

MIDEAST

## Carterites, Israeli Hawks Try to Wreck Euro-Arab Peace Drive

Nov. 20 (NSIPS) — During a hastily arranged visit to Paris this week to try to wreck the increasingly substantive ties between Western European and Arab oil-producing states, Israel's top warhawk, ex-Defense Minister Moshe Dayan announced that Israel "must be prepared to face the tragedy of the use of nuclear capacity." In interviews with French journalists, Dayan proclaimed that he was "extremely happy about the election of Carter" in the U.S. If Israel returned territories to Arab states occupied after the June, 1967 Mideast war as part of a comprehensive Mideast peace settlement in the coming weeks, "then I go back into the service," he stated.

During his Paris stay, Dayan was sharply attacked for his maniac pro-war views in a nationally broadcast debate with Michel Jobert, General de Gaulle's former Foreign Minister and a prime architect of the growing Euro-Arab bloc.

Dayan's threats and provocations were issued only hours after Egypt's Radio Cairo, mouthpiece for the government, broadcast the most direct and explicit call for peace with Israel ever made by an Arab state. "For the first time in history, the Arabs are recognizing Israel as a valuable partner for negotiations," the broadcast stated, adding that if Israel did not heed the offer, the Middle East would rapidly descend into a crisis, in which "Europe will be on the side of the Arabs."

The official Egyptian broadcast lavishly praised the "sincere" efforts during the last decade by the late French leader Charles de Gaulle who sought to fashion close ties between Europe and the Arab states. Only two days earlier, France's Prime Minister Barre and Egypt's President Sadat had issued a joint communique calling for immediately re-convening a Geneva Mideast peace conference to arrange an overall settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute.

While saner layers in the governing bureaucracies of the U.S. and Israel are seriously reviewing the ground-breaking implications of the Euro-Arab diplomacy, Atlanticist elements in both countries rushed to bring an "independent, breakaway ally" warhawk government into power in Israel to set off the Carter camp's plotted Mideast showdown between the U.S. and the Soviets. Writing in yesterday's Washington Post, editorial board member Stephen Rosenfeld warned that any attempt to "impose" a settlement on Israel by forcing withdrawal from the occupied territories would bring the "apocalyptic, ... hardline" faction in Israel into the government. Writing today, Rockefeller conduit Tom Braden advocates precisely such massive pressure from the "Carter Administration" on Israel. Rounding out the psychological warfare, madman ex-U.S. Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger blurted to an Israeli right-wing newspaper that Israel is becoming "Vietnamized," since it is "unable to dare to disobey the political directives coming from Washington" — an unmistakable call for the "breakaway ally" scenario.

In Israel, the warhawks are now on full mobilization. Dayan's top ally, Defense Minister Shimon Peres, has labeled the Radio Cairo and other peace overtures from the Arab states a "smokescreen" to hide preparations for war. Israeli Chief of Staff Mordechai Gur threatened new, "long Entebbe raids" against neighboring Arab states, using newly supplied jets from the U.S.

At mid-week, Gen. Ariel Sharon, a Dayan ally who has worked closely with the Carter camp, announced his drive for the premiership (against current Premier Yitzhak Rabin) at the head of

a hastily patched-together "new party."

Sharon, a cotton farmer, emphasized the similarities between himself and nuclear peanut Carter. Dayan publicly lauded Sharon's move in a statement issued Nov. 17.

Rockefeller-Carter operatives within two parties that participate with Israel's Labour Party in the governing coalition, the Independent Liberal Party and the National Religious Party, have demanded that their groups leave Rabin's coalition, which would collapse the government and force early elections.

Under this pressure, Rabin has vacillated between labeling the Radio Cairo statements and similar statements by leading Palestinian representatives a "ploy," on the one hand, while on the other, saying that he would "meet Sadat anywhere, anytime" to discuss a comprehensive regional settlement. Ex-Foreign Minister Abba Eban, the leader of Israel's moderate forces who has mooted his intentions to run for premier in 1977, insisted yesterday that "Israel should be happy every time an Arab statesman talks about peace. . . . We should now seize the initiative. This would not be the first time. We should remember that earlier initiatives by the Israeli government were well-received by the world." Similarly, Dov Zakin, leading member of the leftist Mapam party, emphasized that "if anything comes of the Arab states' overtures, very good indeed. If it should prove a bluff, we shall call the bluff and the whole world will witness it. It's not yet too late."

If these peace forces use the "early general elections" ploy of the war camp to organize nationally and internationally around a clear peace and development program, they could win an honest election and significantly defuse the Carter-Dayan U.S.-Soviet war plot.

### Sadat Needs Peace

For Egypt's President Sadat, who has told three U.S. Congressional delegations visiting Egypt this week of the absolute necessity for a general Mideast peace in the coming months, the internal Egyptian situation is unwinding so fast that only a substantial regional peace accord can ensure his political survival. Yesterday's Financial Times of London reported that Sadat's newly installed cabinet personally ordered by David Rockefeller has begun to implement a series of despised austerity measures that the government had balked on for months for fear of unleashing mass popular unrest. But, the Times warns, much of Egypt, especially the northern part of the country, has become ungovernable, and Sadat has been forced to allow open political organizing by leftists. Visiting Congressmen have openly worried about a military coup, and leading military officers in Egypt are forcing Sadat to mend fences with the Soviet Union and neighboring Libya.

A second major destabilizing element in the region is Lebanon's South, the scene of intensifying battles between Israeli-backed fascist units and Palestinian-leftist forces. In Israel, Rabin has repeatedly tried to defuse the southern Lebanon situation by minimizing the danger it poses to Israel's security, but the Dayan-Peres clique is fashioning a fait accompli of Israeli occupation. On Nov. 17, Gur suddenly announced that "the Lebanese situation has reached a stage unpleasant from Israel's point of view," with "regular Syrian divisions" ostensibly "on two central roads leading into the heart of Israel at sensitive points. . . . We must decide what is good for Israel's security and act accordingly," the general proclaimed.