

Saudi Oil Fields No. 1 Target In New Mideast War

An Israeli attack on the oil fields of Saudi Arabia and possibly Iraq is the centerpiece of a move by the National Security Council to set into motion a Rand Corporation scenario for a Middle East war, according to informed sources.

The scenario may include the actual or threatened use of Israel's confirmed capacity for atomic warfare.

The intention behind the activation of such a crisis is to provide a suitable international political-military crisis, including a contrived energy shortage resulting from the destruction of all or part of the oil-production capacity of Saudi Arabia and Iraq, to ram through the energy program of Carter and Schlesinger over domestic and foreign opposition.

The activation of the Middle East war scenario is a live application of the discredited Schlesinger Doctrine for a "limited nuclear war." There is no doubt, according to informed observers, that such a scenario would leave the Soviet Union no alternative but to respond by unleashing World War III — despite delusions of Arab and Israeli circles and the U.S. Administration to the contrary.

Although there are several variants simultaneously operative in the building showdown in the Middle East, in every case the strategic focus is the Persian Gulf, the powerhouse of world oil output. "The primary scenario is for an Israeli invasion of Saudi Arabia, with the United States interceding on the side of Saudi Arabia 'against' Israel," said an informed West European source. He stated that Israel has recently received large quantities of highly sophisticated communications equipment from the U.S. for use in support of long-distance military action, and he cited the fact that General Mordechai Gur, the Chief of Staff of the Israeli Defense Forces, has four times in recent weeks named Saudi Arabia and Iraq as "confrontation states" in the war with Israel.

The idea of sending U.S. armed forces into the Persian Gulf has been under discussion since Henry Kissinger first raised it in early 1975. At present the U.S. move into Saudi Arabia would be based on pretended opposition to a "breakaway" Israeli action, possibly in the context of the outbreak of a general Arab-Israeli war. Robert Tucker, a defense consultant who authored numerous scenarios for invading the Arab oil fields during 1975, commented in an interview last week: "Sure this scenario might work. But it would depend on the world being convinced that Israel was acting independently and that the U.S. was acting in good faith."

Alternate Scenarios

Alongside the primary threat of an Arab-Israeli showdown including Saudi Arabia, a number of variants are

being put in place.

First, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, who is said to have placed Egypt into a firm alliance with the Dayan-Interpol forces in Israel, has volunteered his country's armed forces as a strike force against neighboring oil-rich Libya, or possibly even the Persian Gulf itself. Speaking at an Alexandria rally, Sadat accused the Soviet Union of seeking "to impose itself as the guardian of the Arab oil fields," and threatened action against the

U.S. Defense Secretary Claims Soviets Threatening Oil Fields

In testimony before the House of Representatives select energy committee, U.S. Secretary of Defense Harold Brown stated unequivocally that the U.S. foresees a Soviet threat to Middle East oil fields, and linked the threat of a military conflict in the Persian Gulf to Carter's energy program. Said Secretary Brown:

"In the event of some future confrontation, the Soviet Union might be able to restrict access of the Western world to its essential oil supplies to a degree of severity and duration greater than any embargo by the oil producers."

Brown added that the U.S. must therefore reduce its dependence on the Persian Gulf and develop strategic stockpiles of oil reserves of 1 billion barrels. "We cannot be in a position where we must accept a continuing vulnerability to arbitrary supply disruptions and price changes."

USSR. "Informed sources know that the strategic goal of the USSR is to effectively control Libyan oil." To "protect" Libya, Sadat has massed Egyptian troops along the Libyan border.

Libyan President Muammar Qaddafi, in response to the growing war threat from Egypt, denounced Sadat as "a CIA agent who was recruited by the Americans during his trip to the U.S. in 1966." A military clash between Libya and the much stronger Egyptians could easily demolish Libya's immense oil production and provoke a milder, but still serious, world oil shortage for Schlesinger.

Second, France — who has assumed surrogate responsibility for policing Africa for the NSC — has

massed a huge armada of naval forces near the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea off the coast of Somalia. At least 18 warships carrying scores of "intervention jet fighters" on a combat-ready status are floating in the Indian Ocean, waiting for possible trouble in the Red Sea near Ethiopia and Somalia when the French colony Djibouti gains independence May 9.

