

Ghorbal was more honest. "There is no room for hawks in the Middle East," Ghorbal told a Chicago audience this week, commenting on the Peres victory.

Other Arabs have warned openly of the possibility of war, especially Syria, whose press now daily predicts the outbreak of a new conflict in the region.

For the Arabs the key question is whether oil-rich states like Saudi Arabia can combine with Egypt and Syria to forge an Arab initiative that can destroy the source of the Israeli danger: the New York banks. One sign of that emerged this week with the report that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have granted a seven-year debt moratorium to Egypt, which may set an unstoppable

precedent for the coming IMF showdown with Egypt early next month in Paris.

In addition, Egypt has proposed the formation of an Arab-Comecon Bank to promote Arab-Soviet trade, according to the French daily *Les Echos*. An official of the Moscow Narodny Bank indicated that Egypt would be on line for trade in transfer rubles in the immediate future, depending on other factors — obviously a change in Egypt's current anti-communist stance under Sadat. A possible opening in that direction was the statement by Abdel Moneim Kaissouny, Egypt's economics czar, that Cairo wished to invite greater Soviet involvement in Egyptian development.

How Rabin Was Dumped: The Real Crime In Israeli Politics

Yitzhak Rabin was not shunted aside as the ruling Israeli Labour Party's candidate for the May 17 elections because of a petty act of financial corruption. His decision last week to resign as the Israeli Labour Party's candidate made him the latest Israeli victim in a months-long conspiracy to destroy the constituency-based machine of the Labour Party and to bring to power a military, pro-war coalition. The conspiracy, totally blacked out of the U.S. press, is run jointly by Zbigniew Brzezinski and the National Security Council here and by the militarist faction in Israel around former Defense Minister Moshe Dayan. The Watergate-style series of destabilizations went into high gear just as Jimmy Carter was elected to the U.S. presidency. In Rabin's case, the setup involved a leak to the Israeli press about a family bank account in the U.S., a "leak" that turned what is a "normal" hidden bank account for a high-ranking Israeli politician into a scandal that toppled the government.

Rabin, the leading Israeli pro-peace moderate, has refused to expose the operation against him, and now the conspirators are proceeding unimpeded with their war scenario. With Rabin out of the way and the Labour Party forced into disarray, an Israeli ruling coalition of rightist ex-generals and intelligence chiefs will organize the Israeli population around a program of undiluted nationalism and bellicose isolationism. According to plan, this type of government can wield a "nuclear option" and pre-emptive war against the neighboring Arab states and thus set up a test thermonuclear brinkmanship crisis with the Soviet Union.

Rabin's Vulnerability

Rabin, closely connected to anti-Carter conservatives in the United States, is regarded as a moderate on foreign policy issues by leading Western European leaders, and is at the center of a circle of dovish Zionist machine politicians in Israel. He has also been an open opponent of Israeli pre-emptive strike preparations. In all, Rabin possessed all the necessary qualifications to rally Israel's population behind a pro-peace platform. If he had remained in power, Rabin clearly had the potential to encourage a process of peace for the Arab-

Israeli crisis — necessary for the new world economic order, and anathema to Brzezinski, the Rockefellers, and the Trilateral Commission.

The Watergate operation to rid Israeli politics of moderate leaders and wreck the Labour Party machine involved a number of scandals produced and packaged by Brzezinski and his colleagues and unleashed against top Labour Party leaders. In addition, manipulated, anarchic labor strikes were used to try to drive a wedge between the historical alliance of Israel's Labour Party and the national labor confederation, Histadrut.

To carry out the destabilizations, the Trilateral Commission sent its leaders to visit the Holy Land. Nelson and David Rockefeller, Brzezinski, and a host of members of the warmongering Committee on the Present Danger have been to Israel in the past six months. During the same period, Dayan, Defense Minister Shimon Peres, and other fanatic Israeli militarists have held meetings in the U.S. with President Carter, Brzezinski, and U.S. energy czar James R. Schlesinger.

