

Middle East becomes the arena for the next superpower confrontation

by Mark Burdman

United States military sources based in Europe estimate that Turkey and its eastern Mediterranean environs are a next focal point for a superpower crisis. Certain U.S. bases in Turkey were recently put on a state of heightened alert, reportedly in anticipation of such a crisis.

With new troubles developing near the southern borders of the U.S.S.R.—borders which Soviet leader Yuri Andropov has defined as being of “vital interest to the security of the U.S.S.R.”—intelligence experts are monitoring the state of mobilization of the estimated 20 Soviet divisions north of the U.S.S.R.’s border with Iran. “Soviet-watchers” in Europe believe that the U.S.S.R. will make an “Afghanistan-level” invasion of northern Iran sometime by the end of 1983, perhaps timed to coincide with the stationing of Pershing missiles in Europe.

The Soviet Union, and also the British, are also targeting Pakistan for destabilization. As the U.S.S.R. expands its efforts to carve out an independent colony of “Baluchistan” in southern Pakistan, London’s Muslim Brotherhood mouthpiece, the glossy *Arabia and the Islamic World Review* monthly, ran as its lead feature a call for the overthrow of Gen. Zia ul-Haq, heretofore the Brotherhood’s pet asset. An internal crisis in Pakistan would necessitate calling back numbers of Pakistani security forces from Saudi Arabia, and would leave Saudi Arabia, a close American ally, open to new destabilizations.

The epicenter of the coming storm is Lebanon. High-level Middle East military-intelligence sources stress that the situation between Israel and Syria is “out of control” and is being worsened hourly by joint British-Soviet operations being run through Syria, possibly including the assassination of Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasser Arafat, to lure Israel into war. A top Israeli military commentator, Hirsh Goodman of the *Jerusalem Post*, warned in articles at the end of May that “only a miracle” could prevent Israel from launching a “preemptive strike” against Syria. Should this happen, a top Arab commentator told *EIR*, “Everybody will blame the United States. And the reaction won’t just be oil boycotts, like in 1973. Today, there is the Muslim Brotherhood factor. There will be anti-American reactions around the world.”

Destroying the United States as a world power is exactly the name of the game.

The Soviets and the British, the respective “Eastern Division” and “Western Division” gamemasters for a projected “Third Persian Empire,” have decided to multiply the crises throughout the Mideast/eastern Mediterranean region. Combined with crises in other global hot spots (southern Africa, Central America, Thailand-Vietnam), the Mideast flash-points are designed to overload the White House with strategic confrontations and force the United States into a series of humiliating backdowns.

Since the “Third Empire” project was launched in earnest in the 1950s, British disciples of the late Bertrand Russell and Arnold Toynbee have identified the Middle East as the central arena in which the “Western” and “Eastern” empire divisions will play out their battle for hegemony. In the process, these spokesmen have specified, the Middle East itself is to be destroyed in an array of religious and tribal wars.

Pandora’s box

For weeks, international attention had been focused on the actions of Syria and Israel in Lebanon. Suddenly, on May 26-27, British intelligence resurfaced its pet “Kurdish caper” and set a whole new array of unpredictable factors in motion. Various border-area Kurdish insurrectionary groups are being increasingly supported, intelligence sources report, by the secret services of the United Kingdom, the U.S.S.R., Libya, Syria, and Israel.

On May 26, the British Broadcasting Corporation ran throughout the day as its lead item a report of an incursion by 2,000 Turkish troops into northern Iraq to quell subversive actions into Turkey by Kurdish separatist guerrillas operating from across-the-border sanctuaries. Statements by the Turkish foreign ministry over the next days confirmed that the raid had occurred, but, according to highly reliable Iranian sources close to the Turkish rulers, the Turks had not wanted news of the operation to be widely reported, and were angered by the BBC’s irresponsible headline-mongering.

According to Turkish and Iraqi government spokesmen, the Turkish commandos had moved into Iraqi territory under a joint arrangement with the Iraqi government. The arrangement is aimed at taking pressure off Iraq, which is battling Khomeini’s Iran on another front.

The British, however, have an entirely different “arrangement” in mind.

On May 28, the *Daily Telegraph* of London rather eagerly projected that the Kurdish insurrection might lead to "more and more prolonged Turkish intervention into this turbulent but oil-rich area where Kurds, Turks, and Turkomans outnumber Arabs. . . . 'Business as usual' cannot be expected to continue. And, if not, are there not other financial and political contingencies which need planning for?" the paper concluded. The *Times* of London of the same day editorialized about "old irredentist passions" being reawakened in Turkey. "Neither Turks nor Kurds have forgotten nor ever fully accepted the incorporation into Iraq of the Ottoman province of Mosul, whose population was predominantly Kurdish with a large Turkish-speaking minority, by an act of British imperial power. . . . Some hitherto unthinkable things might become thinkable in the event of a complete collapse of central government in Iraq."

