

Will Whitehall provoke a new Suez backlash in the Mideast?

by Judith Wyer

The Middle East has again become an arena for Anglo-American rivalry just as it was in the 1956 Suez Canal crisis. London has been working overtime, both diplomatically and through a number of covert adventures, to eliminate U.S. "assets" and influence in the region, a policy that has been most visible in recent weeks through the aggressive anti-U.S. diplomacy on the part of Foreign Secretary Francis Pym.

Of immediate concern to the British is the momentum surrounding President Reagan's Sept. 1 peace initiative, a policy which could end Britain's traditional "Great Game" manipulation of the region if aggressively pursued by the White House. Up to now, the London-controlled State Department has maintained day-to-day oversight of the peace initiative, working to ensure that any future negotiations lead to no genuine settlement, but rather are kept in a "crisis management" mode, in which all the parties involved—the United States, the Soviet Union, Israel, and the Arabs—are divided in a classical British "balance-of-power" arrangement. Typical of the State Department's sabotage of the Reagan initiative is the work of Henry Kissinger, whose collaborator George Shultz strikes a friendly pose to the Arab world while Kissinger himself is helping to fund the Sharon-led Israeli program to expel the Palestinians from the disputed West Bank!

Despite State's work to undermine the White House, London still has images of Eisenhower's 1956 anti-British policy being revived under Reagan, and is taking no chances this time around. Since the Sept. 1 announcement, Foreign Secretary Pym has spared no effort to discredit the United States as the mediator of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The *Wall Street Journal* reported Nov. 5 that the British are "upset" about U.S. eagerness to pursue Middle East negotiations and quotes from a series of Pym authored diplomatic cables: "While we understand the American need to keep up the momentum, we would be unhappy to see King Hussein [of Jordan] forge ahead without adequate Arab support. . . The Americans may see attractions in a split in the Arab ranks leaving Jordan with a free hand. That would in our view be a step backwards. It would be a tragedy if Jordan were to abandon her efforts to bring the Arabs with her towards moderation. If she did, the PLO, who are in a weakened and indecisive state, would drift back to those whom the King describes as the 'Soviet surrogates.' "

Since mid-October Pym has made three unexpected visits to the Mideast, first to Syria and Egypt, and then a Nov. 9 visit to Jordan. *EIR* has learned that Pym urged Hussein to back off from a written request from President Reagan that the Jordanian monarch use his influence to push the Palestine Liberation Organization to recognize Israel in order to alleviate the last obstacle to establishing a U.S.-PLO dialogue.

In addition to Pym's presence, Arab sources report that British intelligence is utilizing its more than hundred years of experience to activate "every mafia in the area to ensure that any honest effort at solving the Mideast problem fails." The sources also point out that the British efforts have intersected Soviet activities in the area, as certain elements in the Soviet leadership are not unhappy with the prospect of giving the Reagan administration a "bloody nose" in the context of the tense U.S.-Soviet relationship. The contact now ongoing between Soviet officials and Israeli leaders such as Defense Minister Sharon and Foreign Minister Shamir are properly viewed in this context.

Below are summarized case-by-case aspects of the ongoing Anglo-American fight.

Lebanon

In the short term, Lebanon represents the most volatile ground for British operations against the United States. Both London and Israel are committed to the removal of Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, a strong ally of the United States and are using the octogenarian mafioso Camille Chamoun in this effort.

Chamoun is known to be a shared asset of London and Moscow, run through his positions on the board of the London-Moscow Norodny Bank and with the Bulgarian-tied Byblos Bank of Beirut. The old warlord Chamoun vocally opposed the recent parliamentary vote of confidence which gave Gemayel unprecedented powers to rule by decree. Having won by a narrow majority, Gemayel is said to have achieved the vote only by making concessions to Chamoun, who is reported to control the majority of the Lebanese parliament.

Lebanese sources report that Chamoun was mimicking Pym's anti-American rhetoric during his tour of the United States and Europe in late October, praising Britain and the Soviets as the only viable mediators in the Mideast. In mid-

October, Chamoun's brother, Charles, chaired a secretive meeting in Camille Chamoun's Chouf Mountains headquarters. The meeting was attended by a number of Israeli mafiosi and British notables including Sharon, who set up a new round of Lebanese violence to take place in the Chouf between rival Druze Muslims and the nominally Christian Falange. Since the 1850s the British have been the masterminds of inciting Druze-Christian violence to serve colonial ends.