A series of top-level leaks were systematically fed so-called investigative journalists from the newspapers *Ha'aretz*, *Ma'ariv*, and *Hoalam Hazeah*, while the chief organizational link between Dayan, the National Security Council, and the U.S. Jewish Lobby — the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) — has run a covert, but systematic campaign to undermine the credibility of Rabin and old-line Labour Party leaders and to bolster the images of former generals Ariel Sharon and Yigal Yadin, the fascist Israeli candidates for the premiership.

The NSC - Dayan Partnership

Less than two weeks after the election that put Carter in the White House, Moshe Dayan trumpeted his joy at the anticipated happy relationship between his circle of warhawks and the Trilateral Commission. From Paris, Dayan beamed to reporters, "The victory of Carter is a great satisfaction for us...Carter is ready to resist the Soviets and the Arab blackmail. That can only make us happy." The warhawk told France's *Quotidien de Paris*,

"I am extremely happy about the election of Carter. We must not give back the West Bank nor the Gaza region. We must be prepared to face the tragedy of the use of nuclear capacity."

While Dayan outlined the new strategic overview for his nest of Israeli conspirators, Generals Sharon and Yadin, Defense Minister Peres and others simultaneously began to splinter Israel's traditional party system and to create an environment of chaos that would block the capability of the Rabin government to act on a peace platform. In mid-November, Sharon split from the right-wing Likud Party and formed his own party, a move that was heralded by Dayan. Sharon, a cotton farmer by profession, bellowed that Israel needed a "government of technocrats" — words cribbed from the published works of Brzezinski.

"We must be prepared to face the tragedy of the use of nuclear capacity."

Days later, Yadin announced the formation of a "Democratic Movement for Change," an archetypal counterinsurgent civic reform with which he intended to organize what he termed Israel's "discontented" population into a mass proto-fascist movement around quality-of-life issues. The first splittoffs from the Labour Party to join Yadin's movement were a circle of hawks close to Peres who welcomed signs that Yadin was becoming more hawkish in his foreign policy ideas. In early December a source in London close to Dayan welcomed the birth of what he called a "Dayan-Yadin Alliance" and reported that Dayan was out to "topple Rabin."

Also in mid-November, the Independent Liberal Party, a minor party coalition partner of the Labour Party whose leaders had met with Brzezinski just days before, announced that they were pulling out from the government.

At the same time, Defense Minister Peres announced a trip to the U.S. which one staffer from the AIPAC said frankly was to "meet all the Carter people" and "pull the plug on Rabin."

AIPAC, whose connections to the Trilateral Carter team were very tight — a top AIPAC staffer had left the group to become Carter's Western regional campaign director in October — made no bones about its role in organizing Brzezinski's operation against the Rabin-led Labour Party. "Rabin's leadership breeds disunity," one staffer proclaimed: "Yadin and Sharon are the Carters of Israel. Sharon is a dynamite guy! Carter is very close to him, the Carter-Sharon parallels are very similar, they are both agri-businessmen." Recent Sharon trips to the U.S., he noted, were "financed by the Carter campaign."

AIPAC staffer Leonard Davis on December 13 made known in an interview all the essentials of the gameplan. "The Labour Party has its tentacles everywhere, even in the army, everywhere. This is a major problem. Israel needs a change in the whole ideology of the country, from socialism to capitalism, to a country with business managers and technocrats replacing bureaucrats."

This transformation could not take place, Davis continued, "as long as the labor unions support Labour." Davis then reported hopefully that a series of anarchic wildcat strikes had begun to undermine this relationship and to work to the advantage of Yadin. "One has to wonder in this situation how the Labour Party can defend itself; it's factionalized; there is great dissatisfaction with Rabin. I am writing an article that will lay out the theoretical basis for the necessary transformation in Israel," Davis concluded.

Brzezinski himself did the most important preparations for removing the Israeli old guard. Although he is known not to travel extensively, the then-director of the Trilateral Commission made two visits to Israel prior to November. Brzezinski was followed by another top national security advisor to Carter, Harvard University Professor Samuel Huntington, the author of a Trilateral Commission paper on the "ungovernability of democracies."

