

# Chain reaction in Mideast: the Lavie, the Beirut bombing, and the West Bank

by Mark Burdman

When Secretary of State George Shultz decided to release sensitive technology to Israel for construction of a sophisticated fighter jet called the Lavie, that decision effectively guaranteed that nearly 50 people, including CIA official Robert Ames, one of President Reagan's closest advisers on the Middle East, would be blown up in the April 18 attack on the U.S. embassy in Beirut.

The bombing was organized by the combined assets of the Israeli intelligence agency Mossad and intelligence networks in Damascus and Teheran.

Barring certain extraordinary countermoves from the White House, Shultz, who is operating at the behest of the man he describes as his "good friend," Henry Kissinger, may have irreversibly undermined Mr. Reagan's efforts to stabilize the Middle East and ensured a new outbreak of chaos and war in the region.

Shultz belongs to that international policy grouping under the sway of former British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington, a grouping determined to set the Middle East on fire in order to embroil President Reagan in hot-spot crises, eradicate constructive U.S. influence in the region, and keep the White House locked into the Kissingerian geometry of the "balance of terror" strategic policy.

In this arrangement, looked on with favor by Yuri Andropov's KGB and by the old Nazi elements of Geneva and Lausanne who are extremely active in the Middle East, Israel has been assigned the role of a "little Venice," a mini-imperial power holding the key to destabilizations and intrigues throughout the region. Shultz's decision to give the go-ahead to the Lavie project, and thereby provide Israel with functional military independence from the United States, has tipped the balance to the "Venetians" in Jerusalem.

Shultz and his British friends have declared certain old players of the game expendable. In the chain reaction unleashed by the Lavie decision and the April 18 bombing in Beirut, expert intelligence estimates are that the lives of Jordan's King Hussein, the Palestine Liberation Organization's Yasser Arafat, and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd are all in immediate danger.

The "early warning signal" of the new rules of the game was the April 11 murder in Lisbon of PLO peace spokesman Dr. Issam Sartawi by the Abu Nidal terrorist group, which is a combined asset of the Israeli Mossad and the old Nazi International networks based in Switzerland. Knowledgeable Israeli sources estimate that Sartawi was "executed, not assassinated in the strict sense of the word," as a message to other internationally prominent individuals that efforts toward a Mideast peace mediated by the United States would not be tolerated.

## Who blew up the Beirut embassy?

The bombing of the U.S. embassy in Beirut was, in essence, a "declaration of independence" from the United States by Shultz's "breakaway" friends in Israel: Defense Minister Moshe Arens, Minister Without Portfolio Ariel Sharon, Minister of Science and Technology Yuval Ne'eman, and former Defense Minister Ezer Weizman.

Despite livid protests to the contrary from intelligence professionals in North America, Israel, and elsewhere, there is no doubt as to the prominent role played by Mossad elements in the bombing of the embassy.

Before anyone could even ask, "Who benefits from this terror?" Israeli government spokesmen, representatives of the Israeli press, and Mossad operatives like Georgetown University's Edward Luttwak issued statements asserting that the terrorism in Beirut only proved that Israel had been right all along in insisting that it must not withdraw from Lebanon, since the bombing attested that Lebanon was ungovernable!

The death of the CIA's senior Middle East analyst, Robert Ames, in the bomb blast was, according to intelligence sources, no accident, but a reflection of an ongoing "intelligence war" between a faction in the CIA and a faction in the Mossad. These sources report that U.S. special envoy to the Middle East Philip Habib was also targeted in the embassy attack, and narrowly missed death when his scheduled arrival at the embassy was delayed.

The group that claimed responsibility for the bombing—the Islamic Holy War group, or Al-Jihad al-Islami in Ara-

bic—is an Israeli-created and -controlled terrorist operation. It was formed as an extremist breakaway group of the Lebanese Shiite organization Al-Amal at the time Israel invaded Lebanon in the summer of 1982. The group is headed by Hussein Moussavi, who is reliably reported to have regular contact with Lebanese warlord and Israeli ally Camille Chamoun. Moussavi is supplied and supported by Israeli mercenary Col. Saad Haddad in southern Lebanon, and also maintains close connections with Syrian drug-runner Rifaat Assad, brother of President Hafez Assad. Last year, Rifaat Assad was said to have met secretly with former Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon in the United States.

