

Eye on Washington by Stanley Ezrol



Kissinger clone to ride Mideast shuttle?

Two Kissinger cronies, former State Department Undersecretary Joseph Sisco and former National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft, are top candidates for the special Mideast emissary post that Al Haig is lobbying for in the Oval Office. My sources emphasize that the plan to use a shuttle-bug to resurrect the Camp David Palestinian autonomy talks "is aimed at pleasing Israel . . . which has always benefited from Kissinger's policies."

Haig and U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick want to help Kissinger's faction take over policy-making for the Middle East. So say Washington insiders, commenting on Haig's maneuvering for a White House Mideast policy re-evaluation in favor of Kissinger-brand step-by-step diplomacy.

Haig's latest machinations could move fat Henry closer to policy-making than he has been in this administration. Combined with a Haig success in moving up one notch both current Undersecretary for Political Affairs Walter Stoessel and Assistant Secretary for Euro-

pean Affairs Lawrence Eagleburger to fill the gap left by William Clark as number two man at State, the appointment of either Scowcroft or Sisco would consolidate a Kissingerian crisis-management team which could set off a fifth Mideast war.



Pushing the moderate Arabs toward war

Haig and Kirkpatrick, meanwhile, have lost no time in their efforts to undermine the tentative alliance between the United States and the moderate Arab states. This is particularly true of Saudi Arabia, whose Prince Fahd presented an eight-point Mideast peace plan last fall. Under the plan, the Arab world would recognize Israel in exchange for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and recognition of Palestinian rights.

Reagan and his closest advisers favor the Fahd plan as the basis for a new Mideast policy once Israel returns the remainder of the occupied Sinai in April, completing the

Camp David accords. In the last month Riyadh has won support from the Syrians, who had boycotted the November Arab summit meeting whose top agenda item was the Fahd plan.

The latest sabotage of Saudi initiatives occurred on Jan. 4: Haig assured Israeli Ambassador Ephraim Evron that the United States would not heed the Saudi proposal for the United States to author a resolution reprimanding Israel's Golan grab. The resolution would have called on UN members to impose voluntary sanctions against Israel.

Following Haig's formula, Kirkpatrick and the U.S. delegation have shown little willingness to compromise with the Arab delegation led by Syria. Following what was called a "turbulent" Jan. 5 meeting between Kirkpatrick and the Syrian Ambassador, Dia Allah el-Fattal, the Syrians released their own resolution which demands that the United States impose total economic and military sanctions on Israel.

Such a resolution, which it would be impossible for the U.S. to support, is precisely the kind of headline polarization that Haig and Kirkpatrick are seeking.

The mood at the United Nations is "increasingly militant," say Arab diplomats, raising the danger that renewed Arab unity could become a vehicle for war rather than peace. Failure to discipline the renegade Israeli regime could produce a catastrophe in the Mideast, Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al Faisal warned the United States in a Jan. 2 *New York Times* interview. Troop mobilizations of both the Israelis and Syrians during the first week of January indicate that another war may be in the offing, à la Kissinger and Haig.