
Kissinger's power play after Mideast fiasco

by Nancy Coker

Henry Kissinger, Britain's self-professed agent-of-influence in the United States, has emerged as the chief American spokesman for the fallacious notion that the crisis in Lebanon is somehow good for Washington. In an op-ed printed by the *Washington Post* on June 16, Kissinger stated that the fighting in Lebanon "opens up extraordinary opportunities for a dynamic American diplomacy throughout the Middle East."

Kissinger is turning on its head the reality of the matter, that U.S. influence in the Middle East is about to evaporate as a result of the Reagan administration's support of Israel's invasion of Lebanon, and that the Soviets are going to pick up the pieces (see *EIR*, June 29).

There is a method to Kissinger's strategic madness. The egotistical former Secretary of State eagerly views the Lebanon crisis as a war-crazed mercenary would: an opportunity to insert his fat self back into the Middle East as a shuttle diplomat.

"Henry is looking for a job," joked one Washington analyst. "His op-ed was his notice of availability."

There is more to it, however. It is the British who are activating Henry and angling to have him sent to the Middle East as Washington's special negotiator to build up their interests in the region. Britain calculates that the destruction of the PLO in Lebanon and the demise of U.S. credibility in the region have cleared the way for a British-sponsored "peace" centered around, as Kissinger writes, "a comprehensive approach [to] the three great issues of the Middle East: the Lebanon crisis, the autonomy talks regarding the West Bank and Gaza, and the threat to Western interests in the Gulf."

Specifically, Britain wants to station U.S. and French troops (i.e., NATO) in Lebanon to "solve" the crisis there and get Israel out (although "residual Israeli forces" would remain along the border of Galilee, Kissinger notes). Linked to such an arrangement would be a proposal to force Arab acceptance of the discredited Camp David formula on the West Bank autonomy issue, entailing not a return to the 1967 borders, but the transformation of part of the West Bank into—as Kissinger says—an "Israeli security zone subject to later negotiation." The participation of Jordan and Egypt in such a

"comprehensive" peace scheme would evolve into realization of the ultimate objective: a "strategic consensus" of Israel and the moderate Arabs against the Soviets.

Kissinger's "linkage" formula, whereby a West Bank deal is struck in conjunction with a Lebanon deal, all within the Camp David framework, is espoused by a crew of liberal Senators long associated with the American Zionist lobby, such as Charles Percy, voicing criticism of Israel. Following a meeting on Capitol Hill June 22 with Begin, Sen. Paul Tsongas (D-Mass.) said, "I think it is fair to say that in my eight years in Washington I've never seen such an angry session with a foreign head of state." The next day, Tsongas presented in a press conference a nine-point peace plan effectively identical with Henry Kissinger's British-sponsored proposals.

New York Times columnist James Reston has also endorsed Kissinger's linkage plan, while liberal, pro-Palestinian *Times* writer Anthony Lewis has gone so far as to call for Kissinger's return as diplomatic shuttle to the region.

The Haig-Kissinger miscalculations

The trick to Kissinger's plan is, of course, Soviet acquiescence. Britain, and Kissinger, working through the Philby-Andropov networks, think they can make a deal with Moscow. Their elaborate strategy to take advantage of the debacle for the United States in the Middle East does not take account of the fact that the Soviets, ascendant in the region, are in no need of a deal. Furthermore, deal or no, the U.S.S.R. will not tolerate a "NATO-ized Middle East."

Kissinger's protégé Alexander Haig, however, convinced Reagan to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Begin on June 21, countering White House objections that such a meeting would only enhance the deadly image of U.S.-Israeli collusion in Lebanon and further erode America's position in the Arab world. It was also Haig who had Reagan dismiss a peace plan worked out by Egypt and the PLO, under which the PLO would have laid down its arms and begun negotiations with Israel and the United States.

In his talks with the President, Begin secured Reagan's continued support by playing up to his anti-communist profile. Begin raved about the "crushing blow" Israel had dealt to Soviet influence in the region by means of attacks on the PLO and Syria, and how Lebanon had been cleaned up as a terrorist base. In point of fact, international terrorism is expected to increase as a result of Israel's annihilation campaign, as is Soviet influence in the region. High-ranking Egyptian sources confirm that Cairo, until now the strongest advocate of an Arab-American alliance, is disgusted with the United States and is considering reopening relations with Moscow. "America has lost Egypt," was how one diplomatic contact bluntly put it.