

West Bank settlers fired warning shots at groups protesting the Carter visit.

The increased Israeli activity in Lebanon could indicate an imminent Israeli move to annex the area, some analysts have said, as the first phase of their new U.S.-backed policeman's role. Qatar's news agency reports substantial Israeli troop build-up in the southeastern sector and upgraded coordination with the militias of right-wing extremist Major Haddad in the area. The Israeli press has gone so far as to announce that the Israeli government has offered to pay the salaries of Haddad's soldiers since they have begun to be cut off by the Lebanese government. The Iraqi news agency predicts a major confrontation between rightist forces in the north and the United Nations and Syrian peacekeeping troops before April.

Israel's escalations appears to have been timed to coincide with the heating up of the Yemen crisis. The Syrians have charged that the United States, "resorting to the experience of Britain," has been ultimately responsible for the actions in an effort to revive the Lebanon partition scenario, the same scheme that was neatly defused by Saudi, French, and Soviet diplomacy last year. This indicates intensified blackmail pressure on, especially, the Jordanians and Saudis as the Zionists move to extend the U.S. and British umbrella of protection.

These recent military actions gain fresh significance

from the fact of a direct U.S. military cover for Israel and the current position in which Egypt's Anwar Sadat finds himself. In view of Carter Administration threats to "fight the Soviets" for Mideast oil, a move by the Egyptian army into Libya is by no means far-fetched.

The British planners know that Libya is the weak link in the otherwise solid axis between the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and the European Monetary System and will undoubtedly seek to take advantage of this. The architect of the Egyptian end of the Camp David agreements from the military side has been Sadat's special advisor Tuhami. Tuhami was the military command officer who ran the 1977 Egyptian "punitive" invasion of Libya.

Domestic analysts say that the British strategy is to bring the entire region to flames. Last week Khomeini-supported insurgents attacked cities in Afghanistan with tacit Pakistani support; the Yemen crisis remains a focal point for manipulation in the Gulf; an Egyptian move into Libya would bring Sudan and Morocco into line behind Sadat, while Israeli intelligence continues to beef up its activities in the Horn of Africa, Nigeria and throughout the African continent. Myopic U.S. puppets may think they are getting "American presence" in Africa and the Mideast. What they are really getting, however, is a new 30 years war.

— Henry Moss and Nancy Parsons

Do the Arabs really want U.S. troops?

The answers to that question differ widely. Here are some of the responses:

New York Daily News, "U.S. to Soviet: We'll fight to save Arab oil link," by James Wieghart, March 14 (quoting a U.S. official):

The line was drawn at Yemen because that's where the Saudis felt it must be drawn. The naval task force, the arms shipments and the military advisers to North Yemen were all decisions that were made at the request of Saudi Arabia....

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, on NBC television March 13:

It has to be demonstrated that friendship with the U.S. confers security.... (After an Egyptian-Israeli treaty is signed) there is no doubt we will be heavily engaged in the Middle East.... Saudi Arabia will be relieved, but probably will not say so, and the same is true probably of Jordan....

Muhammad Salem Basendewa, Information Minister of North Yemen, in an interview with the Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) March 1:

His country is not seeking protection in the arms of either East or West.... His country, he added, will not allow the U.S. or other countries to intervene.... He explained that if America has announced the sale of arms to North Yemen then the agreement on these arms is an old one. He added that the U.S. statements at this time are but another attempt to escalate the situation.... He said that Samaa still regarded the USSR as a friendly state and is anxious to maintain friendship with it.... He denied that there were any U.S. military experts in the northern part (i.e. in North Yemen — ed.) and he confirmed the presence of Soviet military experts."