The timing of the British "Kurdish caper" was very precise. At the end of May, the United States and Turkey began a series of joint military maneuvers, under the rubric of "Distant Drum." The maneuvers coincided with the second visit in recent weeks to Turkey by the head of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. John Vessey, who has plans for Turkey to become a crucial military partner for the United States in the Mediterranean, with a capability for carrying out NATO out-of-area deployments into the strategic Persian Gulf. Days after the "Distant Drum" maneuvers concluded, a series of multinational NATO maneuvers involving Turkey also began in the eastern Mediterranean.

The NATO maneuvers coincided with an unprecedented round of Syrian military maneuvers in areas contiguous to the Mediterranean. These Syrian maneuvers were, for the first time, interfaced through tactical communication links with the Soviet command in Moscow.

British intelligence and its Freemasonic secret societies are also sponsoring a Pan-Turkic "paradigm shift" among certain Turkish elites, to create a belief-structure favoring outward military thrusts. To this effect, when political parties were allowed to re-form in mid-May, former Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, a high-level Freemason who was banned from political life in Turkey for the next 10 years, re-emerged as the de facto head of the new Great Turkey Party. Turkish ruler Gen. Kenan Evren summarily banned the new party and put Demirel under arrest, to the howls of the *Financial Times* of London and other British press outlets. Evren accused Demirel of trying "to divide even the armed forces for the sake of his political future."

The correlated, ongoing danger in the situation is that the British and the Soviets are attempting to blow up the internal situation in Iraq, possibly through an assassination of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein by Nazi International mercenaries of the Abu Nidal terrorist gang. The collapse of internal authority in Iraq would have a "Sarajevo"-style effect on the region. At that point, no Turkish government could avoid moving militarily to secure its eastern flank.

The added problem is the internal manipulation of U.S.

policy by the same set of British-KGB-Mossad operatives. The U.S. Defense Department's unbalanced Richard Perle, recently under investigation for his role in a Mossad-KGB arms-procurement nexus centering in Finland, has been involved in behind-the-scenes projects to build an "Ottoman" faction in Turkey. The State Department's Richard Burt, a special asset of London's International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), has been receiving notoriety in the Greek press for having secretly negotiated arrangements for the installment of Intermediate Range Ballistic Missiles in the "Turkish zone" of northern Cyprus.

Burt's antics have fed into an increasing anti-American propaganda wave in Greece orchestrated by Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, who has suddenly and summarily cut off negotiations with the United States over the status of American bases on Greek territory, and has licensed mass anti-U.S. demonstrations by Orthodox Church-run Communist Party members in Athens. Papandreou could soon set in motion an out-of-control shooting conflict between Greece and Turkey, which, U.S. military sources in Europe warn, could be worse than other projected crises in the region.

The role of Israel

The Israelis present a special set of problems for the United States, especially since Secretary of State George Shultz has enmeshed the White House in agreements (public and secret) that would make Israel, the ostensible American proxy, into the "tail wagging the dog" (see National).

It was pointed out to *EIR*, for example, that the Israelis are heavily involved in the "Kurdish caper" and other destabilization operations against Turkey. Israel, as Turkish sources know, is determined to be the sole important ally of a captive United States in the Mediterranean-Middle East, and seeks to knock out any presumptive competitor. This was one aspect of Israeli involvement in the 1977-78 kidnapping and murder of Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro, and in the Mossad's role the next year in toppling the Shah of Iran. It also explains Mossad's involvement today in destabilizations against the Saudi Arabian regime.

The Israelis now presume that they control the flow of events vis-à-vis Syria in Lebanon, and can go to war or not with Syria at the point of time of their choosing. In fact, with the machinations ongoing between Andropov and the Kissinger-Carrington crowd, Israel is just a pawn.

With several cabinet ministers during the week of May 23 having warned of a "red line" that Syria could not cross and with the press warning openly of a "pre-emptive strike" in the event that tensions in Lebanon continue, Israel has locked itself into a situation in which war with Syria has become almost inevitable in the period ahead. The spark could be a few more soldiers killed by Syrian intelligence agents inside Lebanon, especially as Israel's shattered economy cannot sustain long-term states of mobilization.

At that point, by way of Syria, the Soviet factor comes into play as never before.