

ians and "Left-wing" (i.e. non-Christian) Lebanese. Thus the recent civil war in the Lebanon, put down by the massive intervention of Syrian troops, who remain in control north of the Litani river, is being continued in miniature south of that line, where the Syrians have not penetrated. Israel is in effect daring and taunting Syria to do something about it. Mr Dayan, Israeli Foreign Minister, who it has been revealed is talking to a prominent PLO sympathiser in Gaza, said yesterday: "You can't get the Arab opinion by sitting and talking with Jews." Nor can you get it by shelling Lebanese.

Washington Star, editorial, Aug. 28:

The calmness—the apparent indifference, it might be said—of Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti about the possibility of illegal Israeli intelligence activities in this country is rather curious.

He is reluctant to look into reports that Israeli agents bugged the July 26 meeting in New York City between U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young and a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization because, he said, "I have seen no information or evidence that it was bugged or surveilled."

Mr. Civiletti was curtly dismissive of press reports, including one in *The Star* quoting knowledgeable U.S. sources, that Israeli agents have pursued their vocation in this country with a vigor that runs to excess and perhaps even illegality....

The attorney general said he had not received a request from Congress or any of its committees to look into Israeli espionage activities in this country. Well, we hope such a request will materialize.

But it strikes us that the reports of Israeli bugging have been sufficiently informed that Mr. Civiletti would show more concern, in his official capacity, over who's doing what to whom.

As part of the effort to undo Begin, sections of Israeli intelligence tied to the Begin machine are also being targeted—as exemplified by Newsweek's Sept. 3 feature article "Israel's Spies in the U.S." Similar articles have appeared in other U.S. papers.

Corralling Syria

Earlier this summer, in a New York Times op-ed, CBS diplomatic correspondent Marvin Kalb signaled the enactment of a plan to rope Syria into a METO "Peace" configuration for the region. A key component of this scenario involves rupturing Syria's relations with Iraq and coercing France into throwing its weight behind the operation.

A more recent editorial in the Financial Times of London gloats that the growing unrest inside Syria is forcing President Assad into a Camp David-style peace arrangement with Israel. The editorial admits that a Syrian deal with Israel would be nothing but an outgrowth of Henry Kissinger's step-by-step diplomacy, a diplomacy that exacerbated, not ameliorated, tensions in the Middle East. Excerpts follow.

New York Times, op-ed, "The Syrian Connection"

Marvin Kalb:

The American attitude is, to put it mildly, shortsighted. ... Syria cannot be sidestepped in any realistic pursuit of peace. The recent upsurge of sectarian violence, directed against the regime of President Hafez al-Assad, has led to the surfacing here of an intriguing theory circulating among some of the principals who see its pitfalls and benefits: It holds that Syria may not be ready for a subtle approach (probably by the French) aimed eventually at negotiating an Israeli return of the Golan Heights under airtight security arrangements in exchange for a pledge of peace and co-existence.

According to this theory, Mr. Assad is in bad trouble; he requires a major victory capable of rallying nationalistic sentiment. His minority, Alawite regime, drained by the civil war in Lebanon, is being challenged

by the Sunni majority as well as Moslem fanatics, and the possibility of a bloodbath looms on the near horizon. War with Israel, as an option, would be attractive but suicidal, without Egyptian support on the southern flank. But a negotiation with Israel, focusing on a phased return of the Golan Heights, might save Mr. Assad's regime by restoring national honor, so long as it does not appear as though he is abandoning the Palestinian cause in the process....

No two negotiations are alike; and no doubt Israel and Syria would both find ready reasons for initially rejecting or disparaging the concept of negotiating their differences *before* the Palestinian problem could be settled in a parallel set of talks. But that predictable response should not discourage the United States, working this time with the French, from going down the route of realism by playing on what is, after all, still the strongest force in the Arab world—the force of nationalism.

Financial Times, editorial, Sept. 4:

Syria's opposition to Egypt has been characteristically hedged. ... This suggests, as has been hinted at through recent Romanian contacts in Israel, that Syria might not be totally averse to being co-opted into negotiations with Israel—given the right terms.

[The article then discusses the mounting instability in Syria, citing in particular the role of the Muslim Brotherhood, which, writes the *Financial Times*, "has caught on as a means of expressing opposition to an apparently well-entrenched regime."]

The temptations to leave the Syrian Government to cope with its own largely self-created problems are considerable. The Camp David framework agreements and the Washington treaty, for example, make no direct reference to the Golan Heights, still occupied by Israel. But there is a strong case for trying to involve Syria in negotiations with Israel.

As long as only Egypt and Israel talk together on the Middle East no breakthrough on the wide issue is feasible. Syria's involvement, perhaps through an ad-

Turk calls for 'Islamic NATO'

Necmettin Erbakan, leader of Turkey's National Salvation Party, has called for the creation of an Islamic defense organization modeled on NATO. At a press conference in Turkey on August 11, Erbakan, an adherent of the fanatic Muslim Brotherhood and an outspoken admirer of Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran, said that it is time for the Islamic world to unite and form "a NATO-style defense organization." The establishment of a Middle East NATO is part and parcel of ongoing Anglo-American efforts to pull together a Middle East Treaty Organization as an outgrowth of the Camp David accords, now in the process of being expanded to include the PLO and Syria.

Erbakan also called for a "U.N. of Islamic Countries," and an Islamic Common Market based on an "Islamic dinar," and an "Islamic Countries' Culture and Research Organization." Erbakan's efforts to pull together an Islamic Common Market are linked directly to parallel British efforts to take over and dominate the European Monetary System. In his press conference, Erbakan compared his Common Market proposal with European efforts to "destroy the dollar"—which is precisely what the British want to use the EMS for.

dendum to the basic U.N. resolution 242 (treating the Palestinians only as a refugee problem), might lead the way to others, Jordan and the Palestinians, joining in.

Finally, there is a precedent. Syria complained bitterly when Egypt in January 1974 concluded the first interim withdrawal agreement with Israel. But four months later, thanks to tireless shuttling by Dr. Henry Kissinger, it concluded its own partial withdrawal agreement with Israel on the Golan Heights. Instability in Syria is more likely when it is isolated.