

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.