During this period, the U.S. side sent out orders for Israel to play the nuclear fortress role propounded by Dayan in Paris. While in Israel Brzezinski stayed twice at the house of Menachem Begin, the ultra-rightist head of the Likud Party. Reportedly Brzezinski told the former anti-British terrorist (Begin masterminded the bombing of the King David Hotel) "not to take the Arabs seriously" and that Israel must be the bulwark for stopping Arab radicalism and Soviet influence.

James Schlesinger issued the "breakaway ally" challenge to Israel from Washington in November. Israel as presently constituted, he said, is "unable to dare to disobey the political directives coming from Washington."

Rabin Counterattacks

The handwriting was on the wall for Rabin. The most immediate danger was a burgeoning kickback scandal involving a close Rabin associate, Asher Yadlin, head of the powerful Sick Fund of the Histadrut Labor federation. Yadlin was being most vigorously pursued by *Hoalam Hازه* "investigative reporter" Yigal Laviv, while *Ha'aretz* and *Ma'ariv* were openly expecting the scandal to spread throughout the center Labour Party leadership. Attorney General Aharon Barak swore that all offenders like Yadlin would be prosecuted.

On December 21, Rabin counter-attacked. Pre-empting a Knesset (Israeli Parliament) no-confidence motion against him, Rabin resigned, collapsing the government and forcing early elections. The entire spectrum of Trilateral associates in Israel, Sharon, Peres, and others, were reportedly "stunned" by Rabin's move. Reports began to circulate widely that Rabin was going to use the momentum to build a solid electoral base by opening up a major peace offensive.

Corresponding to Arab diplomatic overtures, a pro-peace move was manifest in Israel in December. One poll showed nearly 50 percent support for negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization, an unprecedentedly high figure. One of Israel's most outspoken doves, Yossi Sarid, called in the Knesset for negotiations without prior conditions with the PLO. Two other top pro-peace leaders, former Labour Party Secretary General Arye Eliav and Housing Minister Avraham Ofer,

travelled to Europe to sound out peace possibilities, each reporting to Rabin that Israel would receive backup if it launched a peace offensive.

Agents "Come Back with a Vengeance"

On Brzezinski's prompting, the conspirators in Israel regrouped. Amidst growing conspiratorial rumblings against Rabin — including a well-publicized Peres-Begin series of meetings in which the subject was an exchange of notes on their respective meetings with Brzezinski — a familiar tactic was decided upon: open-ended Watergate scandals. The first target was Ofer.

What is Ha'aretz Newspaper

A knowledgeable former Israeli Parliament member had the following assessment of the role of the Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz in the dumping of Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin:

"Of course, *Ha'aretz* likes Dayan. That newspaper is a mouthpiece of Peres and Dayan. It is no accident that this is the newspaper that watergated Rabin. It works through the newspaper's staff, which is hugely pro-Dayan. The publisher of the paper, Schocken, is the son of the man who 15 years ago took in six of eight Dayanists into the paper, and they have remained loyal to Dayan ever since."

For weeks, *Hoalam Hazeh's* Laviv had been pursuing both Ofer and his son with revelations about Ofer's alleged corrupt misuse of funds earmarked for construction projects, but the issue had lain relatively dormant. On Jan. 3, however, *Ma'ariv* published a front-page story on the Ofer affair, and Israel's leading "leak" columnist, Matti Golan of *Ha'aretz*, issued a vitriolic personal attack against Ofer, later dubbed Ofer's "last straw." On Jan. 3, Ofer was found dead, allegedly from suicide. Without doubt, he was cognizant that his case was being used to wreck the Labour Party.

Many informed Israelis smelled a rat. A former close associate of Ofer, Knesset member Amnon Linn, commented that Ofer's attackers and opponents had certainly been involved in similar petty crimes. Other sources recalled that Ofer had been the main organizer in the mid-1960's within the Labour Party against the breakaway Dayan-Peres "Rafi" clique and insisted that the Dayanists wanted Ofer out of the picture. An informed Washington source noted that "the hawks have come back with a vengeance."

