

MIDEAST HOTSPOT: SOVIETS ESCALATE PEACE OFFENSIVE

PRESS FANS ISRAELI WAR HAWKS

May 12 (IPS) -- "The suspicion is growing in Israel" that "the U.S. is trying to regain lost leverage" by "allowing some erosion of Israel's military capability," the Washington Post declares today. While such lying speculation is printed merely to justify an Israeli pre-emptive strike by feeding the rears of Israel's hawk faction, the Post admits that in recent months the U.S. has stockpiled a huge quantity of armaments and ammunition in Israel.

ALLON MOVES TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT

May 12 (IPS) -- In signing the trade accord between Israel and the European Economic Community in Brussels yesterday, Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon affirmed the determination of the pro-trade faction in the Israeli government to follow the path of development instead of nuclear war.

ISRAELI WAR HAWKS STAGE PROVOCATIVE LEBANON ATTACK

May 12 (IPS) -- In a direct provocation to the Soviet Union, Israeli armed forces today crossed Lebanese borders and seized six hostages, including a member of the Lebanese Communist Party Politburo, according to U.S. radio reports. Mounted by the Israeli warhawks, supporters of pre-emptive strike, this operation was encouraged by the escalation of guerrilla activities by CIA-controlled gangs within the Palestinian movement.

GERMAN PRESS PLAYS UP SYRIA-IRAQ DISPUTE, PREDICTS ESCALATION

WIESBADEN, WEST GERMANY, May 12 (IPS) -- The West German press and media launched a psywar campaign today "predicting" and citing "those in the know" that relations between Syria and Iraq will soon worsen, leading to a break-off in diplomatic relations. According to Armed Forces Network radio, Syria has already closed its airline offices in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, while the Deutsche Press Agency (DPA) claims that Iraq has removed its economic and military attaches from Damascus.

The Syrian press, meanwhile, continues to circulate slanders about Iraq's "fascist regime" and supposed opposition agents running through the streets of Baghdad.

ISRAEL CENSORS NEW BOOK DAMAGING TO KISSINGER, "ISRAELI-AMERICAN RELATIONS"

May 18 (IPS) -- The Israeli government "moved vigorously" to

stop publication of a book on the behind-the-scenes dealings of U.S. Secretary of State Kissinger's "shuttle diplomacy," according to today's New York Times.

ALLON PRAISES EEC ACCORD WITH ISRAEL: EGYPT DOES NOT OPPOSE IT

May 13 (IPS) -- Israeli Foreign Minister, Yigal Allon, praised the European Economic Community (EEC) for bucking Arab pressure and signing trade accords with Israel, according to various press reports today. Allon gave passive welcome to any moderation coming from Arab countries.

The official Egyptian statement on the EEC-Israel accords did not oppose them, according to today's Washington Post, although several Arab states squawked loudly against the signing.

ISRAEL RAIDS LEBANON AGAIN; BEIRUT REGIME NEAR COLLAPSE

May 13 (IPS) -- For the second day in a row, Israeli ground forces raided southern Lebanon, today kidnapping three Lebanese citizens accused of supporting terrorists.

Four more members of the Lebanese cabinet resigned today, bringing to eleven the number of cabinet resignations since last week; and the government of Premier Rashid Solh is expected to collapse within days. The Israeli raids are apparently designed to introduce chaos into Lebanon, forcing the government to resign.

SYRIA ESCALATES ANTI-IRAQ PROVOCATIONS, RISKS ISRAELI ATTACK

May 13 (IPS) -- The CIA-controlled Syrian military clique of Hafez Assad today closed its airspace to Iraqi airliners, in an escalation of provocations against the pro-socialist government of Iraq, according to radio reports today. The Syrian move follows a long campaign to undercut Iraq's development plans by withholding vital water flows from the Euphrates river from Syria to Iraq, threatening the livelihood of three million Iraqi farmers.

TENSION RISING "VERY DANGEROUSLY" AS SYRIA STEPS UP ANTI-IRAQ PROVOCATIONS

May 14 (IPS) -- The CIA-controlled Assad regime in Syria has seriously stepped up provocations against the pro-socialist Iraqi regime. Following Syria's denial of air space to Iraq yesterday, Assad suddenly ordered the removal of all Syrian workers from Iraq while hurling outrageous slanders about the mistreatment of Syrians by the Iraqi rulers.

The dispute grows out of Syria's withholding of vital Euphrates River waters from Iraq's peasantry, which has already resulted in the devastation of Iraqi agriculture.

JOINT SYRIA-JORDAN MOVES AIMED TO PUSH EGYPT INTO ARAB WAR ALLIANCE,
PUSH ISRAEL TO WAR

May 14 (IPS) -- Syria has offered Jordan air cover, according to today's Washington Post, while New York City Radio reports Jordanian troops and equipment moving toward the Israeli borders. Today's Post further warns that King Hussein of Jordan is planning to "throw his 70,000 man army into new fighting against Israel." Such maneuvers are a result of a breach in Egyptian-Syrian relations and indicate another CIA ploy to use Syria as a trigger point to push the Israelis into a pre-emptive strike.

SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN TALKS EXPECTED TO SPUR TERRORISM AGAINST ISRAEL

May 14 (IPS) -- A seven-man negotiating committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is currently meeting to consider setting up an official joint military command with Syria, according to yesterday's Financial Times. The Times quotes informed sources who "expressed the hope that the command would, when established, help the guerrilla movement escalate its activity inside Israel and the occupied territory." Syria is the active center of Mideast CIA provocations against Israel to detonate a new war.

