

MIDEAST

Israeli Pro-War Faction Seeks To Wreck Mideast Peace

Oct. 30 — A former State Dept. official has confirmed that the pro-war faction in Israel is deliberately leaking reports about cooperation between the Israeli military and the Nazi Falange in the occupation of southern Lebanon, in order to wreck the delicate Lebanese peace settlement and provoke an Arab-Israeli confrontation. By publicizing the Israeli-Falange alliance, Kissinger's Israeli allies are effectively challenging Syria and other Arab states to a showdown. The Lebanese right-wing has backed up Israel's pressure on Syria by announcing its intention to "apply an iron fist to the Palestinians."

The U.S. backers of Israel's hawks are using the growing crisis around southern Lebanon to prepare for a thermonuclear showdown with the Soviet Union in the immediate post-election period. The same planned Arab-Israeli crisis will be used as leverage to provoke another oil embargo, to bludgeon the Western European and Japanese economies in a desperate effort to prop up the dollar.

Last week's tentative settlement of the Lebanon civil war was worked out by Arab leaders at summit meetings in Saudi Arabia and Egypt to prevent the complete destabilization of the Middle East and new regional war. Receiving the tacit support of President Ford and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin, the agreement represented a face-saving solution for all parties involved in the civil war. The agreement also laid the groundwork for convening of the Geneva peace talks, to which Ford has committed himself after the Nov. 2 elections. Both Rabin and Egyptian President Sadat have given tentative indications of their willingness to move their countries toward a Geneva meeting — in the event that the pro-war faction in Israel can be eliminated.

The Israeli warhawks, led by former Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and current Defense Minister Shimon Peres, are fully mobilized to box-in the more moderate Premier Yitzak Rabin and destroy the fragile peace accord. Using provocative and misleading press reports of an "influx" of Palestinians into the Lebanon-Israel border area, Dayan has openly demanded Israeli military intervention into southern Lebanon, while Peres and his cohorts have been warning of the "red-line" tripwire for an Israeli invasion into Lebanon's south.

The Peres annexation drive in southern Lebanon, while encountering considerable resistance from Rabin and his allies, is receiving the full support of Jimmy Carter and his warmongering Committee on the Present Danger advisors, led by former Defense Secretary James Schlesinger and Eugene Rostow. Rostow is publicly urging American Jewish supporters of Israel to join the insurrection against Rabin and lobby in support of Israel's cooperation with the Lebanese Nazis.

Sadat and Assad are quite prepared to ignore quiet cooperation between Israel and the Lebanese right-wing in the interests of regional "stability." But Israel's open alliance with the Falange is fast becoming an affront which no Arab leader, no matter how desirous of peace, can ignore.

"Israel's Interest Is Peace But They're Making War"

Oct. 30 — The following is an interview with a former State Department official who is an expert on the Middle East, now at John Hopkins University.

Q: Surely, Syrian President Assad does not want a confrontation with Israel over Lebanon, but that's where matters seem

headed, and Israel seems to be provoking it.

A: The Israelis think that as long as Syria keeps its troops from the border, it won't bother them. Israel understands Assad's problems, and they know he's embarrassed by the Israeli collaboration with the Lebanese Christians. So Israel will allow some Fedayeen to go into the Lebanese south to give Assad an opportunity to say that he's a defender of these Palestinians.

Q: In your view, then what's going on in Lebanon is for public show?

A: Of course it's for public show. What makes me wonder is that the Israelis are permitting such publicity about their collaboration with the Christians. It makes you think they want to keep the war going. This whole thing is ridiculous because it rebounds against the Christians and makes matters tougher for them.

Q: You seem to suggest that the Israelis want to keep the peace and keep Assad around, while at the same time they're acting in such a way as to provoke Assad? Which is it?

A: The Israelis are sometimes incredibly stupid when they're in situations like this. It would be in their best interest to keep their support for the Falange quiet, but they're letting all sorts of publicity get out. They could easily suppress it. Imagine leaving Hebrew markings on the Christian's weaponry in the south! They are flaunting their involvement. They're being clumsy. Nothing comes out of Israel unless they want it to come out.

Q: Are you familiar with the Committee on the Present Danger, and its intention to use the Middle East as a nuclear confrontation point with the Soviet Union after a Carter presidency?

A: Sure, there's a problem with Gene Rostow (Carter advisor and Committee on Present Danger member — ed.). When I was at the State Department, you know what he did? He was passing everything the Egyptians sent him to the Israelis, until we restrained him.

Mideast Expert:

Permanent Israeli Occupation In Lebanon Could Trigger War

Oct. 26 — Following is the transcript of an interview today with a former Rand Corporation analyst and National Security Council staff member who is a leading expert on the Middle East.

NSIPS: Today's Le Monde says that the Riyadh and Cairo accords this week have broken the alliance between Syria and the Falange in Lebanon. Le Monde predicts that as a result the Lebanese right will opt for closer cooperation with Israel, and that the outcome is likely to be full Arab-Israeli war. In line with this, there are more reports today of Israeli military moves to back up the right in southern Lebanon. Can the Arabs ignore this, and try to work out a peace settlement at Geneva, or will they go for war?

A: They're not likely to ignore it. How strongly they react, I don't know. The Lebanese right, however, will probably have to pay a price for such overt, blatant cooperation with Israel. In fact, I'm surprised at how open it is. The Syrians would probably like to wink at the cooperation in the south between Israel and the Falange, but present circumstances make it much harder to ignore.