Ha'aretz and *Ma'ariv* would not let matters rest with Ofer's death. Both papers chattered about the "Watergate atmosphere" enveloping the Labour Party. *Ma'ariv* editor Rosenfeld intoned that journalists "must remain the watchdogs of the community." *Ha'aretz* editorialized that "we feel that the facts that led to his suicide must be clarified." On Jan. 9, Attorney General Barak ordered that the investigation of Labour Party members continue.

The following sequence of events in the month prior to

the crucial Feb. 17 Labour Party nominating convention offers a striking pattern of Washington's destabilization of Rabin and the Labour Party center:

—Jan. 5: The *Washington Post* comments that Peres, ...Rabin's expected challenger for the premiership, is the "most likely beneficiary" of the scandal revelations.

—Jan. 7: The U.S. State Department informs a caller that Peres is "on the move" and that Rabin is to be the victim of a building "Watergate" atmosphere, especially as the Yadlin trial is to begin the night before the Labour Party convention.

—Jan. 8: Peres officially announces his determination to "oust" Rabin.

—Jan. 9: *Sunday Times of London* comments that Ofer's suicide may be the "final blow to the Labour Party doves."

—Jan. 11: AIPAC asserts that Peres is "coming on strong; the Labour Party is witnessing a crisis among the last staunch Labourites."

—Jan. 12: *New York Times* claims the Labour Party is "rapidly losing huge blocs of voters — intellectuals, teachers, public servants, and the young" and that Yadin's "Democratic Movement" is on the rise.

—Jan. 29: France's Baron Edmond de Rothschild suddenly threatens to "come out with revelations which would shatter a number of institutions and party foundations." *Ha'aretz* editorially hopes that Rothschild will "put into execution his threat of revealing the facts that will place in difficulty numerous Israeli organizations."

During the period of Jimmy Carter's inauguration, a number of other events acted to box in the Israeli prime minister. For the first time in weeks, the southern Lebanon crisis began to worsen, and Israeli military circles threatened that a "preventive war" against the Arabs was possible.

Labour Party moderates around former Foreign Minister Abba Eban made Byzantine deals with Peres in a joint electoral strategy to up-end Rabin.

In early February, Dayan met Brzezinski in the U.S.

The Final Phase

Nonetheless, at the convention, Rabin won the nomination. Dayan's new threat to bolt from the Labour Party if a moderate foreign policy platform was adopted was ignored, as the convention voted to make significant offers of territorial concessions on the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

It took the conspirators less than a month to regroup. By mid-March, *Ha'aretz's* leading military correspondent, Ze'ev Schiff, was publicizing Israel's "moral duty" to launch a pre-emptive war if there were "signs" of Arab war preparations. *Ma'ariv* headlined ostensible Arab war moves and pressed for an intervention into southern Lebanon. Sharon insisted that the Arabs were preparing a total regional war in the summer and many "little wars" until then. Peres announced that new Arab capabilities gave "the enemy" a "six-hour" mobilization time for war.

In mid-March, the groundwork was laid for the final Watergate operation. *Ha'aretz* Washington correspondent Dan Margalit, a former *Hoalam Hazeh* scandalmonger and now Israel's leading NSC conduit, revealed that Rabin's wife had held an illegal U.S. bank

account.

By the end of March, Dayan issued what the *Jerusalem Post* denounced as an "ultimatum": he would resign from the Labour Party if the convention decision on West Bank concessions was not superseded by a promise that Israel would hold a national referendum before any such concessions were made. Rabin defended the original decision as the product of a democratic convention process, but drew the rope around his neck by agreeing "in principle" to Dayan's demand.

"The season of the generals is now awaiting Israel."

Rabin ordered a stop to the pre-emptive war chants in the press and ordered restraint vis-a-vis southern Lebanon. Military correspondents close to Rabin and the center Labour Party ridiculed the strategic assessments of the "war hysteria" crowd, and insisted that Israel must explore avenues to a diplomatic solution to the Arab-Israeli crisis. As late as April, the *Jerusalem Post* castigated Sharon and others for basing their "pre-emptive strike" recommendations on "partial facts" and "information in a vacuum" and attacked the "arm-chair generals" who were clamoring for a drive into southern Lebanon.

