

## 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.

The Soviet view was further indicated in the April 24 *Red Star*, the Soviet military newspaper, which approvingly quoted the Nigerian *West African Pilot's* comment that "the possibility of Egyptian attack on Libya is connected with the recent visit of President Sadat to Washington, where he received an assurance of American support for such an action." Egypt's interference in Zaire is cited as further evidence of Sadat's "pro-American policy." The report concludes, "He has in fact abandoned the interests of his people and rejected a policy of non-alignment, and has become a defender of imperialist interests in Africa and the Arab world."

#### *"Repression Against Everyone"*

To counter his consequent growing unpopularity, Sadat has ordered a beefed-up "fight against communism." Over the past few weeks the country's bureaucracy has been terrorized. One think-tank expert on Egyptian affairs reports that "well-known Nasserists in the lower bureaucratic layers are coming under heavy attack," and that "leftists are leaving the country in large numbers — they are fleeing to Libya, Iraq, and Europe." A Rand Corporation spokesman added, "According to two of my colleagues who have just returned (from Egypt), Sadat has launched a repression campaign against everyone — inside the ministries, everywhere. Everyone is accusing everyone else of being a communist." Asked how long Sadat will be able to maintain this policy, the Rand official answered, "He is waiting to see what (Syrian President) Assad will do" in Lebanon. Assad, he said, "is waiting to take control of the Palestinian camps. Sadat has agreed to this and his union with Assad will give him some political leverage inside the Arab world."

Meanwhile, the actions of the legal leftist National Progressive Union have been limited and its funds curtailed. The Egyptian press has been muzzled through the appointment of several new editors and new laws

limiting journalistic freedoms, while the leftist weekly magazine *Rose al Youssef* — a symbol of political freedom in the Arab world — has been taken over by Sadat appointees, as has the Marxist journal *Al Tali'a*.

Police surveillance of trade-union and student meetings has noticeably increased in the past few months as well. As if to drive the point home, two thirds of those arrested during and after last January's food riots are now being indicted and tried, with execution awaiting those convicted. An official government paper, *Al Gomhouriya*, explains that since neither capitalism nor socialism has worked, Sadat is embarking on a new system of "democratic socialism."

#### *How Sound An Investment?*

Egyptian aggression against Libya is more than just empty window-dressing for the domestic crackdown, however. Although it received little press play, there was a recent assassination attempt on Libyan leader Qaddafi, which was carried out by Egyptian intelligence forces. U.S. intelligence sources say that a wing of the Egyptian intelligence machine is currently collaborating with their Israeli counterparts against Qaddafi and his regime.

To help bolster the shaky Sadat, the International Monetary Fund is coming through with a few much-needed handouts. Fund Middle East chief John Gunther reports that the Fund's standby loan to Egypt went through this week, complete with conditions that Sadat implement further domestic austerity. In addition, Chase Manhattan Bank's David Rockefeller, who is Sadat's official economic advisor, has scraped together a desperately needed \$350 million Eurodollar loan to help cover Egypt's short-term debt repayments. But even with Sadat's increasingly tough posture against his domestic and foreign opponents, it is doubtful that these bankers' latest investments in his regime will have any brighter future than the rest of their bankrupt portfolios.

## Carter, Giscard Heat Up Ethiopia-Somalia Tensions

Another potential flashpoint is the East African Horn region, where joint U.S. French diplomatic efforts are acting to heat up tensions between Ethiopia and Somalia.

Because the two nations jointly control the passage through the Red Sea into the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean, the stability of the region is of vital concern to all the nations along the Red Sea-Gulf of Aden littoral, including Egypt (which owns the Suez Canal), Somalia, Saudi Arabia, the Yemen Arab Republic and the Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen.

The other geographic factor in the Horn is the French protectorate of Afars and Issas, soon to receive its independence from France. The future of this territory is a major concern to both Ethiopia and Somalia. The territory's main port, Djibouti, is the sole rail terminus from central Ethiopia and controls the entrance to the

Red Sea. It's population is divided among those with ethnic ties to the Somalis and those with ties to the Ethiopians. A complicating factor is claims by some Somalis to all territory occupied by Somali nomads.

Somalia has been drawn toward the Soviet Union since the 25-member Supreme Revolutionary Council headed by President Jalle Mohamed Siad Barre assumed power in late 1969 following the assassination of previous President Abdirashid Ali Shermarke. But until last year, Ethiopia had been staunchly in the U.S. camp, and relations between the two nations had been kept on edge by Ethiopian charges that the Soviet military equipment provided to the Somali Republic posed a threat to Ethiopia's security.

Since late last year, however, Ethiopia has moved swiftly to distance itself from the U.S. as a result of