The Islamic Holy War group is a conduit for illegal gun and drug-trafficking between Lebanon and Khomeini's Iran. In this capacity, Moussavi is reported to be in close contact with Sadegh Tabatabai, the chief arms purchaser for Khomeini, who ties into the Israeli-connected Swiss arms-trading firms that were named in the Propaganda-2 scandal in Italy. Tabatabai was recently jailed in West Germany on charges of heroin trafficking. According to one Middle Eastern source, Tabatabai has been working since 1977 to create an apparatus among radical Lebanese Shiites who would collaborate with the Israeli Mossad to funnel arms to Iran in exchange for drugs. In December 1982, Moussavi's thugs set up a so-called Islamic Republic of Baalbek in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, which is the center of opium refining and transshipment. Soon thereafter, Khomeini deployed two brigades of Iranian troops to Baalbek, ostensibly to confront Israel, but in reality to protect the massive illegal gun and drug trade in which the Israeli mafia and Israel's agent Colonel Haddad have a sizeable cut.

Last year, *EIR* reported on a secret meeting at the Chamoun family home in the mountains east of Beirut. Attending that meeting were Ariel Sharon, David Douglas-Hume, and Rupert Murdoch, the British-Australian owner of the *New York Post*, among others. Their agenda was to plot "giving the United States a bloody nose" in Lebanon. It is this collection of drug-pushers who created the Moussavi gang of Shiites.

Shortly after Israel invaded Lebanon, the head of the American University of Beirut, David Dodge, was kidnapped by Moussavi's gang. Under the cover of attempting to rescue Dodge, Chamoun established contact with Moussavi's group. The same terrorists are known to have worked with Haddad's allies within the Lebanese Falange to massacre hundreds of Palestinians in September 1982 in the Sabra and Shatilla Palestinian refugee camps.

Since the overthrow of the Shah of Iran, Mossad elements, working with the British, have used the region's Shiites as a kind of "Mongol horde" battering ram against the Arab countries. This strategy has now moved into a more intense phase. Parallel destabilization capabilities are deployed through the Abu Nidal terror network, which maintains a primary base in Damascus and a secondary base in Baghdad, and whose connections to Mossad were repeatedly exposed by Dr. Issam Sartawi before he was murdered in Lisbon.

From its inception, the Lavie project has represented not one, but two, plans. The "Lavie One" plan involves the construction by Israel of a sophisticated jet fighter rivaling the American-made F-16.

The "Lavie Two" dimensions of the project involve Israeli acquisition of intermediate-range ballistic missile capabilities to fire hydrogen bombs already in Israel's possession. Linked to this is a program for making Israel into "the world's third superpower," in the formulation of former Air Force Middle East desk intelligence chief Joseph Churba, through massive arms sales around the world, particularly in the southern hemisphere. "Lavie Two" transforms Israel into the merchants of death in the Third World, a reality now being preliminarily played out in Central America.

Shultz's predecessor Henry Kissinger laid the groundwork for the Lavie Two infrastructure with a 1974 agreement between the United States and Israel giving an official stamp to Israel's entry into the Ibero-American arms market. This arrangement has expanded exponentially in the past five years under the Begin government. Churba and Israeli Minister for Economic Coordination Ya'acov Meridor have indicated the basic outlines of the policy; in Meridor's formulation, "Israel aspires to become the main agent of the United States in Central America, the Caribbean, South Africa, and Taiwan because, for political reasons, Washington cannot give all the assistance required."

The final component of the Lavie Two arrangement is that Israel, in league with South Africa, Great Britain, and leading Commonwealth countries, assumes control over the flow of vital strategic raw materials supplies, particularly in Africa. Recent reports that Britain's Rolls-Royce multinational was brought into a supply role for the Lavie project indicated a heightened level of Anglo-Israeli coordination.

Unlike the majority of American Jews who sense the dangerous implications of the Lavie project, U.S.-based Christian evangelicals in the orbit of the Jerusalem Temple Foundation give it their complete support. They say frankly that Israel must become "independent of the United States," and that the Lavie jet is a crucial aspect in Israel's confrontation with "the Antichrist." The man who provided Washington's go-ahead for the Lavie plan, George Shultz, is said to be a covert backer of the Jerusalem Temple Foundation's efforts to rebuild Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem and to buy up the territories in the West Bank occupied by Israel (see *EIR*, April 26).

## Reorganizing Israel

Shultz's decision on the Lavie consolidates an internal coup during recent weeks by the Arens-Sharon-Ne'eman crowd over the direction of Israeli policy. This applies in the military, economic, and ideological sphere.

Over the April 16-17 weekend when the Lavie decision was made by Shultz, Israeli observers were surprised by the appointment as Deputy Chief of Staff of Gen. David Ivrei, who was until that point head of Israeli Aircraft Industries

and until December 1982, the head of the Israeli Air Force. According to an April 17 *Jerusalem Post* account, Ivri was a prime mover in conceptualizing the Lavie project.