In recent months, Britain has reopened its intelligence center in the Chouf town of Shemlan, giving Britain renewed on-site capabilities in Lebanon. Meanwhile, Ariel Sharon is overseeing Israeli occupation of the Chouf region and is reported to be arming the Druze on the pretext of creating a separate Druze militia to patrol the volatile region.

On Nov. 11, Amin Gemayel called an urgent meeting of Druze and Christian leaders following an eruption of fighting which left 13 dead and 35 wounded. Gemayel told the press that Israel's refusal to withdraw from the Chouf is a "point of pressure" against his government.

One of the concessions that Chamoun is thought to have extracted from Amin Gemayel in order to win the vote of confidence was that British troops join the multinational force in Lebanon, a proposal put forth by Lord Chelwood, the

chairman of the Conservative Middle East Committee. Lebanese sources report that Amin Gemayel, who has no love for the British, opposes the presence of British troops in Lebanon, and prefers an increase of American forces.

The Gulf

On Nov. 7, days after a secretive visit to Israel by British Parliamentarian Julian Amery to confer with Israeli intelligence (the Mossad), the British-backed Khomeini dictatorship launched its second ground invasion of Iraq this year. All accounts of the Iraqi invasion conform to a blueprint which Amery and his Mossad collaborators have worked out to split off the Persian Gulf port town of Basra from Iraq, and create a separate Shi'ite Muslim entity.

The establishment of a separate Basran entity meets several requirements of the British design in the Gulf region. First, it offers the opportunity for the re-establishment of the British-allied freemasonic lodge in Basra, which thrived prior to the 1958 Iraqi revolution, as a crucial component of British colonial rule over the area. Second, it establishes a radical Shi'ite base within striking distance of the pro-American regime of Saudi Arabia. Third, it weakens the Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein, which London is determined to capture.

British strategist: 'We run the region'

Britain's Vice Air Marshal Stewart Menaul, a member of the Committee for the Free World, in a discussion Oct. 29 with *EIR*, flaunted the determination of British strategists to usurp American influence in the Middle East.

Asked first about the ongoing international intelligence warfare between Britain and the United States, Menaul insisted, "There is *no* battle going on between the U.S. and Britain at all." When given the example of British-run Oman's decision recently to cancel American-coordinated military maneuvers in the Gulf and to cozy up to the Soviets, Menaul began denying that this was an example of British undercutting of the U.S., then declared:

"Recently, Oman signed security agreements with Saudi Arabia in that region, and I'll tell you what that means: The British have damned far sight more influence and political savvy in Oman, and Saudi Arabia, than does the United States! The British have been in that region for a hundred years. The Americans have influence with military equipment and weaponry, but the British have great influence with diplomacy. Some of the Saudi royal family live in Britain. The whole of the ruling family of Saudi Arabia sends their children to be educated in Britain. The

British have a great deal of influence in Saudi Arabia. Saudi diplomats come regularly for consultations to London. In Oman, the air force and navy are virtually run by the British, there are British advisers all over the place. Oman is literally run by the British!

"The Americans have no monopoly," Menaul went on. "During the Falklands crisis, we demonstrated that we have a rapid deployment force, so it's not the Americans alone in this."

He added, "Britain has been active in the formation of the Gulf Coordination Council, the attempt to form an integrated defense system for the region that could be linked up with other western defense systems. British relations are *particularly* good with Saudi Arabia."

Menaul was challenged to comment on the fact that the heirs of the American military tradition of Douglas MacArthur have always disliked the idea of American muscle being guided by British brains, and that this relationship is now being questioned more than ever. He replied: "You talk of General MacArthur! Look at the mess he made with the Japanese peace treaty. Article Nine, forbidding Japan to have an armed forces, is the most ludicrous clause in a long time. I read MacArthur's history and background, and it was not a laudable performance. I won't criticize his military expertise, but as a diplomat he was in the wilderness. He has put a noose around America's neck."

Iraq is the object of Anglo-American rivalry, and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has opted for closer ties with the United States as the foundation of his effort to continue Iraq's economic development.

A Kuwaiti source reports that recently the British have been "whispering in the ears" of various wealthy Arab heads of state to stop funding Iraq's war effort since Iraq is bound to lose the war. Though the Nov. 7 Iranian invasion was repelled, Iran announced that it is continuing to shell the highways linking Baghdad and Basra in order to cut off Basra from the capital. Khomeini has made no secret of his design to capture the port town and create a pro-Khomeini government there.

