

USSR Tells Carter He's 'Playing With Fire' In Mideast

The Soviet Union has blown the whistle on the Carter Administration's hottest regional war scenario, an Israeli military strike against Saudi Arabia or another Persian Gulf nation. Through the government daily Izvestia May 7, Moscow precisely described the plan — which European and Arab circles have called an operative U.S. National Security Council "breakaway ally" option — and warned it was "a game with fire." The "breakaway" pretense has no credibility: a move of this sort by Israel, or by South Africa against Angola, will be taken as a direct U.S. assault on Soviet security, sufficient to trigger World War III.

This and other statements from Moscow confirm that since Cyrus Vance's Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) mission there just over one month ago, the Soviet military and other leaders calling the shots in the Kremlin have adopted an angry posture of war readiness. They make plain how foolish are any presumptions by Secretary of State Vance and arms negotiator Paul Warnke that they will be able to bludgeon concessions from the Soviets at talks in Geneva this month, the same approach that flopped during Vance's trip. The Soviet policy declarations augur an angry response to the U.S. administration's latest dangerous provocations, Carter's appeal to "raze" the Berlin Wall and Warnke's threat of a U.S. nuclear first strike.

Soviet Strategic Interest In Middle East

Excerpted from the article "From a Position of Realism" by M.H. Heykal, former editor in chief of Al-Ahram, the Egyptian paper. It appeared in Pravda, May 8.

I will briefly lay out the geographical and historical factors, and consequently the political ones, determining the significance of the Soviet role in the Middle East crisis. This is worth recalling.

The Soviet Union has geographical borders with the Middle East, and therefore cannot fail to have an interest in what occurs in this nearby region. And the USSR does not need our permission for this. The Soviet Union is a great power, which can turn its attention to something to the extent that this is required by its interests and the interests of its security.

Persian Gulf Scenario Exposed

Excerpts from Izvestia, May 7 article:

But one thing is clear: the oil concerns of the U.S. will force ahead further penetration into the Middle East through all channels — economic, political, military; and in this regard they will act hand in hand with the

USA Institute Personnel Let Loose For Deception's Sake

In apparent defiance of the staunch Soviet refusal to budge on the Carter Administration's SALT package already rejected last month, officials of Moscow's USA Institute have leaked a compromise package as their "personal opinion." Interviewed by William Beecher for the *Boston Globe*, the Institute's Section Heads for defense technology and arms control, G. Svyatov and Y. Streltsev, proposed SALT agreements on:

- 1) a ten percent reduction of the ceiling on intercontinental ballistic missiles;
- 2) "some limitation" of the Soviet Backfire bomber (Moscow has adamantly refused to classify this plane as a strategic weapon);
- 3) a ban on some but not all U.S. cruise missiles, leaving the air-based ones at a limit to be negotiated;
- 4) unspecified nuclear weapons test limitations.

Beecher, whose article relating the interview appeared in the *International Herald Tribune* as

well as the *Globe*, observed that these suggestions were miles closer to the Carter package than anything else to come out of Moscow.

Paul Warnke, headed for Geneva to confer with the Soviet arms negotiator V. Semyonov, grasped at the proffered straw. Mr. Warnke "said he was cheered by (the) interview ... in which Georgii Svyatov ... suggested a possible SALT compromise," reported the *Tribune*, "I thought it was quite a positive article. If it does in fact represent the Soviet position it would be a very favorable development."

Mr. Warnke is not the only one being treated to promises, leaks and come-ons that Mr. Georgii Arbatov's USA Institute can no longer deliver on. Think-tank circles in the U.S. report a veritable torrent of USA specialists has rushed to this country during and after Mr. Arbatov's recent tour here. Moscow, when it doesn't trust its experts, is amenable to letting them run loose for deception's sake.

American authorities. Already now, the U.S. is trying to create in this region entire 'strategic belts'. Their outpost is Israel and a number of conservative Arab countries. The former, in 'critical situations' (the possibility of a new oil embargo) can turn into a military bridgehead for inflicting a strike on 'recalcitrant oil states'.

The Americans' own presence in the area is being stepped up. The Pentagon admits that by 1980, there will be up to 150,000 Americans, including a substantial number of servicemen, in the Gulf littoral states. This, translated into the language of the military, means the placement of whole units on foreign territory.

'American military personnel have already penetrated the Middle East. They are practically exercising control over the majority of armed forces in the Gulf region,' wrote *Le Monde Diplomatique*. 'White collar mercenaries' are replacing khaki, the oil El Dorado region is held by American armed forces in 'classical cells' — surrounded by U.S. fleets and a chain of military bases. The Pentagon has already worked out a plan for 'rapid deployment' in the Gulf with landing forces.

But this is an extreme measure: it is understood in the U.S., how dangerous playing with fire is near the oil sources of Arabia. Military force is used as an 'intimidation factor' against the exporters of 'black gold'. The strategic goal of the U.S. is now the creation and preservation in the oil countries of 'political regimes, corresponding to its interests.' They are being supplied with arms and there are attempts to bind them to the Western economic system. The U.S. would like some Arab conservative regimes to fulfill the function of a 'regional police force', and not only in the Middle East, but Africa as well.

SALT Package Denounced

From the 3000 word editorial in Pravda, May 7 — "Real Disarmament Measures: Whose Move?"

...It must not be ignored that the enemies of detente, circles connected with the military-industrial monopolies, have activated their efforts recently to prevent measures limiting the arms race and ensuring a tran-

sition to real disarmament. A slanderous uproar about the "Soviet military threat" is being used for this goal, and mendacious military doctrines are being invented, for example, on the possibility of "limited" nuclear war. In this situation, as never before, vigilance of the peace-loving forces is important, and mobilization of their energy for stepping up the struggle for disarmament.

From Minister Marshal D.F. Ustinov's article in Pravda May 9:

...Imperialism was and remains the source of military danger. Such is its class nature. The ruling circles of the capitalist states are now forced to take account of the hopelessness and senselessness of counting on a military victory over socialism. Nevertheless, aggressive imperialist forces are whipping up the arms race... The recent talks in Moscow with the U.S. Secretary of State on strategic arms limitation showed that on the American side, despite the agreement reached earlier in Vladivostok, there has appeared a one-sided approach, aimed at gaining advantages for the USA and harming the security of the Soviet Union. The western countries are also taking a clearly unrealistic position at the Vienna talks on reduction of armed forces and weapons in Central Europe...Unfortunately, "our constructive proposals," as L.I. Brezhnev said, "frequently meet with deaf resistance, or even outright opposition."

From Chief of Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces, General N. Ogarkov's article in Izvestia May 9:

...Thanks to the constant concern of the Communist Party, the growing potentials of the socialist economy, the achievements of our fatherland's science and technology the selfless labor of the people, our glorious Army and Navy today possess the most modern military technology and have everything that is necessary to fulfill the tasks before them...

Deputy Defense Minister of the Soviet Union K. Moskalenko, Krasnaya Zvezda May 9:

...The achievements of the Soviet economy, science and technology ensure the possibility of making in the briefest period any type of weapon whatsoever, if necessary. However the Soviet Union constantly proposes not taking the route of developing new types of weapons...