

'Any New Gov't Will Be War-Oriented'

The following is an assessment of the Israeli internal situation from a well-briefed West European expert on the Middle East.

The only way to understand the Israeli "break-away ally" scenarios is by understanding fully what is actually going on in Israel. Have no illusions about this — the situation in Israel is a pessimistic and gloomy one. Any new government, without any doubt, will be war-oriented.

First you have the Yadin phenomenon. All the dovish intonations that originally surrounded Yadin's Democratic Movement for Change have entirely dissipated. The Yadin group is now very hawkish, with the leadership composed of top generals, former heads of intelligence, very bad people like Meir Amit and Dan Tolkovsky, who is extremely hawkish. Yadin will almost inevitably play a big part in the next government. Although it is not being publicized, people in the Likud opposition bloc have been talking about making Yadin premier in a government if they form one, because Likud head Menachem Begin is sick and Ezer Weizmann doesn't have the popularity. But Weizmann, who is a super-hawk, could become defense minister in such a government. This is ominous.

The second, hardly better, but more likely

scenario for Israel involves a government of a minority Labour Party headed by Peres, with recruits from the liberal wing of Likud and from the Yadin group. Here too it is not to be excluded that Yadin will become premier.

Peres likes Yadin because he is a fellow military man, and Peres sees him as not so ambitious as Dayan. Peres himself is totally ambitious, so he would prefer Yadin to Dayan as a partner. Anyway, Dayan has lost a great deal of credibility in the past two years.

All this is tied into the way Rabin was gotten rid of. The CIA at one time or another did give money to Rabin, Eban, and others. But now, the U.S. — CIA forces to be exact — has decided to get rid of Rabin and smooth the way for the hawks.

The only hope for Israel, pre-Peres, was that some people were pushing for a dove government comprised of the center-left of the Labour Party, Mapam, the communist Party Rakah, and Shelli. Rakah would get the Arabs to back up a mass-based-type government. Rabin and the people around him would have gone for this, for opportunistic reasons of their own, and maybe this too has a bearing on why Rabin was eased out of the way.

15 deliverable nuclear bombs, and the New York *Daily News* this week warned of a possible "Nuclear Entebbe."

"Season of the Generals"

To remove all obstacles to war, the Peres faction is moving swiftly to liquidate traditional elements from both the military and the Israeli Labour Party. Last week, the Comptroller's Office issued a report attacking the Israeli army as corrupt, inefficient, and unprepared for war. Peres, formerly defense minister, used the Comptroller's report, to build a climate for war, and responded by reporting on the extent of Israel's war preparations. Since the October 1973 war, armored personnel carriers have grown 1000 percent, tanks and aircraft by 100 percent, and manpower by 40 percent, he claimed. In addition, Israel has amassed a 21-day arms stockpile, in contrast to the nine-day stockpile in 1973.

According to the French daily *Les Echos*, Israeli military analysts are worrying about an "Arab arms build-up" and the possibility that the Arabs might attempt to force an "imposed solution" to the Middle East conflict through "military action." Joseph Churba, former Middle East intelligence chief of the U.S. Air Force, bitterly attacked moderate Israeli Chief of Staff Mordechai Gur for underestimating the Arab war threat, while the *Jerusalem Post* accused Gur of being "out of step." Gur is considered close to moderate Rabin.

The continuing financial scandals centered on the

ruling Labour Party have seriously weakened the party's chances in the May 17 elections. The chief beneficiary is Gen. Yigal Yadin's Democratic Movement for Change party, a pseudo-progressive technocratic formation that last week won the support of Aharon Yariv, former Director of Israeli Intelligence from 1964 to 1972.

Possible fightback from the Rabin forces was evidenced last week when Labour Party General Secretary Meir Zarmi, a Rabin supporter, circulated a letter accusing Peres of excluding him (Zarmi) from Central Committee meetings and party gatherings.

JD Ler Kahane Fomented West Bank Riots

Arab strikes and demonstrations have broken out on the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Last week several Palestinians were killed, as curfews were clamped down on five towns. At least 66 leftists linked to Iraqi-backed organizations were arrested by Israeli police.

The riots were triggered by Jewish Defense League founder Meir Kahane, a known operative of the National Security Council who is a leading proponent of extremist demands for Israeli settlements on the West Bank. Peres is also a vocal supporter of setting up West Bank settlements.