The escalation of the Gulf war is timed with a series of ministerial meetings of the British-created Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Comprised of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman, and Bahrain, the GCC is the institutional focus of a London-authored plan to create an Arab military and economic bloc.

As the accompanying interview with British Air Marshal Menaul indicates, the British consider the Arab world, most importantly the Persian Gulf, to be their preserve. A recent interview with another high-level British officer expressed the same view regarding the Gulf: "It's not the kind of description that I would want written down, but what in fact has happened is that the British have penetrated very deeply into the day-to-day management levels of the military and diplomatic world of the Gulf. We have to press forward in this regard."

Egypt

Beginning last month, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak restarted a purge of the Egyptian mafia which he began shortly after coming to power on Oct. 6, 1981. Those who are targets of the purge center around the mafia boss Osman Ahmed Osman, a member of the London-created Propaganda 2 Italian-based Freemasonic Lodge. Mubarak is challenging the nouveau riche elites which backed and profited from the Kissinger-inspired Open Door economic policy, the companion to the Camp David Accords, which was introduced into Egypt to transform its emerging industrial economy into a Hong Kong-style free enterprise system.

Egyptian military sources characterize the ongoing war against the Kissinger-London allied Egyptian mafia as crucial to the "life or death" of Egypt. According to Lebanese sources, behind the mafia being targeted by Mubarak, which includes the exiled widow of Anwar Sadat is the old British-leaning monarchist networks of the Farouk family. These sources say that London intends to weaken Egypt to the point where the monarchy can be re-instituted and U.S. influence in Egypt will be destroyed. Egypt, along with Saudi Arabia, are the two pillars of U.S. influence in the Arab world.

As *EIR* has exposed, Mubarak has become the target of an assassination campaign which intelligence sources report is being organized in London. It is reported that recent agree-

ments between the British and Egypt in areas of riot control, and police and military security have given British intelligence added capabilities to stage an assassination through their Muslim Brotherhood operatives, the same capability that killed Sadat.

Jordan

King Hussein's encouragement of the Reagan peace plan was most powerfully demonstrated on Nov. 8, the day before Pym's arrival in Jordan, when Hussein announced his Dec. 21 trip to Washington. Reagan had requested that Hussein come to Washington in order to advance the prospects for a direct PLO-U.S. dialogue, something Britain and Israel are determined to prevent.

Inside the Jordanian court both Hussein's eccentric brother, the Heir Apparent Prince Hassan, and the Queen Mother are acting to restrain Hussein from cooperating with the United States. Both London and Israel favor Prince Hassan assuming power, since Hassan is vocally anti-American. Hassan is also the titular head of the elite Arab Thought Forum, the Arab arm of the Club of Rome, the neo-Malthusian organization that favors reducing the population of the world by 2 billion by the year 2000.

Saudi Arabia

Though reliable information from the highly secretive Saudi royal family is sparse, it is generally acknowledged that since the death of Saudi King Khalid in June, the long-standing rivalry between the newly crowned King Fahd and his Heir Apparent, First Crown Prince Abdullah, known in the intelligence community as "Britain's boy," has intensified. Fahd remains one of the strongest allies of the United States in the Arab world. However, London banking sources say Fahd's prestige within the royal family now rests upon whether or not the United States can deliver some motion with respect to resolving the Palestinian issue and can restrain the regime of Menachem Begin.

Prior to Khalid's death Fahd and his full brother Defense Minister Sultan had struck the bargain with Abdullah that once he was named Crown Prince he would renounce his powerful position as head of the National Guard. Abdullah's refusal to now do so is widely interpreted as indicating that Abdullah is building up his own power base within the kingdom. Arab sources report that because Fahd does not feel strong enough to isolate Abdullah he has attempted to mollify Abdullah by sharing more and more power with him.

If the British succeed in eliminating Mubarak, then Mubarak's good friend King Fahd will be seriously exposed to a threat from the British, working through radical Arab networks like those that seized the Grand Mosque of Mecca in 1979.

Abdullah's seizing control of power in Saudi Arabia would mark the end of the U.S. in the Persian Gulf, putting the flow of oil to continental Europe and Japan directly under the control of British surrogates; and creating a deadly threat to world stability.