

the U.S. has a definite and direct interest in peace, that this opportunity which it provided to the two sides of the Middle East dispute might be the last, and that if it does not lead to peace there will be no peace for Israel or for the U.S. . . . The U.S. and Israel are aware that the possibility of war exists, that military operations could begin at any moment, that Washington and Tel Aviv exchanged messages regarding the Egyptian military movements, and that Egypt sometimes raises the degree of military preparedness among its forces.

The threat of war is cited by leading French commentator Paul Marie de la Gorce of *Le Figaro* Aug. 9 as a prime motivation behind Carter's Camp David decision. In an article supportive of Carter, de la Gorce writes:

Short of being blind, it was impossible not to see that the almost spectacular failure of the Egyptian President's initiative last November would lead to a catastrophe of unpredictable dimensions . . . . President (Carter) is putting himself on the front line: if he succeeds, he will come out with enormous prestige; if he fails, he will inevitably bear the consequences....What powerful motives pushed him to act?

First of all, the obvious certainty that, short of a settlement or the beginning of a settlement, a war (in the Mideast) would have formidable consequences on the world equilibrium. But in addition, the American government is, it seems, convinced that the Israeli refusal to accept Resolution 242 of the United Nations ... is not insurmountable ....

From a much more critical standpoint, the Soviets this week warned of negative consequences developing out of Camp David, in commentaries in various Soviet publications. An Aug. 10 *Tass* release reports:

Leaders of the present Israeli Government have made it clear on many occasions that they are interested in reducing the role of the United States to organizing the process of bilateral talks with some Arab countries and in forcing the Carter administration not to assume the role of the umpire between Israel and the Arabs. After

the United States itself has actually torpedoed the resumption of the Geneva peace conference on the Middle East, American diplomacy has had nothing left to do, as a matter of fact, but to follow the mainstream of Israeli policy. Of course, the United States has big levers of pressure on Israel, whose dependence on the American military and economic aid has increased particularly since the October war in 1973. At the moment, Israel accounts for one-third of all foreign aid by the United States. Nevertheless, the Carter administration has made repeated assurances during the past year that it will in no case resort to pressure on Israel.

The likelihood of such pressure has become minimal during the year of mid-term elections when the influence of the Zionist lobby forced the President to display especially and sometimes in a form even humiliating for the White House, the common American and Israeli positions on issues of a Middle East settlement. . . .

*Pravda* further stressed the danger of Israeli manipulation of the U.S. in an Aug. 12 *Tass* release entitled "Dangerous Undertaking."

According to reports received from Washington, the President's aide for National Security Z. Brzezinski told correspondents that the U.S. government is preparing, as he said, 'constructive proposals' which will be presented to the participants in the Camp David meeting at the beginning of September, Egyptian President Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Begin. Informed American circles affirm that among these so-called "constructive initiatives" is a proposal for the deployment of contingents of American troops to the Middle East as a "guarantee" marking the separate deal between Egypt and Israel.

...Moreover, it should be clear that the proposed introduction of American troops will bring a new element into the Middle East situation, fraught with far-reaching dangerous consequences. . . .

It goes without saying that if these interventionist plans are actually intended to be realized, as has come out in the American press, they will be met with decisive resistance by the independent Arab states and all who are for a universal political settlement in the Middle East, including the Soviet Union.

## Israeli Terror Aimed At Saudis, Arabs And Israelis

Faced with an unprecedented terror wave directed against their offices in the Mideast and elsewhere, Arab government and Palestinian officials have begun to lay blame for the incidents on Israel, exposing Israel's role in international and, in particular, in "inter-Arab" terror acts.

The vigorous Arab exposure of the Israeli connection to international terrorism promises to effectively contain a major Israeli deployment capability not only against Arab unity but also against the Bonn-Bremen economic plans and a Middle East peace settlement. Fearful that the upcoming Camp

David summit may become the venue for the U.S. to pressure Israel into a comprehensive settlement, the Israelis are brandishing terrorism to blackmail the U.S. into submission.

Triggering this development was the Aug. 13 explosion in Beirut that demolished a nine-story apartment complex housing the offices of the pro-Iraqi Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) and Fatah, the core group of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). The leaders of both groups, who were in the process of reconciling their differences as part of a larger inter-Arab reconciliation effort,

publicly blamed Israel for the bombing in Beirut, as did Radio Moscow. The attribution of blame to Israel undercut initial reports that Syria had engineered the incident.

