



Mideast Evaluation

## NEW SOLIDARITY International Press Service

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### KISSINGER-NSC PUSHES MIDEAST TOWARD THE BRINK

Nov. 29 (IPS) -- Events in the Middle East this week make it clear that U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's stubborn refusal to accept Soviet offers to convene the Geneva conference and arrange an overall settlement of the Middle East conflict has brought the area to the brink of a thermonuclear confrontation between the U.S. and the USSR.

The resistance of the Syrian and Lebanese working class, backed by Iraq and the Soviet Union, to Kissinger's plans for a so-called Middle East "Pax Americana" this week led the National Security Council to step up its massacre of pro-Soviet and pro-Iraqi cadre in Lebanon under conditions of manufactured civil war. Meanwhile, NSC operatives orchestrated tensions on the Golan Heights border between Syria and Israel, as NATO black propagandists reported that Syrian President Hafez Assad intended not to renew the mandate of United Nations peacekeeping forces in the area. By week's end, Assad, under pressure from the Soviets, had begun to hint that the mandate would in fact be renewed. At this moment, no such action has been taken, keeping the situation volatile.

Assad's dangerous game of brinkmanship over the mandate renewal is coordinated with a series of actions specifically designed to shore up the RAND/CIA-linked warhawk factions in Israel. Following a series of terror raids into Israel by Palestinian guerillas ordered by Assad reports suddenly surfaced in the Western press that Syria was about to launch a "war of attrition" against Israel. Both the Nov. 24 London Observer and the Baltimore Sun carried such CIA-planted stories, reporting that Syria is preparing "a war of attrition, shelling and bombing the Israelis on the Golan Heights."

#### ROCKEFELLER AGENTS PRIME ISRAELIS FOR FIRST STRIKE OPTION

The spokesman for the Israeli warhawks who favor a pre-emptive first strike, Defense Minister Shimon Peres this week warned that Israel would not tolerate any violation of the May 1974 ceasefire accord. Pointing his finger towards the Golan Heights Peres charged that Syria had already broken the spirit and the letter of the accord.

It would be easy to dismiss such remarks as part of Peres normal hawkish blustering. However, Peres' remarks were backed up this week by a sophisticated RAND corporation psychological warfare campaign designed to make the normally paranoid Israelis even more paranoid, pushing them all the more closer to launching a pre-emptive nuclear "first strike."

CIA director William Colby testifying before a Congressional

hearing in Washington warned that a new Arab-Israeli war would result in 8000 Israeli dead - a figure more than triple Israel's 1973 war losses. Though the Congressmen listened attentively, it was clear that the CIA Director's remarks were aimed at a Jerusalem audience.

Meanwhile, Rockefeller staged an exercise in paranoia - a Jerusalem symposium on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Among speakers which included Peres, RAND's own Abraham Becker raised the specter of growing Arab military superiority and implied that Israel should strike now to prevent a further Arab build-up. As if on cue, the New York Times and the Israeli press played up unconfirmed reports that the Soviets had begun toipping highly sophisticated MIG-21 jets to Syria.

In perhaps the most open RAND call to arms, Robert Tucker, CIA-linked thinktanker who last January was responsible for floating the "invade-the-Arab-oilfields" cenario, proposes that Israel openly brandish its nuclear arsenal to ensure "peace." Tucker's obviously planted story is meant to gain public acceptance for an Israeli nuclear strike - and therefore explains its wide reportage in the CIA press.

Saner elements within Israeli ruling circles are not responding to CIA/Syrian provocations. An Israeli diplomatic source in New York said this week that Israel "fully expects Syria to renew the mandate of the U.N. peacekeeping force" and dismissed talk of a major crisis breaking out.

#### THE ENCIRCLEMENT OF ASSAD

According to a mid-week Pravda report, pro-socialist forces in both Syria and Iraq had moved closer over the past several days to coordination of Middle East policy, a tendency long advocated by the Iraqis but consistently sabotaged by NSC-controlled Assad's regime.

In response to this encirclement Assad has unleashed an unprecedented reign of terror within Syria itself against his growing opposition. Citing the Egyptian Al-Jumhurriyya newspaper, the Nov. 20 Baghdad Observer reports a campaign of mass arrests, involving thousands of people. The Committee of Defence of Political Prisoners in Syria has sent a telegram documenting this repression to UN Secretary Kurt Waldheim and to heads of state around the world; the Committee charged that Syria has been turned into a "large prison."

