

Why the KGB likes Kissinger's Mideast role

by Judith Wyer

Circles close to Saudi Arabia's King Fahd have reportedly become puzzled over the pressure which the U.S. State Department has been putting on the Saudis to open relations with the Soviet Union. Secretary of State George Shultz and his mentor Henry Kissinger support "opening up" the ultra-conservative oil exporters of the Persian Gulf to the U.S.S.R., despite Moscow's open backing for radical Arab and Muslim terrorist movements, which the Saudis see as a threat to the monarchy.

Since Yuri Andropov took power late last year, Moscow has begun an unusual public campaign to win relations with Saudi Arabia and its oil-rich neighbors.

Pavel Akopov, the newly appointed Soviet ambassador to Kuwait, the only Arab Gulf oil exporter with a Soviet embassy, gave a lengthy interview to the Kuwaiti daily *Al Anbaa* last month, breaking the traditional silence of Soviet diplomats in the Middle East. Akopov, who was named ambassador earlier this year from his post in the Soviet Foreign Ministry and charged with the task of re-establishing relations with Saudi Arabia, expounded on the importance of "mutual respect for sovereignty and non-intervention" and welcomed "any power that would want to cooperate with us in the interest of peace and security of peoples."

The irony of the matter is that the embassy that Akopov heads is the KGB center of operations for the entire Gulf region. With a staff of over 250, the KGB uses the embassy to conduct clandestine operations throughout the Gulf, working, in part, through the University of Kuwait. The KGB has also cultivated assets and agents of influence within the Muslim Brotherhood, a terrorist secret society that advocates breaking with the West in general, and with America in particular.

The Kuwait-led Gulf Cooperation Council, composed of six Arab Gulf states, has been operating as a key connection point between the Gulf states and Moscow. On July 25, a high-powered Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation led by National Assembly Speaker Mohammed Yusuf Adasani visited Moscow to discuss bilateral relations and the need for more Soviet efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war.

A well-informed American source in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, reports that U.S. State Department experts have been urging King Fahd to open ties with the Soviets, on the grounds that Saudi Arabia could then be used as a conduit for Muslim fundamentalist destabilizations of the Muslim regions of the U.S.S.R.! This is the same "arc of crisis" policy by which

the British and their Carter administration allies brought the Khomeini regime to power in Iran. Considering the success that the Soviet Politburo's Geidar Aliyev has had running Islamic fundamentalist operations for his own purposes, Washington's revival of the arc of crisis policy is analogous to instructing a sparrow to intimidate a cat by perching before the beast and flapping its wings.

Capitalizing on U.S. failures

Moscow's strategy in the Middle East is to fill the policy vacuum left by the erosion of U.S. influence during the Kissinger-Vance-Shultz era.

For the past month, the Soviet press has been gloating over Shultz's latest gift to them in Lebanon. The Soviet news agency TASS commented on Shultz's early-July failure to get an agreement from Syrian President Hafez Assad to withdraw Syrian troops from Lebanon. "The U.S. Secretary of State himself does not deny that his three-day tour of the countries of that region was unsuccessful," wrote TASS. "Frankly, it is a logical result, predetermined, actually, by the very contents of U.S. policy in the Middle East."

A commentary on Soviet Domestic Television Service rejoiced that America's inability to solve the Lebanon crisis was weakening U.S.-Saudi ties: "King Fahd took a negative line toward the Lebanese-Israeli agreement in his talks with Shultz. The Saudi monarch . . . views this agreement as a reward for Israel's incursions into Lebanon and occupation of the country."

Another commentary from TASS concluded: "The progressive forces of the Arab world are firmly opposed to the U.S. policy in the Middle East."

The "progressive forces" to which TASS referred include the Nazi International's radical assets, which Moscow has been cultivating within the Palestine Liberation Organization to destroy the moderate leadership of PLO chief Yasser Arafat. Moscow has not hidden its displeasure with Arafat since the PLO chief showed signs of willingness to support President Reagan's Mideast initiative last year. According to PLO Foreign Minister Farouk Kaddoumi, recently in Moscow, the Soviets have run out of patience with Arafat, who has refused to heed Moscow's impossible request that he share his leadership with terrorist PLO leaders.

The Soviets are also on the move in Lebanon. A group of Soviet-Syrian puppets, including Druse leader Walid Jumblatt, former President Suleiman Franjeh, and former Prime Minister Rashid Karami, have formed a "National Salvation Movement" to overthrow the Lebanese government of President Amin Gemayel. A top Soviet delegation visited Damascus over the past few days under the leadership of the deputy head of the International Department of the Central Committee Karen Brutens. In addition to making final arrangements on the partition of Lebanon, Brutens and company were also said to be arranging for Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam to meet with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz at the United Nations in September, perhaps to share a glass of champagne over the final partition of Lebanon.