



## Kissinger Pushes Mideast War to Breaking Point

### *Orders Syrian Advance to Stop Ford Geneva Effort*

NEW YORK, June 6, 9 PM EDT (NSIPS) — Henry Kissinger and his National Security Council networks today ordered what had previously been a vacillating Syrian invasion force to go in for the kill in Lebanon. Syrian-controlled Air Force units bombed Lebanese left military positions today, and then began to march their tank columns and thousands of soldiers toward Beirut. Heavy fighting has now broken out in small towns around Beirut, while Lebanese left forces have begun to take preventive military action against potential Syrian butchers stationed in Beirut itself. The renewed fighting immediately threatens to involve Israel, Iraq and the Soviet Union — bringing the entire world to the edge of thermonuclear confrontation.

Five days after he made a public statement endorsing a Geneva peace conference for the Middle East, President Gerald Ford today continues to publicly vacillate. Speaking on Face the Nation, a nervous Ford announced that he did not expect a Geneva conference to be convened in 1976, but strongly condemned the Syrian invasion into Lebanon. The fact that Ford's hesitation was forced from him by a massive pressure, black propaganda and blackmail campaign, perhaps including direct assassination threats was obvious to the entire audience as he slipped and called his insurrectionary Secretary of State "President...I mean Secretary Kissinger." Sources near the White House report that Ford is still pushing extremely hard behind the scenes for the convening of the Geneva conference.

In fact, it is only due to the quiet, but forceful diplomatic efforts of Ford's men and the Soviet Union that the Middle East has not yet exploded. Kissinger and Rockefeller cannot be stopped by anything but their removal; they are proceeding manically ahead to achieve the "show of force" they believe will win them the ability to impose Schachtian regimes worldwide. The Soviets, on their side, have put themselves on full war mobilization and identified the Middle East as a trigger point.

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, the coordinator of the Syrian invasion of Lebanon, today announced his flat refusal to consider an American peace initiative to reconvene the United Nations-sponsored Geneva Conference on the Middle East. Asked at a UN press conference here about reports that he and President Ford were in sharp disagreement on U.S. policy toward the Middle East, Kissinger asserted that the U. S. "was not engaged in any specific new initiative to bring

about a Middle East peace settlement," and said, "There will be no Geneva Conference in the near future."

Kissinger's acid announcement, coming in the midst of a dangerous escalation of the Middle East crisis with the June 1 armed intervention into Lebanon by Syria, is in direct opposition to the policy of the Ford Administration. Ron Nessen, Ford's press secretary, told reporters last week that Ford wants a Geneva meeting "within two months."

The open split in the U.S. Administration, pitting Ford, his staff, and Defense Secretary Rumsfeld against Kissinger, his boss Rockefeller, and the National Security Council, is most sharply defined by the growing danger of an NSC-provoked war in the Middle East. The Baltimore Sun reported June 3 on speculation "that the State Department and the White House were on different tracks: that Mr. Ford was getting set to drag everyone to Geneva while Mr. Kissinger was dragging his feet." The next day an editorial in the Washington Post, in coordination with the State Department, retweeted, blasting Ford for listening to his "political, not his diplomatic advisers" — i.e., his White House staff and the Ford campaign committee, and not Henry Kissinger — on Middle East policy, and concluded: "A surprise peace conference, suddenly sprung by a weak campaigning president, is a recipe for disaster."

Sources in Washington had reported earlier in the week that the Soviet Union and President Ford had reached a working agreement to settle the Lebanese crisis and move immediately toward the convening of the UN sponsored Geneva Conference with U.S. and Soviet Union as co-chairman, to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. Soviet Premier Alexii Kosygin's trip to Iraq and Syria had been undertaken after consultations between Ford and Soviet leaders, the sources stated, citing reports from the State Department.

The Ford initiative toward reconvening Geneva was initially made public by Ford's spokesman Ron Nessen, who told UPI yesterday that Ford wanted a Geneva parley "within two months." This action by Ford — which runs directly counter to the Kissinger policy of step-by-step confrontation — was instantly made the target of a coordinated distortion and black propaganda campaign by the Kissinger apparatus. Not one major newspaper carried the UPI Geneva story. At first Associated Press claimed that the State Department had "retracted" the Ford remarks. The NSC, directed by Gen. Brent Scowcroft, a leading accomplice of Kissinger, stated for the White House that "no new initiatives" had been taken, denying the UPI report.

### Syrian Invasion: Cautious

The Syrian move was timed by Kissinger to coincide with the arrival in Damascus, Syria, of Soviet Premier Kosygin. The Kosygin trip, which also included an earlier stop in Iraq and may include a visit to Egypt, according to the Jerusalem Post, was aimed at resolving the Lebanese civil war and laying the basis for a Geneva Conference. Only hours before the Syrians mobilized for the invasion, the USSR and Iraq had called in a joint communique for regional development and industrialization of the Middle East, and for the withdrawal of Israel to its 1967 borders and the recognition of the rights of the Palestinians as the basis for a settlement of the Middle East conflict. The Iraq-USSR statement also carried a strong warning against the threatened Syrian invasion.