The outbreak of a planned regional crisis on the Horn of Africa could quickly spread into the Middle East, especially if Israel's naval access to the Indian Ocean via the Red Sea becomes threatened by some combination of neighboring Arab states.

Third, sources report that the Shah of Iran might be encouraged to launch a military attack on the Arab Gulf States. The Shah has already declared that should Saudi

Arabia increase its oil production it would be an "act of aggression" against Iran. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will arrive in Iran on May 11 for private meetings with the Shah and Iranian officials, before a meeting of CENTO.

A former U.S. ambassador to the Middle East said yesterday that the Saudis were well aware of these possibilities, including even a U.S.-Israeli-Iranian attack on the Arab states of the Gulf. "The Saudis feel that for anyone to consider such a policy they would have to be mad — but they know that someone in the U.S. is indeed considering such options," he stated. "Numbers of Saudi officials, knowing that World War III would probably result from such an act, and that at least the oil fields would be destroyed, have told me, 'You know, we're not too sure of their sanity.'"

Expert Sees 'Israeli Military Operation In Persian Gulf'

The following is an assessment of the Middle East situation from a well-briefed West European expert on the Middle East.

What is being prepared now, I feel, is an Israeli military operation in the Persian Gulf. The primary scenario is an Israeli invasion of Saudi Arabia, with the U.S. interceding on the side of Saudi Arabia "against" Israel. There are variations on the basic scenario, the secondary ones involving Iraq, but the Saudi-Israel-U.S. scenarios are primary.

My assessment is based primarily on the following little-noticed fact of Israel's materiel acquisitions. Two years ago, Peres sent a weapons acquisitions team to the U.S. under the auspices of the under-publicized U.S.-Israeli Joint Weapons Commission, which purchased supersophisticated communications equipment from U.S. companies. I ask myself why a tiny little country like Israel would possibly need such sophisticated equipment, and conclude that only long-range military operations would fall under the aegis of such equipment. You should note that this equipment was one of the first sets of material actually delivered to Israel in recent shipments.

What I am saying has seemed to many an exaggeration and over-pessimistic and I myself have been inclined to think twice — until recently. Three other key factors lead me to think that I am right, no matter what others say:

1) The way the U.S. energy crisis is being handled by the current administration is one factor.

2) Israeli Chief of Staff Gur has no less than four times in recent weeks alluded to Saudi Arabia as a confrontation state against Israel, based on Saudi weapons build-up. To me this is nonsense, because the Saudis, for their own particularly paranoid reasons, are more concerned with the Shah, who is crazy, and with Iraq, which terrifies them, than with Israel. But the way it will work is that Israel will publicly made big noises about the Saudis' being the command and control center for Israel's Arab enemies, therefore necessitating Israeli operations against them. You will have, then, an Israeli strike across the Red Sea, then into the Gulf; then the U.S. will come to the rescue of the Saudis. What is then interesting is — What will the Soviets do?

3) Some leading people in Israel, and I include Peres, and some of Yadin's key backers, actually believe that there is something to be gained in fighting against the U.S. I know very well about the breakaway ally operations. Among Peres' considerations — and keep in mind that he is a total opportunist — is that if Israel were to invade Saudi Arabia, then, in a further new "settlement," the U.S. would openly accept Israel's position on the Palestine question "in return for" Israeli "concessions" in withdrawing from Saudi Arabia.

Open Letter To Shimon Peres

The following statement was released May 1, 1977 by U.S. Labor Party National Chairman Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

The use of Israeli nuclear weapons in behalf of David Rockefeller's effort to cut off the world's Middle East petroleum supplies has the strategic logic of the French "force de frappe." It triggers virtually immediate thermonuclear war — in the course of which it is certain that two Soviet thermonuclear warheads in the five-to-

twenty-five megaton range will descend on Israel.

I shall be most blunt. This is no time to waste words or obscure clarity by observing the pleasantries of traditional diplomatic cretinism. You know that I know what you in fact represent, and you know that my knowledge is based on the very best quality of political intelligence. You also know that I have attempted to save Israel before, and that I will do so again. You also ought to know that I can not save Israel if Israel herself is determined to commit national suicide. Therefore let us