

Toward A Mideast Catastrophe?

Carter must turn to Geneva to avoid war and oil embargo

The Carter Administration's decision to call a Camp David summit next month between Israeli Prime Minister Begin and Egyptian President Sadat has been explained by high-level Washington sources as a move necessary to head off a Middle East crisis and to lend Egyptian President Sadat crucial support to bolster his sagging peace initiative. In their rationalizations of Carter's moves, these same policy makers have even gone so far as to hope that Carter will have the opportunity at Camp David to "pressure" Sadat into concessions with Israel.

What is being ignored in these justifications is that the President is reacting to massive pressure from the Israel Lobby in Washington. Last week in the Senate, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance was put under enormous armtwisting pressure by Senators Javits, Church, Case, and Stone to publicly attack Saudi Arabian "obstruction" of Egypt-Israel bilateral talks.

Thirteen Senators sent a letter to Carter on Aug. 4, attacking the Administration for having promised Saudi "moderation" in peace talks after Carter won the arms-sale-to-the-Saudis battle earlier this year. By Aug. 8, Carter, so besieged by the Zionist Lobby, was privately telling Senators that he was "concerned" about Saudi attempts to keep Sadat within the Arab diplomatic and political fold.

Other pressure tactics during the past week have included Israel's hysterical threats of war in the Middle East and warnings of an outbreak of terrorism in the Mideast.

Despite the various explanations in Washington, Carter has acted more out of fear of a domestic political confrontation with the Zionist Lobby than out of a courageous determination to push a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement through the obstacle course.

How Israel Pressured Carter Into The Camp David Summit

"Concern about the risk of new hostilities in the Middle East was an important element in persuading President Carter to take the bold initiative of inviting Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt here next month to seek a breakthrough," the *New York Times* reported August 9.

This remarkable assertion by the *Times* that the Middle East is heading toward general Arab-Israeli war was followed by previously unrevealed intelligence leaks from "western intelligence agencies" that Egypt has "put some of its units on higher alert status recently and has stepped up war games and preparedness...as a possible cover for a buildup toward some military action on Sinai."

"Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan is reported to have expressed his concern about the Egyptian moves to top Carter Administration officials," the *Times* notes.

Back off from pressuring Israel or there will be war. This is the message that President Carter was

delivered by the Israelis directly, and through such pro-Israel Administration officials as Vice President Mondale over the past few weeks. This threat, the *Times* and related sources make clear, is what "convinced" the President to break with Saudi diplomacy for a Geneva conference and to instead initiate his defensive and desperate summit initiative.

Lebanon Flashpoint

The conditioning of Carter on the general Arab-Israel war threat has been accompanied by overt Israeli war threats over Lebanon. In fact, the *Times* noted in a separate article, "there is deep concern" in the State Department that an Israel-Syria war over Lebanon "between now and Sept.5" could torpedo the summit meeting.

On Aug. 8, Israeli jets went careening over Beirut as a signal to the Syrians that Israel would in the future militarily back up "the Christians" against Syrian efforts to dismantle the extremist Falangist and National Liberal Party militias.

Israel has for days been systematically obstructing the deployment of Lebanese Army battalions in the southern regions of the country. Under Israeli encouragement, renegade forces along the southern

border under the command of Saad Haddad have been shelling the Army forces, preventing their deployment into areas of Falangist control. Haddad's actions are being closely tied to the anti-Syrian actions of the Falangists and NLP-Chamounists in Beirut, and Haddad has threatened to exchange "blow for blow" in retaliation for Syrian actions in Beirut. This situation has made the south a tinderbox that could explode into Israeli-Syrian conflict.

According to Lebanon's *An-Nahar* newspaper this week, the Falangists across Lebanon are threatening "all-out war" if Syria does not withdraw immediately from Lebanon. This has renewed fears of a general civil war in the country, especially as the Falangists have recently provocatively extended the fighting into western Beirut, the strongholds of the Moslem communities and the left, likely forcing a retaliation within the next days. This could provide the pretext for an Israeli strike north, in accord with Israeli Prime Minister Begin's repeated threats to "defend the Christians from annihilation."

The U.S. State Department is publicly and privately pointing the finger at the Falangists as responsible for the unrest in Lebanon, and has criticized Israeli gun-running to ultra-rightists. But holding back from more decisive action in this regard has left Israel's hands free to keep the Lebanese situation very unstable.

Internally in Israel moves toward war are being

consolidated. First, the notorious 1950's anti-Arab Brigade 101 terror units have been reconstituted, under the control of a protégé of 101 founder Ariel Sharon, current Israeli Agricultural Minister.

Secondly, the land forces of Israel have been put under the command of General Yisrael Tal, an advocate of preemptive strike mode military deployments and of attacks against Arab oilfields in times of war.

Third, press attacks have mounted in the Israeli press against the Saudis for "organizing Arab unity." Begin has denounced the Saudis as obstructions to peace, helping to set the atmosphere for direct Israel-Saudi confrontation.

These tendencies in Israel have, through the Brigade 101 reactivation and related moves, catalyzed the recent "intra-Palestinian" terror war provoked by the extremist followers of the Baghdad-based Abu Nidal, a man whom Defense Department insiders consider to be "an Israeli agent." Several key Palestine Liberation Organization centrist and moderate leaders close to PLO chief Yasser Arafat have been murdered in the past weeks by Abu Nidal's agents. Now, with the Carter summit announced, intelligence agencies linked to the Israelis are predicting "an outbreak of terrorism throughout the Middle East aimed against those leaders identified as responsible for 'capitulation' to the U.S. and the Zionists."

A Humanist Solution To The Lebanon Crisis

U.S. Labor Party proposes new Lebanese constitution

The following proposal by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., was first published by New Solidarity, the U.S. Labor Party's newspaper.

A variety of relevant governments and other agencies have inquired to the purpose of learning our proposals for solutions to problems of the Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean region. These inquiries include the subject of Lebanon in particular.

It is in the general interest that our proposals be published, especially to inform key sections of the U.S. electorate as well as responsible U.S. official institutions.

1. LABOR PARTY MIDDLE EAST POLICY

It has been continuing U.S. Labor Party Middle East policy since our published proposals of mid-1975 that a

package solution be offered to Israel and its Arab neighbors. The central feature of this proposal of 1975, to which we presently adhere, is that the occupied territories be made the territory of a sovereign Arab Palestinian state, and that durable peace between the state of Israel and that Arab state be secured by aid of an adequate development fund.

But for interventions by Henry Kissinger, City of London forces, and Black Guelph-controlled elements of the U.S. Zionist Lobby, our proposal would have succeeded.

During the spring of 1976, the leadership of the U.S. Labor Party was directly approached by an official of the government of Israel. This official stated two points in the main. First, that key forces within Israel wished to realize the U.S. Labor Party's proposal for durable Middle East peace, and wished the Labor Party to inform all its Arab friends of this willingness