

even a hearing for their economic and political proposals. As one source close to Schmidt said, "It's a cheap shot."

The danger is that defensiveness toward the U.S. and, worse, cynicism about its political will to join the West Germans, French, and Japanese in a positive strategy

for world economic recovery, will become predominant. But neither the Bonn Summit leaders, nor America itself can afford to let the U.S. remain outside. The best answer to the European and Japanese "oil import cutoff" statements will be a firmly positive U.S. stance at Bonn.

— Tessa DeCarlo

Israel Arms Nazi Falange With U.S. Weapons

Exclusive expose of attempts to provoke a Mideast war

Exclusive to NSIPS

General Moshe Dayan and the Israeli government are resupplying the fascist Lebanese Falangist militia with heavy weapons, including tanks, to provoke a showdown with Syria.

The massive Israeli resupply effort, which began July 5, is in preparation for an extremist Christian declaration of an "independent" Falangist-controlled state in central Lebanon. This declaration, coupled with the expected resignation of Lebanon's President Elias Sarkis, would trigger a war between Syria and Israel, a conflict that is aimed by Israel and its City of London backers to wreck this week's economic summit for industrial nations in Bonn.

The weapons in question, now in the hands of the Falangist gangsters, are of U.S. make and the transfer of these weapons into Lebanon is a direct violation of the terms of the U.S.-Israel military agreement. The U.S. Labor Party is pressing the White House, the State Department, and Congress to investigate the illegal arms transfer and to suspend arms shipments to Israel.

According to West German sources, the State Department is already in possession of firm evidence of the Israeli resupply effort. State Department spokesman Tom Reston told New Solidarity, however, that the U.S. has "no evidence of an illegal arms transfer." Several congressmen have begun inquiries.

West German sources also stated that, according to their information, the Israelis intend to provoke a war with Syria, over Lebanon and the Golan Heights, and that West Germany believes that the Israelis intend directly to upset the Bonn summit. A war over Lebanon, most analysts know, could spread into a general conflict in which Israel could destroy Arab oil fields using nuclear weapons.

The containment of the Israeli threat is thus the prime necessity to ensure the success of the Bonn meeting.

Partition Plot for Lebanon

The same West German sources emphasized that, "No

matter what the press says about a cooling-off in Lebanon, an Israeli-provoked explosion of that country is a fully live option."

Such a scenario would begin with the declaration of an independent Falangist state in Lebanon. That announcement would be calculated to provoke Syria, whose 40,000 troops keep Lebanon together, to move militarily to crush the fascist state. A State Department source said that, in that instance, Israel would launch air strikes against Syrian forces in Lebanon. Other sources have elaborated this scenario, indicating that Israel has redrawn battle plans to move straight through the Golan Heights into Lebanon for a head-on clash with Syrian troops.

President Sarkis, the sole political figure who can unify the country, is threatening to resign under heavy pressure from the Falange. His resignation would plunge the country into chaos, and several rival factions would compete for power, leading to almost certain war between Syria and Israel.

The Syrian Information Minister warned this week that an Israeli move into Lebanon "would mean war with Syria." He also warned the rightists that Syria intends to "crush" anyone who acts contrary to Lebanon's national unity.

But the Syrians lack both the military force and the finesse to eliminate the political power of the Falangists, who are entrenched into East Beirut and the surrounding mountains. In addition, President Assad of Syria is under great pressure at home to prove that his intervention into Lebanon two years ago was not a failure, and so is prone to overreact. Last week, when heavy Syrian forces shelled civilian zones indiscriminately, Syria was accused of using too heavy a hand.

The solution, temporarily, lies in a formula for national reconciliation in Lebanon. Some moderate Christian elements, linked to other pro-Syrian Christian forces, are looking to strike a deal with Lebanon's Moslems. They may also hope to win over Pierre Gemayel, the leader of the Falange, thus isolating the ultra-extremist Camille

Chamoun and his followers.

But Gemayel, who is bolstered by Israeli military backing, is playing tough. He predicted the "overthrow of the Syrian regime" if Assad refuses to compromise, and he hinted at Falangist support for partition.

Behind the scenes, Saudi Arabia and the United States are putting pressure on Lebanon and Syria to cool down the situation.

The Geneva Option

The Lebanon crisis provided a ready-made pretext for direct U.S.-Soviet collaboration to prevent the Middle East from exploding. According to official Arab sources, at the height of the Lebanese crisis last week, when Israel had threatened to intervene militarily, the Soviet Union sent a strong message to the Israeli command warning them against any attack on Syria. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, who knew of the Soviet warning, did not object.

At the same time, Vance initiated consultation at the United Nations about possible Security Council action to cool down Lebanon, and the Soviet Ambassador was kept informed.

The question that now remains is whether Vance, in his meeting today with Foreign Minister Gromkyo of the USSR, can arrange for continued U.S.-Soviet cooperation around a reconvened Geneva conference on the Middle East. Both West Germany and Saudi Arabia have demanded in recent weeks that the U.S. and USSR work together on Geneva, and the Europeans are fully aware of the importance of a Middle East settlement as part of the general Grand Design for international economic growth.

So far, State Department sources insist stubbornly that the United States will continue to pursue the deadend Israel-Egypt talks. On Tuesday, July 18, Foreign Minister Dayan and Foreign Minister Kamel of Egypt are scheduled to meet in London, with Vance, to "negotiate." But the Israelis have ridiculed the Egyptian plan, and Dayan himself stated that the London talks will

be a "waste of time," adding sarcastically that he will go because he wants to "see some shows" he missed.

Zalman Shoval, a hard-core Dayan supporter, denounced the Sadat peace plan as "very extremist."

Sadat's plan calls for the West Bank and Gaza to be returned to Jordan and Egypt, respectively, with a transition period until the Palestinians can exercise "self-determination." It also calls for extensive security guarantees for Israel. But the Cabinet of Israel rejected the plan outright.

Sadat's Gameplan

Sadat, backed by the Saudis, is dealing with three Israeli factions. The first bloc, led by Dayan and Ariel Sharon, opposes any negotiations with Egypt and is pushing for a war. The second, led by Defense Minister Ezer Weizman and Labor Party leader Shimon Peres, wants Sadat to sign a "separate peace" between Israel and Egypt, and for those two countries to form the foundation of a NATO-style anti-communist alliance in the Middle East.

This was the basis for a plan put forward by the Socialist International and Social democrat Willy Brandt, who engineered a meeting in Vienna this week between Sadat and Peres. The meeting, from all accounts, did not succeed, since Sadat refused to endorse the Cold War plan proposed by Peres and Brandt.

Immediately afterward, Sadat met UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim and discussed possible steps to reconvene the Geneva conference, including a preparatory conference to be held at UN headquarters in New York. Meanwhile, Sadat's meeting with Peres, the Israeli opposition leader, further shook up the divided Israeli government.

The Israeli strategy seems to be to try to provoke the Egyptians into breaking off the talks, so that Israel can win propaganda points by accusing Sadat of refusing to talk peace. But Sadat, who is seeking American support for his position, does not intend to fall into that trap.

— Bob Dreyfuss

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