Now, the Syrians are in a commanding position in Lebanon.

Egypt, the Saudis and even the PLO have basically acquiesced there, and Syria will therefore in return probably back away from its alliance with the right. At least, provided that the PLO remains a nice and docile client. Now, if the Christians find themselves very vulnerable, which they will, they will face a dilemma. Either they opt for closer ties to Israel, which is dangerous, or they try to patch themselves up with Syria, and

establish themselves as a sort of 'protected minority' inside Lebanon. Syria's calculations, I think, are to avoid a showdown with Israel. For this reason, they'd be prepared to wing at Israeli-Falange cooperation.

But, if Israel and the Falange openly push their operation in the south and intend to permanently install themselves there...well, then I think that Le Monde's speculation is not idle.

Factions Battle In Israel Over War Or Peace

Oct. 30 (NSIPS) — Henry Kissinger's chief Israeli warhawk, former Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, today called for Israel to intervene militarily in southern Lebanon to "prevent" the return of Palestinians to the border region. In what amounted to a call for a coup d'etat against Israeli Prime Minister Rabin, Dayan declared "only the Israeli army can keep the border quiet."

Dayan's remarks, made to a U.S. audience of United Jewish Appeal representatives, were only one of the signs that Israel's long-seething faction battle — pitting traditional political and military forces against the outright intelligence agents of the U.S. Secretary of State, Dayan and Defense Minister Shimon Peres — is now a wide-open and public fight. With President Ford of the U.S. extending cautious but real support to Rabin in connection with his tentative commitment to a post-election Geneva conference, the split between the Rockefeller-Kissinger and traditional Republican wings of the Administration in Washington is now clearly visible in Israel.

Israeli Chief of Staff Mordechai Gur, a Rabin confidant and military traditionalist, issued a statement this week refuting the existence of any geographic tripwire beyond which Syria cannot pass in Lebanon without Israeli intervention. Contradicting the provocative statements issued all week by Dayan, Peres, and their associates on this subject, General Gur identified the so-called "red line" in Lebanon as a political line, not a territorial demarcation. Rabin himself has emphasized that "Israel will not intervene in the internal affairs of Lebanon except with humanitarian aid," and today's Baltimore Sun confirmed that the Rabin government is "moving with the utmost caution now to avoid sabotaging the fragile ceasefire in Lebanon.... (Israel) may be close to something very important in terms of peace, and they do not want to spoil it."

Great Britain's Financial Times commented that Rabin's rejection of the Dayan-Peres effort to involve Israel in Lebanon "may reflect the desire not to upset President Ford with the American election only two days away." U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, William Scranton confirmed that estimation indirectly when he ignored the partially successful destabilization campaign of Dayan-Peres against the Rabin government by telling the World Affairs Council in Pittsburgh last week that "for the first time, Israel has a strong government."

Premier Rabin this week openly rejected a fraudulent "letter" from "villagers in southern Lebanon" requesting Israeli military intervention there against the Palestinians. Dayan and Defense Minister Peres have increasingly sent the Israeli military into Southern Lebanon to support the Nazi Falange, and intended to use the letter to compel Rabin to make the intervention and virtual annexation of the area "official." But Rabin,

who refused to even meet with messengers who brought the letter from the alleged villagers, told the Israeli parliament that acknowledgement of the Falangist emissaries "would constitute interference in the internal affairs of another state." At the same parliamentary meeting, Defense Minister Peres had demanded a full military invasion of Lebanon's south, telling the delegates if the Lebanese fascists need Israel's aid "we will give it to them."

The letter episode is only the latest of Rabin's refusals to be drawn into a new Mideast war. A recent effort by the Zionist fanatic Gush Emunim movement to arouse war-hysteria in Israel over Gush-provoked Arab rioting on the Jordan River's West Bank — with public support from Peres — was halted by Rabin through a legal injunction against Gush leader Moshe Levinger's continued presence on the West Bank.

The Dayan-Peres campaign to topple Rabin has included a major "watergate" style campaign against the traditional legitimate political forces of the country centered in the Histadrut and its appendages, including Rabin's Finance Ministry. One such old-line establishment figure, Asher Yadlin who heads the Histadrut's Sick Fund, has been the target of scandalous charges "leaked" to the press that he has taken kickbacks and engaged in shady deals involving Las Vegas gambling casinos — some at the very time of his nomination to the Chairmanship of the Bank of Israel by Premier Rabin. The Yadlin affair is the biggest scandal in Israel's history, and has severely affected the entire government.

The Dayan-Peres attempted coup d'etat also saw a direct "no confidence" resolution against Rabin by the extreme right-wing Likud faction last week, defeated in parliament 57 to 38. The Likud motion called the government "weak, rife with internal and mutual mistrust and bankrupt of all morality and responsibility." Rabin responded with a sharp denunciation of the Likud as the "permanent opposition" which was determined to "poison the public atmosphere." A Likud spokesman left no doubt as to the motivation for the resolution: "The continuing feud between Rabin and Peres is causing untold harm to our country. The whole cabinet seems to be disintegrating with its sense of morality at an all time low." Mordechai Ben Porat, a Dayan protege in the Rafi faction, backed the Likud with a call for "a local Entebbe operation" to clean out the Rabin government.

Legitimate political forces in the Israeli government are aware of what's afoot in the Dayan-Peres drive for war, and have pulled together to support the government. The leftwing Mapam party which had planned to split from the Rabin government's coalition has decided to remain in the government to give Rabin the strength he needs to keep the peace.