arabs last week over the volatile issue of southern Lebanon. He warned that any move against Christian villages in the border area would be met with Israeli military intervention which would most certainly result in war with Syria. Peres then issued what even the *New York Times* termed a "biting remark" against the Arab peace initiatives to reconvene the Geneva talks. "When the Arabs talk of peace their words are accompanied by a wink, nebulous phraseology or political doubletalk."

Such wreckless provocations against Arabs whose patience has already been strained by the lack of motion by the U.S. (and so Israel) on the peace front, is a calculated effort on the part of the Carter Administration to force Arab retaliation — with their oil weapon. The resultant oil crisis is just what James Schlesinger needs to buck overwhelming domestic opposition to his zero growth energy scheme.

Duped Jewish organizations in the U.S. and Israel have

already been pledged to support the Carter energy package, suggesting that this will delimit U.S. dependence on Arab oil, and thus reduce the effectiveness of oil's use by the Arabs as a political tool.

Such "spokesmen for Israel" within the U.S. have suddenly begun putting forward demands on the Arabs for peace talks which are far beyond the point of acceptability. Rita Hauser, a member of the Committee on the Present Danger editorialized in the *Washington Post* this week that the U.S. need not pressure Israel into a settlement. Hauser asserted that now the Arabs must accept Israel's term for peace since the Soviets have no presence in the Mideast any longer. Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz, speaking before an AIPAC gathering, put forth the same proposition. This includes the Arabs sacrificing the centerpiece of their Mideast peace strategy — the establishment of a Palestinian state. Israeli Foreign Ministry official Shlomo Avineri similarly asserted recently that Israel will never accept a Palestinian state.

Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon, promised the Defense Ministry by Peres, warned during the cabinet meeting of a confrontation between the U.S. and Israel over the terms of a Mideast peace settlement — a reference to the National Security Council's "breakaway ally" made for ordering Israel to launch a war.

The drastic turn of events in Israel since Rabin's resignation moved toward the crowning point with this week's report that the Agronaut commission, designed to watergate military personnel, was again surfacing to purge the Israeli army on indiscretions during the war of 1973. With Peres and his confidant, Dayan, in the driver's seat and the pre-emptive strike doctrine becoming hegemonic, the only remaining problem is to purge those military traditionalists who oppose Dayan's public proposal to make the pre-emptive strike a nuclear one.

Sadat's Libya Provocations Go In Tandem With His Domestic Crackdown

As many as two divisions of Egyptian troops have been moved to the Libyan border, according to the *Washington Post*. The Soviet Union has sent a note to "a number of Arab countries," the *Post* says, warning Egypt against an attack on Libya. The note reportedly charges that "Egyptian armed forces have been concentrated on the Libyan border, where they carry out military exercises. One can clearly observe attempts of an Egyptian military pressure against Libya to stir up an armed clash and encourage domestic acts against the legitimate government of a neighboring Arab country."

Egyptian President Anwar Sadat is escalating tensions with Libya in tandem with a crackdown on swelling domestic discontent. His abject acquiescence to International Monetary Fund demands that Egypt squeeze its population yet further to pay the country's huge international debt is meeting with resistance throughout the population, and particularly in the country's armed forces security services. The perilously situated Egyptian leader is responding with "anti-communist" repression at home and belligerency against Soviet-linked Libya.