This process is intensified by the "spillover effect" of the mass strike ferment led by the as-yet unpacified Lebanese left.

#### LEBANON IS STILL A POWDERKEG

Lebanon remains a likely spark for a large-scale Israeli-Syrian war. The bloody civil war between NSC-controlled rightist militias and pro-Soviet and pro-Iraqi leftists is raging out of control. Both Syria and Israel have threatened to intervene in the country in defense of their "national interests."

With a temporary military lull, the press has openly flaunted the fact that the right is being rearmed for an escalated new round of fighting. The State Department-linked West German Sud-detsche Zeitung paper, for example, Nov. 27 cited Pierre Gemayel, leader of the fascist Falangist thugs, to the effect that the Falange was expecting massive arms shipments by sea imminently.

Over the past weeks, the press has reported arms shipments destined for the Falange from NATO sources in Portugal, Belgium, elsewhere in Western Europe, and from Israel.

According to widely circulated commentaries in both the Iraqi and leftist Lebanese press, the next round of fighting between the fascists and the left - the sixth since the National Security Council-provoked civil war began last April - will be decisive.

The increasing hegemony of the Arab Baath Socialist Party and Lebanese Communist Party among the left Moslem and Palestinian movement has forced RAND into realigning its right wing operation.

Moslem and Christian feudal landlords, for years "opponents" have now been ordered to form an open alliance.

Syrian-backed Premier Rashid Karami, a long-time controller of the Muslim right in Lebanon, this week broke with precedent and praised the Christian fascist thug Gemayel as a "sincere supporter of law and order."

This bizarre statement was followed later in the week by a call by agent Ghassan Tuani, a member of the Lebanese cabinet and the publisher of the right wing newspaper An-Nahar, for the joint coordination of all militias under a single national guard-type command. The new force would then be made responsible not only for "maintaining security" in the currently warring communities, but also for the administration of the various local control social and economic welfare schemes.

Meanwhile, right wing sheiks and imams are reported mobilizing to oppose the left in open support of the Christian Falange, a move tipped off by the recent return of ultra-conservative Moslem controller Saeb Salem from Saudi Arabia. According to the New York Times, Salem unabashedly proclaimed "the overwhelming majority of Moslems are against the destructive left."

A leading operative of a Rockefeller family think tank this week confirmed to IPS that an open alliance of CIA Moslems and Christians is now NSC policy. In his new analysis of the situation, "Muslemization" of Lebanon - the bringing in of numerous right wing Moslems into many of the privileged positions now held by Christian fascists - was the best solution" to the problem at hand.

Last weekend, the CIA gave a foretaste of what its new strategy would entail. The Christian Falange launched mortar shells not only against a Lebanese Communist rally in Beirut, but also against the home of Raymond Edde. A Christian moderate, Edde has demonstrated interest in reaching an accommodation with the Communist and Baathist forces.

CENTO BEING REACTIVATED TO DEFEND  
ROCKY'S MIDEAST INTERESTS

A revived Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) and the sheikhdoms of Iran and the Arab Gulf states are now being tightened up to defend Rockefeller family interests in the Middle East.

Difficulties in actually pulling together an anti-communist alliance in the CENTO "northern tier" were outlined during an interview yesterday with a top pro-Rockefeller Washington think-

tanker. After noting Soviet organizing gains in Cyprus, the Middle East, the Gulf, Baluchistan, and Kashmir, he wistfully looked to Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan to "defend" the area without indicating how this could be accomplished.

In a parallel development, British Foreign Minister James Callaghan, in Kuwait on a tour of the Persian Gulf area that excludes pro-Soviet Iraq, is actively discussing Gulf security, according to the Nov. 27 London Times. Until now, the Kuwaitis, with strong internal and external Iraqi pressure on them, have refused to join a Saudi Arabian-led Gulf military alliance and economic pacts being pushed by the CIA through Richard Helms, former CIA chief and now U.S. ambassador to Iran.

The CENTO and Gulf Security moves coincide with a reported step-up in the long-running Oman war, where British and Iranian troops and British "advisers" are fighting pro-socialist rebels from South Yemen backed by Iraq and the Soviets.