

# A Mideast explosion is imminent

*America's failure has opened the region to London's war plans*

On all fronts in the Middle East — ravaged Lebanon, coup-threatened Iran, and the Egyptian and Israeli push for a Middle East NATO — the situation is on the brink of explosion.

On Oct. 13 a series of well-informed European and Saudi Arabian sources issued warnings that Israel is on the verge of launching a major strike against Syria, a strike which could come at any moment. West German Foreign Ministry sources, usually cautious in their assessments, insisted that the situation developing over Lebanon is "extremely dangerous." A high Saudi source in Europe told this news service, "an Israeli attack against Syria is not to be excluded for the coming days."

From Washington comes confirmation of the story — but with a slant that underlines the psychosis dominating policy-making circles in the U.S. capital. "There won't be any superpower confrontation, because the Soviets don't give a damn about Lebanon" said a spokesman for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Commented a source close to Henry Kissinger, "Lebanon is a manageable crisis."

## Why London seeks war

Motivating the war drive is the scheduled meeting this week of the Arab nations' foreign ministers to discuss Syria's peacekeeping mandate in Lebanon. The virtually certain endorsement of Syria's role could mean at least a short-term stabilization in the region — and this Israel and its British controllers are determined to prevent.

Fueling London's eagerness for war is the fear that the Soviet Union may contribute to such stabilization. The Oct. 12 London *Times* anxiously reported "Persian Gulf sources" forecasts that concern over U.S. Mideast policy may push conservative Arab oil states, in particular Saudi Arabia, into encouraging other Arab nations "into the arms of the Soviet Union." And recently Libyan leader Qaddafi told a U.S. delegation to the recent Arab-American Dialogue meeting in Tripoli: "What other choice do we have, than to seek an alliance with the Soviets? . . . Certain Arab states have even asked us to join the Warsaw Pact. If the U.S. takes part in any aggression against the Arabs, we are going to. It is the policy of the U.S. which is push-

ing us toward the Soviets."

On Oct. 11 Radio Moscow took the lid off another aspect of the Camp David process — the secret plans, described in previous issues of this magazine, to split the region into a multitude of manipulable fiefdoms. In a broadcast to the Arab world, the Soviet radio station charged that secret agreements had been reached at Camp David providing for military, economic, and even espionage capabilities, by which Egypt is to act as the United States' surrogate strike force in the Mideast. Right now, the Radio Moscow broadcast warned, U.S. and Egyptian intelligence are coordinating plans to provoke splits inside the Arab world and means of silencing the intense opposition inside Egypt to the Camp David agreements.

## Japan agrees with Schmidt: 'EMF to help the dollar'

After meeting with West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in Tokyo, Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda of Japan announced that his country had pledged its "unconditional support for the European Monetary Fund." Schmidt, who specialized in the Japanese economic system as an economics student in the late 1940s, had told reporters prior to his departure that "the number one priority for this trip is German-Japanese

cooperation in putting the EMF together."

Moreover, Schmidt stressed that "the EMF is to help the dollar" and that "Japan can work with Europe" in persuading the U.S. to drop its opposition to the Fund and its associated new European Monetary System and join in its program of expanded East-West and North-South trade and development. (For more on the EMF, including new support for its policies