But this rearguard battle left the field open for the conspirators to move in for the kill. Fittingly enough, it was *Ma'ariv* that finally pulled the rug out from under Rabin. On April 7, the paper's lead story headlined that Rabin too had held a U.S. bank account and that the premier had tried to cover up his involvement in the

illegal affair. The incriminating information was obtained by Margalit, who received top-level leaks from the Israeli embassy and the U.S. National Security Council. Margalit then posed as an intimate of Rabin's depositing money in the account to "prove" that Rabin had maintained the account!

Barak quickly arrived on the scene to squash a judgment by the Israeli Treasury that would have made Rabin's doings a minor infraction. Barak insisted that the Rabin misdemeanor be pursued in the courts. Then in a special midnight broadcast April 7, Rabin resigned as prime minister.

For the future, a former Israeli Knesset member commented that "the season of the generals is now awaiting Israel."

A U.S.-based Dayanist controller, retired Air Force Intelligence chief Joseph Churba, declared that "to the extent Rabin is out of the picture, Israel will benefit. His being replaced will restore the military deterrent against the Arabs. Israel will now be able to go it alone and stand tough."

Numerous sources now predict that a right-wing "no-concession coalition will emerge out of the splintering and chaos of the May 17 elections. Brzezinski's coup is nearly consolidated.

The Dayanists have not finished yet. In the past days, Rabin has been trying to hold on to power until May 17, with broad popular support. In an editorial earlier in the week, *Ha'aretz* ordered that Rabin should "keep his distance from the public stage." Within a week Rabin will be retired to a vacation and Shimon Peres will hold the reins of power in Israel.

—Mark Burdman

Who Controls Israel

General Ariel Sharon

Chief of right-wing party Shalom Zion... Close associate of Dayan in Israel's early post-independence period, was instrumental in setting up the "Brigade 101" counter-terror units in the Sinai in the 1950s... Called the hero of the Yom Kippur war, led Israeli units into the Sinai, and launched public dispute with Dayan over conduct of the war. Quickly became spokesman for a host of extremist groups, including U.S.-based Jewish Defense League... Formed the Likud Party in the 1970s out of a melange of disparate right-wing groups, then left Likud after Carter's ascendancy in U.S. in order to push an Israeli "government of technocrats"... Met Carter more than once in U.S. during election campaign, while setting up his own "contact network" in the U.S.

Moshe Dayan

Trained by British security forces during World War II in counter-terror operations, received personal attention from an intelligence operative nicknamed "Killer"... Leading protégé of first Israeli Premier David Ben-Gurion, an advocate of tough retaliation policies against neighboring Arab states... Helped set up counter-terror

units in the Sinai in the early 1950s... Chief of Staff during 1956 Suez war... Formed, with Ben-Gurion and Peres, the breakaway "Rafi" clique out of the Labour party in 1965... As a visitor to Vietnam in the mid-1960s, lavishly praised the U.S. as "the greatest country in the world" for its conduct in Vietnam... Led coup d'état against moderate Israeli Premier Levi Eshkol on eve of 1967 Arab-Israeli war and was appointed Defense Minister by Eshkol... After war, was leading government hardliner on keeping Israel's hold over the West Bank, declaring that "coexistence of Jews and Arabs is only possible under the protection of the Israeli government and army"... In October, 1973, responsible for arranging Israeli "intelligence lapses" that provided Egypt with token military victory and ensuing Rockefeller-manipulated oil hoax... Prime advocate of Israeli adoption of a "nuclear option."

Shimon Peres

Current Israeli Defense Minister and Labour Party candidate for Prime Minister... Ben-Gurion's "other" protégé, Dayan's closest ally in Israel, Peres joined with Dayan and Ben-Gurion to form mid-1960s Rafi split-off from Labour Party... Throughout 1950s, was top opera-

tive in Europe for Israel among right-wing, Rockefeller-controlled "Die Spinne" intelligence circles, building intimate relations with French rightists around Jacques Soustelle and with West German neo-Nazis around Franz-Josef Strauss. Through these connections, helped to obtain Israel's atomic weapon capability at Dimona. Was also Israel's leading arms procurer from European right-wing circles... Described recently by a leading Israeli expert as "the most pliable pigeon-servant of the U.S. ever . He's a Big Zero, an opportunist, with platitudes that appeal to the semi-literate."

