

Middle East Report by Robert Dreyfuss

The Trilaterals strike back

Menachem Begin is helping Carter, Linowitz, and Kissinger to take front stage once more in the region.

Several times before his tragic assassination, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat publicly blasted the Jimmy Carter administration as weak, bumbling, and incompetent, and favorably contrasted the Reagan administration to that of the Georgian's.

Sadat is said to have been particularly annoyed with Carter's insane brother Billy's antics with Colonel Qaddafi of Libya, and with Zbigniew Brzezinski's outspoken support for "Islamic fundamentalism," Khomeini-style. In the end, it was Qaddafi and the Muslim Brotherhood secret society that killed Sadat.

Now, with the earth not even settled over Sadat's tomb, Jimmy Carter and the whole Trilateral Commission crew—led by Sol Linowitz and Henry Kissinger—are trying to stage an open comeback in the Middle East. And Israeli cult leader Menachem Begin is giving them a hand.

It seems almost like a horrible dream: there on Air Force One, flying back from Sadat's funeral in Cairo, were Jimmy Carter and Gerry Ford—whose combined IQ soars into two-digit figures—expounding their wisdom on the subject of U.S. relations with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). In scrambled syntax—Carter said that these "discussions have to be done"—Jimmy and Gerry fumbled their way to announce that the United States should talk to the

PLO if the PLO recognizes Israel's right to exist.

Well, that is nothing new, as President Reagan noted the next day. That has been consistent American policy since 1975. But, to make sure that Jimmy and Gerry did not bungle their headline-grabbing session with a captive press corps aboard the jet, Kissinger and Linowitz sat silently nearby during the entire performance.

On Oct. 13, the *Baltimore Sun* suggested editorially that either Carter or Kissinger be named special envoy to the Middle East by Reagan. It even quoted a presumptuous Carter to the effect that he "would be honored" to serve in such a post.

Of course, no one is asking—not yet.

There is more of the game to be played.

Two days after Air Force One touched down on its return from Cairo, the *New York Times* leaked on page 1 that at the funeral Mr. Begin had sidled up to Carter and Linowitz and promised that he intends to make Linowitz "famous."

In brief, Begin reportedly said that Israel will soon announce its acceptance of "the Linowitz plan" for West Bank autonomy. For students of "the Camp David process," the Linowitz plan is a gobbledegook concoction of technicalities which most decidedly do *not* add up to the sine qua non for Middle East peace, namely, that

Israel gets out of the West Bank.

Two things need to be said.

First, by hinting at support for Carter and Linowitz, the Begin government is deliberately undercutting President Reagan by reinforcing the Carter has-beens. Begin is known to be enraged at the White House for its effort to maintain links to Saudi Arabia and the Arabs.

Second, because "the Linowitz plan" is anathema to Jordan, the Saudi kingdom, and especially the Palestinians, Begin's new stand is a deliberate affront to all parties concerned. It slams the door in King Hussein's face, in particular.

Given the connections of Linowitz and the Trilaterals, it is not surprising. The special point of reference is the intimate connection between the Trilateral Commission and the Aspen Institute, the Colorado-based British secret service think tank.

Recently, Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon appointed Col. Menachem Milson as civilian governor of the occupied West Bank; Milson is a special adviser to the Aspen Institute, who since the late 1970s has particularly been involved in Aspen's executive seminars on Islam.

Since taking office Sharon has repeatedly expressed his idea of overthrowing King Hussein and installing a radical "Palestinian state" in Amman!

With the assassination of the Egyptian leader, the Sharon plan for eliminating Hussein takes on a more urgent character. The Aspen Institute and the Trilateral Commission seem ready to back Sharon's project. Hopefully, President Reagan will not buy this one—and will so inform Mr. Begin.