

Middle East Report by Robert Dreyfuss

Sir Harold Beeley's U.S. tour

A lesser British aristocrat does advance work for Lord Carrington's diplomatic maneuvers.

Approximately three weeks before the arrival of British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington in the United States, a small gathering of Americans met to discuss U.S. policy toward the Middle East with a distinguished British guest.

The guest was Sir Harold Beeley, the former British ambassador to Egypt who is presently the unofficial chieftain of the vaunted London "Arab lobby." Beeley is a high-ranking representative of the British SIS, or Secret Intelligence Service, and an intimate of the Queen's circle, dispatched to Washington as a sort of advance man for Carrington.

Currently, Beeley is a coordinator of British policy toward the Islamic world and a controller of the secret society known as the Muslim Brotherhood from his position as director of the "World Festival of Islam" Trust.

Meeting with Beeley were a select gathering of Anglo-American intelligence specialists. Among the participants: former *Newsweek* editor Arnaud de Borchgrave; John Duke Anthony of Johns Hopkins' international center; L. Dean Brown of the Middle East Institute; a group of ex-CIA Middle East hands, including Miles Copeland; Jeffrey Gaynor and Philip Lawler of the Heritage Foundation; J. B. Kelley, a British strategist for the Persian Gulf; and two members of Richard Allen's National Security Council (NSC) staff, Douglas Feith

and Raymond Tanter.

At the meeting, Beeley stated his frequently expressed sentiments that the United States is acting "like a satellite of Israel." In response, Tanter and Feith of the NSC reportedly replied that the United States would not look with favor on any European Middle East initiative—as Carrington has proposed—aimed at dealing with the Palestine Liberation Organization. The NSC men, backed by Borchgrave and others present, flatly refused any accommodation with the PLO.

The confrontation at that meeting reflected the broader problems of U.S. Middle East policy as viewed by Carrington and Beeley. The British see the Middle East as an area to be bargained over in the context of Carrington's sought-after "new Yalta" accord with the Soviet Union.

In that context, the London crowd is prepared to offer a series of concessions to the influence of the Soviet Union in the area, including support for the creation of a Palestinian state.

The much talked-about European Middle East initiative, fashioned after the 1980 Venice Declaration written by Carrington, is meant to be a vehicle for talks with the Soviets about redrawing zones of influence in the region.

But Beeley—and Carrington—are reportedly annoyed over a tendency among a certain layer of Rea-

gan's pro-Israeli aides, such as Richard Allen's NSC staff, to the concept of Israel as a U.S. military outpost in the region.

To promote the British view, Beeley oversaw the creation of a new institution that will serve as a virtual lobby for British Middle East policy in the United States. It will be called the "Council for U.S.-European Cooperation on the Middle East."

The council is presently run by L. Dean Brown and Landrum Bolling, former head of the Eli Lilly Foundation and now president of the Council on Foundations.

Overseeing the day-to-day activities of the new council is one John P. Richardson, formerly with the National Association of Arab-Americans (NAAA). Richardson is a confirmed anglophile close to the Beeley circuit in London.

According to one of the new council's principals, the Beeley visit was aimed at finding out who in the U.S. administration is prepared to follow British advice on the region. "Defense Secretary Weinberger is basically already on board," he said.

"Allen is hopelessly pro-Israel. But Alexander Haig is willing to listen. If we can convince him, educate him, we will be in good shape. We have to get Weinberger and Haig to sing out of the same hymn book."

According to one insider, it is hoped that Vice-President George Bush will soon assume a dominant role in Middle East policy-making. "We have to get Bush in there. Of course Reagan is too pro-Israeli now. But Reagan is just an actor, a Charlie McCarthy. We have to get someone else to write Reagan's script."