General Yigal Yadin

Chief of Democratic Movement of Change... Israel's Chief of Staff during the 1948-49 "War of Indepen-

dence"... The archaeologist who discovered the Masada findings, thereby resurrecting the tale of national suicide at the hands of the invading Romans. Uses archaeology to "prove" that Jews have always been a separate and apart nation, giving religious-ideological underpinning for Zionist mythos. Works with American Schools of Oriental Research, an archaeological center originally established by John D. Rockefeller, now with extensive State Department connections. One leading U.S. archaeologist, listening to Yadin speak, judged that Yadin "is not a man of peace"... Yadin spent several months recently in the U.S., then returned to Israel to set up "Democratic Movement for Change"... Described by a close relation teaching at a U.s. university as "close to the U.S. National Security Council."

Tunisia On Center Stage In The Mahgreb

TUNISIA

Tunisia, long an Atlanticist satrapy and a source of problems for its progressive neighbors in north Africa in consequence, has recently emerged at the center of a flurry of Euro-Arab-Soviet diplomatic activity which can change the political geometry of the Mediterranean basin. Under pressure from its Mahgreb neighbors on one side and the Soviet and Italian governments on the other, Tunisia is breaking with its "sore thumb" profile, and has begun to settle petty disputes with Algeria and Libya and undertake major trade and defense agreements with the USSR and Italy.

Soviet-Italian Offensive

On March 21, the arrival in Tunisia of Vito Lattanzio, Italian defense minister, coincided with the visit of Admiral Sergei Gorshkov, Soviet deputy defense minister and commander-in-chief of the Soviet Navy. In separate communiques, the Italian and Soviet governments, called for a swift Middle East peace and expanded economic ties. Upon his departure from Tunisia, Lattanzio said, "The Mediterranean is not a barrier between the two countries but a link, a port of peace and a bridge between Italy and the Arab countries."

The Gorshkov visit addressed primarily the importance of strengthening economic relations between Tunisia and the USSR and paved the way for Prime Minister Hedi Nourira's trip to the Soviet Union. Nourira's one week stay in the USSR has swung Tunisian-Soviet relations into high gear. A joint communique, issued April 12, stressed the necessity for reconvening a Geneva Peace Conference, and proclaimed that the Middle East crisis remains "the gravest threat to world peace." Nourira was also successful in signing economic, political, scientific

and technical accords with his hosts. An article in *L'Action*, the French-language Tunisian daily, praised relations between the two countries on the eve of Nourira's trip. Mention was made of the Kasseb dam, and the National School for Engineers which Soviet capital and technical assistance helped to construct. The bilateral nature of the "Soviet-Arab" and "Euro-Arab" statements does not becloud the surfacing Euro-Arab-Soviet demand for peace and development in the region.

Intra-Mahgreb Relations

Interfacing this diplomacy are Algerian-Libyan efforts to "box in" their recalcitrant neighbor. The bogus issue of "water rights" has tended to destabilize intra-Mahgreb cooperation. Sonatrach, Algeria's state-owned hydrocarbon sector and ENI, its Italian counterpart, had signed an agreement for a gas pipeline to be built across the Mediterranean waters into Sicily in order to supply both Italy and other European countries with natural gas, but the business arrangement has been at a stalemate because of Tunisia's refusal to allow the pipeline to cross its waters. Recent reports say that a solution has been reached between Algeria and Tunisia.

The Libyan-Tunisian dispute has a bitter history. The difficulty centers around the oil drilling rights in the Gulf of Gabès region, which demands a mutual agreement on the delimitation of the continental plateau. The Libyans, in calling for an immediate solution to this troublesome affair, appear ready to negotiate a settlement.

These quarrels are soluble within the broader context of expanded economic relations between the Mahgreb and its pro-development European allies. The Italians are anxious to settle both disputes because their state-owned enterprise ENI is involved in both cases. No doubt Tunisia has felt strong pressure to terminate its intransigence. The primary condition for a viable Euro-Soviet peace offensive is peace "within" the Mahgreb.