

In reaction to the victory in Israel of the extremist Likud Party, Iraq earlier this month sent special notes to all Arab leaders calling for joint defense coordination in the face of a growing Israeli pre-emptive air attack threat. Iraq also announced that it was creating a day and night air cover and expanded defense perimeter to protect its oilfields from long-range Israeli attack, citing recent warnings by Israeli Chief of Staff Mordechai Gur that Israel would not hesitate to attack "distant Arab states" if the need arose.

According to the Paris-based newspaper *Al Watan al-Arabi*, Iraq's oilfield defense measures have since been expanded to include neighboring Arab states. Last weekend, Kuwait and Iraq reportedly worked out an arrangement to alternately patrol the oilfields of the Persian Gulf region.

The Iraq-Kuwait agreement came amidst spreading fear in informed Arab circles that an Israeli long-range attack was in the works. The respected Arabic newspaper *An Nahar* noted this week that Arab officials now fear Israeli aerial attacks on the Gulf countries and Libya.

The necessity for joint Arab Gulf security arrangements has been stated by leaders of the geographically central United Arab Emirates. In mid-May UAE Defense Minister Muhamed Ibn Rashid had stressed that there was an organic relationship of Arab security as a whole. A few days later, the UAE National

Assembly called for the establishment of Gulf "economic integration" as "preparatory to achieving a political unity that would serve as the nucleus for a more comprehensive Arab unity."

Lebanon: Path of Resolution?

A thorn in the side of all these unity efforts has continued to be the volatile Lebanese situation. Aside from the destabilizing effects of expanding Israeli-Lebanese fascist military and logistical collaboration, Lebanon has also been the battleground between pro-Syrian units and Palestinian and pro-Iraqi units. This week, intense fighting broke out between Syrian units and Palestinian leftists opposing efforts to keep the Palestinians tightly controlled in limited encampments.

But Syria's insistence on ramming through a hard-line solution favorable to U.S.-manipulated "Greater Syria" efforts appears to be easing, and Syrian President Assad appears to be buckling to the will of Saudi Arabia, which had recently cut back by 80 percent the aid granted to his regime. This week, Assad announced his acceptance of 1969 accords regulating Palestinian action in Lebanon and, after meetings between Khaddam and Lebanese President Elias Sarkis, official Syrian publications are advocating building up Sarkis' national sovereignty in the war-torn country. A meeting between Assad and Sarkis is in the offing.

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War Cabinet Formed In Israel

No matter what party name is given to the Israeli cabinet, Likud party prime minister-elect Menachem Begin is forming a war cabinet. Although desiring a strong unity government — including both the defeated Labour Party and the Democratic Movement for Change led by Yigal Yadin — uniting all the hardline factions in a massive show of force to the Arabs and the U.S., Begin apparently will have to content himself with what war-hawk generals he can scrape up.

The chosen posts of defense and foreign ministers are firmly in the hands of known expansionists: Ezer Weizman in charge of defense and his brother-in-law Moshe Dayan named to the foreign minister's post. Ariel Sharon, Dayan's protégé, will have a special post created for him as Minister of Security Coordination.

Meanwhile the Carter regime is issuing alternately pro- and anti-Israeli statements designed to push these unstable Israelis into self-imposed isolationist positions, aggravating the Israeli Samson complex and bringing on a fifth Arab-Israeli war and near-certain thermonuclear holocaust in the name of "Jewish Survival."

It is no wonder that war jitters are rampant throughout the Israeli population.

Yesterday Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and his Chief of Staff Mordechai Gur toured the Sinai to assess the situation following last month's Egyptian military exercises there. As the least likely enemy of Israel, Egypt is being targeted precisely because Defense Minister Fahmy is meeting Soviet leaders in Moscow for pre-Geneva negotiations. According to the Israeli press, many

Israelis regard the Egyptian maneuvers not only as threatening, but as a rehearsal for another war. The *Jerusalem Post* warns that "threats of war are resounding in the Mideast again" and that the Egyptian presence in Sinai was "more ominous than before."

Additionally Israel has officially accused Egypt of violating the UN Sinai accords, three times in the three weeks since the elections.

Rockefeller-linked Drew Middleton wrote in the *New York Times* on Monday that "instability" in the Middle East is pushing Egypt especially, towards a "limited war" in Sinai.

This scenario — small provocations by the Arabs against Israel — was enunciated by a Brookings Institution operative while commenting on Chief of Staff Gur's remarks this week that the one lesson Israel learned from the '73 war was that a war could erupt out of Israeli control. This was interpreted as Gur's "new intelligence doctrine," which would not allow the Arabs to slowly build up their forces as in 1973. "If changes in actual troop movements are seen, Israel will have to react ... if they move into the ceasefire zone (Sinai) Israel will have to react militarily and this might mean a partial mobilization." Thus Gur's new policy is one of preemptive first strike, a doctrine now being widely talked of. The *Baltimore Sun* this week quoted a "high Likud official" who said that if the U.S. turns against Israel, however slightly and even temporarily, Israel will be forced to return again to the strategy of a preemptive strike. The *Sun* interpreted this as meaning

nuclear first strike, the major proponent of which is Dayan.