That same weekend, readjustments began to be made in Israeli economic planning. As the country continued in a hyperinflationary economic crisis, the Israeli Treasury issued a statement casting doubts on Israel's most ambitious civilian infrastructure project, the building of a canal between the Mediterranean and Dead Seas. Despite the fact that extensive investments had been earmarked for the canal through investments in Israel bonds in the United States, the Treasury declared that revenue from these bonds could be used for any purpose the Israeli government chose. The Treasury intoned that Israel "cannot afford to fund two major projects requiring massive financing at the same time. Now that the decision to push ahead with the new generation Lavie fighter aircraft has been confirmed, the canal project should be postponed for a few years, if not abandoned altogether."

The Begin government's brazenness extends to the occupied West Bank as well. On April 10, the cabinet announced an expanded settlements program in the West Bank, and public relations campaigns are being mounted to convince the population to resettle in the territories. The World Zionist Organization's Settlement Division, headed by the extremist Mattitayu Drobles, has published a 30-year master plan for expanding the Jewish population of Israel to 6 million from its current level of 3-1/2 million, while holding the Arab birth rate down.

For the first time, the Israeli press is openly publicizing what *EIR* had exposed last year as the "land scam" in the West Bank. Typical of this new trend, the *Jerusalem Post* reported April 14, in an article entitled "Booming Business," about the enthusiastic response to advertisements to buy land from a consortium in the Ramat Kidron area. The consortium, called Jumbo, is run by Israeli chocolate magnate Amiel Fromchencko; Israeli diamond magnate David Moore, a top funder of the international Herut Party grouping of Prime Minister Begin; and Knesset member Ronnie Milo, Begin's son-in-law. Some of the land purchases are coming from abroad; buyers include a group of wealthy Iranian emigré Jews living in Milan.

As *EIR* has documented, the local land-scammers received major assistance last year from Henry Kissinger, who was involved in an elaborate West Bank land-purchase scheme with Britain's Lord Harlech, among others.

An astounding justification for these operations was given in mid-April by outgoing Chief of Staff Rafael Eytan, who declared that the expansion of settlements would make Arab protesters in the West Bank "as effective as drugged cockroaches scurrying around in a bottle." Indicating the current mood in Israel, Eytan was fully exonerated for his statements by Arens, and, in an interview with the Israeli press, Menachem Begin stated that he would like to make Eytan the second man on his Likud Party's electoral list, implying that he views Eytan as his chosen successor.

## How Kissinger sabotaged a Reagan Plan breakthrough

Henry Kissinger is personally responsible for sabotaging President Reagan's Middle East peace plan, Arab intelligence sources say.

"Kissinger has a deal in effect with the most extremist elements of the Palestinian movement operating out of Damascus," stated the sources. "When Kissinger met last November in Morocco with Ahmed Dajani, a leading PLO representative, he told Dajani that the Palestinians could do better by working through him than by dealing with President Reagan." Since that meeting, Palestinian radicals Ahmed Jebril, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command, and Nayef Hawatmeh, head of the Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, have used Kissinger's "promises" to sabotage PLO chief Yasser Arafat's efforts to come to a deal with Jordan's King Hussein that would help the Reagan Plan along. "The radicals told Arafat that they could get a better deal with Kissinger. They said to Arafat, 'Why should we accept what Reagan is offering if Kissinger is offering something better?'" This torpedoed the Reagan-Hussein-Arafat negotiations, thereby undercutting the Reagan Plan.

The appearance in the April 7 *Washington Post* of a story on the secret meeting between Kissinger and Dajani was the signal that the Jebril-Hawatmeh-Kissinger "deal" was operational, and the assassination of Dr. Issam Sartawi, the leader of the PLO's peace faction and one of Arafat's closest associates, flowed out of that. "It is our view that Kissinger assassinated the Reagan Plan, in the same way that he was behind the assassination of Issam Sartawi," the sources concluded.

One day after Sartawi was murdered in Portugal, Kissinger's friend Jebril gave a press conference in Damascus, in which he said, "I am very, very pleased by the death of Dr. Issam Sartawi."

Jebril is recruiting dissident Algerians and Tunisians for terrorist actions in North Africa, Europe, and elsewhere, using training camps in Damascus and receiving assistance from Iran. According to North African sources, Jebril, who works closely with Hawatmeh, is considered the most worrisome security threat to several regimes in the area.

Elements of the story on Kissinger have appeared in Kuwait's *al-Watan* newspaper.