In addition, a high-level Iraqi diplomat has completely absolved the PLO for recent terrorist attacks against Iraqi officials and has blamed "Israeli secret services" for terrorism. Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO, stated that "the Israelis are willing to use a cover of so-called 'inter-Arab' fighting to launch waves of terrorism in the region."

The French daily *Le Figaro* reported on Aug. 15:

...The PLF denied having accused a rival organization, the (pro-Syrian) FPLP CG of having fomented the attack... The FPLP CG in turn denied having claimed responsibility for the attack...

According to a spokesman for Fatah, the PLO leaders are reported to now be sure that the Israeli secret services are preparing to set off a wave of terrorist attacks in order to intensify Iraqi-Palestinian divergences.

...Several representatives of the PLO abroad, who have just been called back to Beirut for consultations with Yasser Arafat, are reported to have shown the same apprehensions and demanded "muscle protection" following the assassination in Paris of Ezziddine Kalak...

The Lebanese milieu — from left to right — is convinced that the Camp David summit will cause a new upsurge of violence in Lebanon...

#### *Bomb The Oil Fields*

On Aug. 11, the *Jerusalem Post* featured a scenario currently being discussed by Israel's top military strategists to bomb Arab oil fields.

... Israel has become a pawn, a somewhat unruly pawn to be exploited by the U.S. in the latter's drive to establish greater spheres of influence in the Middle East...

(Now) another Middle East war is possible and probable...

Such a war would not necessarily lead to the use of an oil boycott as a war weapon. However, if the Arabs should find themselves facing disaster, they would no doubt use this weapon.

The world is not fully aware, however, that Israel could bring about an even more effective oil stoppage, one that could ruin Europe's economy for a decade...

There is a growing realization that U.S. policy has made Saudi Arabia, in effect, a confrontation country... Israel might... be forced to destroy the main sources of Arab power — their oil wells.

Many of the mental and moral barriers existing in Israel to the thought of destroying oil wells are being slowly removed by Europe and the U.S. themselves.

Europe may be horrified at the prospect that Israel could cause its economic strangulation. However, this horror is somewhat hypocritical...

The recent reduction of the sale of U.S. planes to Israel and the linkage of this sale to a more or less equal sale to

the Arab countries, which are revocations of real U.S. commitments to Israel, will cause Israel to re-evaluate its position. Hence, moral compunctions and idealistic tendencies may be swamped by the demands of Realpolitik.

In the event of a full-scale war, Israel might use her power to temporarily destroy the oil source of a large part of the world. Paradoxically, present U.S. policy, which aims at reducing the probability of an oil embargo, may indeed bring about such an embargo. It is not inconceivable that the Soviet Union would even support Israel in such an endeavour.

It should also be pointed out that Israel's growing isolation and the West's failure to press the Arab side into a moderate compromise have resulted in a vigorous Israeli programme to develop an independent arms industry. It may force Israel to consider manufacturing different types of non-conventional weapons...

It is difficult to understand the U.S. failure to embark on an emergency programme to develop alternative energy sources... A partial explanation of the inability to act is the very effective power of the oil companies and the banking institutions. These concerns very often look more to their international financing and profits than to the well-being of the U.S. community.

(Alternative energy resource development) must be combined with a similar effort in energy saving...

In the long run, this will scuttle industrial enterprises that are not profitable because of their wasteful use of energy.

Then on Aug. 13, the London *Sunday Telegraph* asked in a headline, "Will There Be an Oil Embargo if Camp David Fails?", and linked recent deployments of Christina Onassis, the stockpiling of oil of certain American oil companies, and ostensibly pro-"oil weapon" editorials on Radio Moscow in a Byzantine web of intrigue to "prove" that a Camp David failure would lead to world catastrophe.

In an Aug. 16 speech, Prime Minister Begin summed up a predominant strain in Israeli strategic and military circles: Israel, said Begin, is "ready to negotiate an overall settlement but the Arabs are not," therefore "the task of the armed forces is to prepare for war, as the task of our government is to prepare a peace settlement."

Backing his statements up, the Israeli media are warning the Israeli population to be on the alert for an outbreak of "Palestinian terrorism" in the days leading up to Camp David. The meaning of the warning is clear: The newly activated "Brigade 101" commando unit formed by Gen. Ariel Sharon is about to unleash a wave of "Palestinian terror" against the Israeli population — to create the pretext for action against Saudi oilfields.

According to one veteran Mideast observer, "Sharon and (Foreign Minister) Dayan and their cronies have been known to blow up school buses filled with Israeli school children, if it served their wider ends of preventing peace with the Arabs."