While the next Foreign Minister is talking of nuclear war, and sees no agreement in sight for peace negotiations, the next Defense Minister Weizman told the *Washington Post* that if "forced to cede" the West Bank or Gaza, "Israel would be faced in another war, whether to strike first preemptively or rely on the American sixth fleet to come to save Israel." Thus Israeli leaders are already talking about what kind of war they will be fighting even before they are in office.

As a military man, Weizman, along with other Israeli

military strategists, knows that Israel cannot fight a limited war such as Middleton suggests. Any war must be quick and fought to win a decisive victory.

President Carter's statements on a 'Palestinian Homeland' are designed to back sane military thinkers in Israel into a corner, provoking them to launch a nuclear first strike that would bring in the U.S. Sixth Fleet ... and the Soviets. Middleton knowingly elaborated on that distortion in his column: "Rationally, there is no sense in either the Arabs or the Israelis choosing the military option. But this is not a rational area, these are not rational times."

EXCLUSIVE

A Chronology: Pre-Belgrade Diplomacy

- May 22 — Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti leaves for Greece for several days of meetings with Greek leaders including Premier Karamanlis.
- May 23 — Italian Foreign Minister Arnaldo Forlani goes to Spain to discuss economic agreements, while Communist Party of Italy Middle East expert Giancarlo Pajetta visits Malta.
- Cuban delegation of the State Committee for Scientific and Economic Cooperation in Italy to meet with Foreign Trade Minister Ossola.
- May 24 — Saudi Crown Prince Fahd, Oil Minister Yamani, and Finance Minister Aba Khail in London for meetings with Prime Minister Callaghan and other members of the British Cabinet.
- May 25 — Major General George Keegan, former head of U.S. Air Force Intelligence visits Israel.
- German Democratic Republic Foreign Minister Oscar Fischer receives the ambassadors of the Organization of African Unity member countries.
 - Meeting of Council of Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) Deputy Foreign Trade Ministers in East Berlin.
 - East German Socialist Unity Party Politburo member Alfred Neumann meets with Soviet First Deputy Prime Minister Nikolai Tikhonov in Moscow.
 - Soviet Foreign Trade Minister Patolichev goes to Japan.
 - Yugoslav League of Communist Executive member Stane Dolanc receives a delegation from the Congo.
 - Andreotti and Forlani in Rumania meet with President Ceaucescu. Pres. Boyer of IRI (Institute for Industrial Reconstruction) travels to Venezuela to discuss "the integration of Italy into Latin America."
 - Rumanian Transport Minister Ruffini in Moscow to meet with Soviet Transport Minister.
- May 26 — Soviet Politburo member M. Solomentsev in West Germany.
- Saudi delegation arrives in the United States from London for talks with President Carter. Fahd and Yamani also had talks with James Schlesinger.
- May 27 — Polish Central Committee Secretary Edward Babuich in West Germany.
- Austrian-President Kirchsclaeger and his Foreign Minister Pahr leave for Hungary.
 - Czechoslovak President Gustav Husak announces plans to visit Iraq.
 - West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt is in Yugoslavia
- May 28 — Polish General Secretary Edward Gierek heads delegation to German Democratic Republic.
- Mexico's Luis Echeverria arrives in Belgrade for a conference on the New World Economic Order sponsored by a Yugoslav university.
- May 30 — Chancellor Helmut Schmidt arrived in Yugoslavia for extended talks with President Tito. The leaders agree that technology transfers to the Third World are essential, Tito states that worsening relations between the two superpowers could be counteracted by relations between other states.
- June 1 — Saudi delegation arrives in France from the United States.
- Soviet military delegation arrives in Jordan.
 - Senator Stone (D-Fla), the head of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on the Middle East, arrives in Israel.
 - President of Ghana arrives in Rome for talks with government officials.
- June 2 — Saudi delegation arrives in Spain.
- Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Tikhonov heads delegation to West Germany.
- June 3 — The Foreign Ministers of Tunisia and Libya reportedly meet.
- Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda arrives in Bonn for talks with top government officials.
- June 4 — Hungarian Central Bank representatives to Goettingen University for an industrialist-banker symposium on financing of East-West trade.
- Soviet Communist Party General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev receives Somali delegation headed by Vice President Samantar.
- June 5 — PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat visits Libya, Algeria, Senegal and then returns to Algeria.