In the early hours of June 1, two armored columns of Syrian troops, comprised of an estimated 9,000 men and 200 tanks, crossed the Lebanese border and took up positions in Eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley and in the Northern Akkar region.

Soviet opposition to the Syrian move, while low-key, is unmistakable. In Iraq, Soviet Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin stated on June 1: "Lebanon must be protected from any kind of imperialist interference in its internal affairs. Since the right to solve the problems of Lebanon belongs solely to the people of that country, this legal right must be respected by all." Later, Moscow Radio issued a veiled warning to Assad, that Arab leaders who "engage themselves against the progressive movement and the Palestinians in Lebanon" will be branded as "tools of imperialism.

The reaction of the progressive forces of the Arab world has been swift. In Lebanon, the forces of the Lebanese left and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) announced the formation of a joint military command yesterday, and today convened a meeting at which delegates of Iraq, Libya and Algeria announced their support for the left-PLO alliance.

The PLO issued a statement blasting the Syrian action "as part of the American policy of step-by-step in the Middle East, and a result of Kissinger's failing policy." The combined forces of the PLO and the left, which includes the Lebanese Communist party and pro-Irawi Baathists, pledged to fight the Syrian invasion.

Egypt, long at odds with Syria over the danger that the Assad clique could set off an explosion that would inevitably involve Egypt, condemned the Syrian action in the strongest terms. Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmi of Egypt denounced Syria for "genocide" and "bloody butcheries" in Lebanon, and today Egypt ordered Syrian diplomats out of Egypt and closed its embassy in Damascus.

### "Hysteria and Panic in Syria"

The agent clique around Hafez Assad in Damascus has stripped itself of the little remaining domestic support it once had by its blatant collaboration with Kissinger. According to Arab diplomatic sources, an attempted coup d'etat was narrowly averted three days ago when four top Syrian

generals were arrested by Syrian Intelligence for planning to topple the regime.

"The Syrian regime's authorities are living in a state of hysteria and panic due to their increasing isolation," the Baghdad Observer, an Iraqi daily, reported this week. "This is considered to be an indication of the imminent downfall of the regime in the hands of officers and fighters of the Syrian Army."

According to Il Messagero, an Italian newspaper, the "left wing of the Syrian Baath party is determined to stop Henry Kissinger's Machiavellian plot." The Syrian Baath, a renegade party formed out of the shell of the Arab Baath Socialist Party after the 1966 NATO-backed coup in Syria, is reportedly deeply split on Syria's Lebanon policy. According to the Washington Post, a strong pro-Iraqi faction has developed in the Syrian party.

As a result, Assad has progressively isolated his regime from its base of support, and now relies for maintaining his rule on a five-man junta that includes his brother Rifaat Assad, head of Security; Air Force commander Naji Jamil; Defense Minister Mustafa Tlas; Chief of Staff Hikmat Chehabi; and Saiqa commander Zuhair Mohsin, the coordinator of the Lebanon invasion. The Syrian Cabinet, which has expressed some resentment at Assad's fascist policy in Lebanon, was reorganized this week under Jamil and Tlas.

### U.S., Israel Support

The U.S. and Israel have openly endorsed the Syrian move into Lebanon. L. Dean Brown, the U.S. ambassador to Jordan during that country's slaughter of Palestinians in September 1970 and the special U.S. envoy sent to Lebanon last month, arrived this week in Amman, Jordan, to oversee the Syrian action. According to Palestinian sources, Jordanian troops — the fanatic Bedouin warriors who fought the PLO in 1970 — have entered Lebanon and Syria in support of the Syrian invasion.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin announced on June 2 that he "is not shedding any tears" over the prospect of the Syrian Army butchering "Arafat's terrorists," and added that the PLO is now afraid of a repeat of the events of Jordan 1970. Defense Minister Shimon Peres, speaking at Tel Aviv University, announced that Syria's goals "have changed," and backed Assad fully, while former Defense Minister Moshe Dayan praised Syria's moves against "radical Palestinians."

Both the Washington Post and the New York Times endorsed the Syrian action as well. The Post, attacking the idea "fashionable in radical circles" that Kissinger is behind the Lebanese civil war, nevertheless called the invasion the "boldest step so far in an American-supported policy." The Times, while admitting that a "slight miscalculation today or tomorrow or next week could spark the long-feared explosion," nevertheless stated that "a little discreet and imaginative diplomatic footwork, combined with a lot of luck," might set the stage for another round of Kissinger's discredited shuttle diplomacy.