

# 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

from the Soviets, see ECONOMICS.)

Clearly Schmidt did win Fukuda's support for this strategy to win the United States away from its suicidal adherence to British economic recipes of austerity and recession. The two leaders affirmed their "trilateral partnership and alliance with the USA," while rejecting antidollar schemes such as Belgian Premier Tindemans' proposal that the mark and the yen become leading currencies against the U.S. dollar.

In the absence of a sane U.S. policy, however, the dollar continued to plummet on the world markets. The dangerous momen-

tum that the dollar's slide is reaching was reflected by the panic-mongering "prediction" of a major dollar crash by early next year that appeared Oct. 12 in the French daily *Le Figaro*. The article, while foreseeing the death of the dollar, also lied that the European Monetary Fund will take as much as two years to come into operation!

But Schmidt and his allies are countering such attempts to derail the EMF with a directly political approach.

On the same day that *Le Figaro* published its antidollar story, the West German business daily *Handelsblatt* ran a statement by Schmidt economics aide Dieter

Hiss emphasizing that the central significance of the EMF is not technical, but political — the political coherence and stability of the European Community.

And in Tokyo, Schmidt opened an attack on the British and U.S. Anglophile strategy of "playing the China card" in the context of his discussions with Fukuda of European-Japanese relations. He wanted "economic, cultural, and scientific cooperation with China," he told his Japanese hosts. But, he said, "I do not count myself among those who see any promise of good to come from present tensions between the Soviet Union and China, either for Europe, or for Asia."

## NSC's trade sabotage scored

*Dean Rusk and Stevenson committee slam Brzezinski*

The National Security Council under Zbigniew Brzezinski has usurped authority and powers that the Constitution and government statutes specifically forbid to it, Dean Rusk told Capitol Hill last week. The former Secretary of State under the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations testified Oct. 11 before Sen. Adlai Stevenson III's International Trade Subcommittee, on the subject of "foreign policy and exports."

The Stevenson hearings are formally devoted to the question of Export-Import Bank lending limitations. But the recent underlying theme has been the disruption of American export contracts by National Security Council introduction of "security threat" or "human rights" prohibitions, whenever those contracts involve sale or transfer of technologies above the rank of pick-and-shovel.

Brzezinski should be specifically prohibited from harming East-West and other trade in this fashion, Rusk emphasized; there are justifiable means to cage him.

"The NSC was statutorily established to act in a staff capacity, not in a line capacity" — it has not authority to make or veto trade policies or any other policy, he said. Moreover, its members have not been confirmed by Congress; it cannot make Cabinet-type decisions. Rusk recommended that Congress legislate the NSC's exclusion from the trade and general foreign policy review-process.

Although Rusk declined to address the topic, the subsequent, probing questions of Senator Stevenson summarized the strategic import of the immediate NSC transgression-issue. How does American export policy, he asked, relate to the goal of "globalization of the world monetary system to encompass the Soviet-Comecon sector. . . ?"

In fact, American exports of high-technology industrial goods define America's potential relationship to the imminent European Monetary System, which has that goal. And Zbigniew Brzezinski's British-aligned opposition to the

EMS is at the heart of the NSC's unlawful "national security" prohibitions against high-technology exports by the United States.

Rusk was only one of the experienced and informed witnesses who, one after another, slammed the NSC before yesterday's hearings. George Ball, a former Undersecretary of State, said that what concerned him most was also the NSC's sudden new power to veto all technology transfers and export licenses. David Packard, of Hewlett-Packard, a former Secretary of Defense, declared that, contrary to the recent case of attempted NSC prohibition of oil-drilling technology's sale to the USSR, "On balance there are very valid reasons to help the Soviets increase their oil and gas production." Packard also cautioned against "using the China card" — a policy associated with Brzezinski — as a diplomatic threat to the Soviet Union. China, he emphasized, is not capable of absorbing exports of American technology. The Soviet Union is.

In truth, the NSC is the only one,