SADAT ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD FOR TWO-DAY VISIT

May 14 (IPS) -- Egyptian President Sadat arrived in Baghdad today, in the first visit by an Egyptian head of state to Iraq. According to the Baltimore Sun, Sadat will try to "do something to prevent the worst from happening" between Syria and Iraq. In recent weeks, Iraqi-Egyptian trade and diplomatic ties have increased dramatically and Sadat has taken an objective (i.e. pro-Iraqi) stand on the Euphrates River dispute, in which Syria is systematically withholding waters from Iraq's peasantry.

SOCIAL DEMOCRATS IMPLICATED IN SYRIA'S ANTI-IRAQ CAMPAIGN

BONN, May 14 (IPS) -- A West German Foreign Ministry official who held discussions in Bonn yesterday with Syria's visiting Foreign Minister Khaddam told IPS today that not only is it in Syrian leader Assad's interest to have the West German Social Democratic Party (SPD) help in isolating and opposing the pro-socialist Iraqi regime, but that "of course, we (the SPD) are isolating Iraq." The official confirmed that SPD'er Wischniewski, in charge of SPD-Arab relations, is the agent through whom West German assistance is given to Syria.

CABAL MIDEAST EXPERT CONFIRMS THAT SYRIA IS PUSHING EGYPT INTO WAR

May 14 (IPS) -- Syria is pushing Egypt into a war, according to

John Campbell, Council of Foreign Relations Mideast scenario planner for the past 25 years. Campbell confirmed yesterday that "Sadat will tend to lose his control over relations with Syria (since) there is a degree of pressure from Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization that will require Sadat to respond." Campbell compared the "hold" that the Assad regime in Syria has over Sadat to the pressures from "militants" upon Egyptian president Nasser in 1967, immediately before the war blow at that time.

KOSYGIN SPEECH IN LIBYA -- PREVENT WORLDWIDE CONFLICT

May 15 (IPS) -- Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin delivered a speech yesterday in Libya stressing Soviet determination to "prevent the outbreak of a new worldwide conflict." He urged the convening of a new Geneva conference on the Middle East, with the proviso that the development of all states in the area should be ensured. In an implicit attack on China's Maoist leadership, Kosygin denounced those who have said that "the best way to attain liberation from imperialism was a general war, regardless of the sacrifices it would bring."

SADAT REAFFIRMS ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST

May 15 (IPS) -- Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in a new conference in Kuwait yesterday, admitted that Israel is a "reality of fact" within its borders prior to the June 1967 war. Sadat stated clearly that those who are saying that Israel must be pushed into the sea are guilty of dangerous posturing and that he was not prepared to sacrifice his people and his army for this. In the U.S., only the Washington Post carried Sadat's remarks, while the New York Times noted Sadat's statement in the last sentence of another Mideast article.

U.S. MEDIA LYINGLY BUILDS UP MIDEAST WAR SCARE HYSTERIA

NEW YORK, May 16 (IPS) -- The major U.S. news outlets, United Press International (UPI) and Associated Press (AP), are deliberately inventing stories of new acts of terrorism in Israel to build up an hysterical climate for an imminent war in the Mideast.

This morning, New York radio stations began carrying an AP dispatch about an explosion at an industrial-military complex outside Tel Aviv after which "witnesses say they saw a mushroom-shaped cloud appear." Soon afterward, UPI released the story that there were two explosions, one in an industrial complex causing shattered windows and houses and the other outside a suburban post office.

IRAQIS AID EGYPTIAN DEVELOPMENT

May 16 (IPS) -- The pro-Soviet Iraqi government has awarded Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, now in Baghdad as part of his Mideast tour, \$115 million in development aid. \$35 million of

the grant are designated for further development of the Suez Canal, while the remaining \$80 million will be granted in crude oil. This was reported by a New York radio station.

UPI reports that the Iraqis have agreed to aid in Egypt's settlement of its outstanding foreign debt, including its huge debt to the Soviet Union.

SOVIETS ABORT SYRIA LIBYA LINK DURING KOSYGIN VISIT TO LIBYA

May 16 (IPS) -- Coinciding with a visit to Libya by Soviet Prime Minister Kosygin, Libyan leader Colonel Qaddafi has agreed to halt Libya's "propaganda campaign against Egypt," according to yesterday's London Times. Qaddafi had initiated the "campaign" two months ago immediately after visits to Libya by Syria's CIA tyrant dictator Hafez Assad and by Austrian President and Second International agent Bruno Kreisky, to outflank an Iraq-Egypt alliance and force Egypt into a pan-Arab war posture.

KOSYGIN MIDEAST DEVELOPMENT CALL BLACKED OUT

May 16 (IPS) -- Crucial passages of the speech delivered in Libya May 13 by Soviet Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin have been systematically suppressed in Western press coverage of the speech.

GOVERNMENT SHAKE-UP IN SYRIA

May 16 (IPS) -- Syrian President Assad has launched a government shake-up over the last few days in an attempt to hold his isolated regime together. According to today's London Financial Times, Prime Minister Mahmoud al Ayoubi will become Assad's "close advisor." Rifaat Assad, the President's brother, has been pulled out of the military and given an office job in the President's party.

BALL TRIES TO WRECK SOVIETS' MIDEAST DIPLOMACY

May 18 (IPS) -- George Ball, former Under-Secretary of State and Rockefeller cabalist, attempts to dupe the Soviet Union in today's Washington Post. Ball calls on the U.S. to push for a pre-Geneva conference agreement on United Nations Resolution 242, adopted after the 1967 war, which does little more than restore the 1967 borders and "normal diplomatic and trading relations."

Were the Soviet Union to condone such U.S. "peace" moves, the U.S. would restrain the Israelis from pre-emptive strikes, and allow the Soviets to have a European security conference. The substance of Ball's message to Moscow: our terms or nuclear war.