

## Arab, European, Socialist Forces Act To Stem Mideast War Danger

Andreas Papandreou, leader of the PASOK Greek socialist party, addressed the central question of Mediterranean security in his keynote speech at the one-week conference of area socialist leaders assembled on the island of Malta on June 20 to discuss and negotiate on that issue. Identifying the strategic concept of the Mediterranean region as the kernel of advanced and developing sector cooperation, Papandreou characterized the Mediterranean as "the bridge which can join the liberation forces of the Mideast and Africa to the progressive forces of Europe."

Summarizing the aims held in common by these forces, Papandreou outlined the goals of the Malta conference: to achieve peace throughout the Mediterranean and military independence based on a foundation of economic growth "without which political and military independence is illusory." Secondly, to extend this into the broader international arena: "fight for radical change in the international economic order with our active participation in the world struggle which is euphemistically called the dialogue between North and South."

The Maltese conference, which is scheduled to last through June 26, included top representatives from the socialist parties of Libya, Malta, Cyprus, Italy, France, Greece, Spain, Tunisia, and Algeria, as well as Yasser Arafat, the head of the Palestine Liberation Organization. It takes place at a time when the pro-development forces of the cited countries are engaged in active diplomacy focused particularly on defusing the Middle East powderkeg as indispensable for the negotiations to establish the new international economic order identified by Papandreou.

### *Warn of Catastrophes*

Speaking at Brescia, Italy, Italian Communist Party general secretary Enrico Berlinguer expressed the preoccupation which his party shares with the Italian government and the rest of progressive Europe. If the Middle East and southern Africa hot spots are not defused, he stated, "the world may go toward explosive clashes and terrible catastrophes." Similar warnings have appeared daily throughout the Italian press, in such papers as the Milan *Corriere della Sera*, and Rome's *Paese Sera*.

From Yugoslavia, the newspaper *Vjesnik* published on June 15 a major commentary laying out in detail the Middle East crisis as it is perceived by the Arab forces. Libyan president Muammar Qaddafi arrived in Yugoslavia two days ago for talks with President Tito.

As reported by high level diplomatic sources, Yugoslavia is the key link in an informal bloc shaped among Yugoslav President Marshal Tito, Italian Premier An-

dreotti and Rumanian President Ceausescu during a recent spate of diplomacy which criss-crossed the Mediterranean. In addition to hosting the follow-up meetings to the 1975 Helsinki conference on European Cooperation and Security, Belgrade is currently being visited by Syrian Prime Minister Khleifawi and Libyan President Qaddafi.

At the Belgrade conference, for which last week's meeting represent only the preliminary agenda-setting phase, Yugoslavia has committed itself together with Italy and Rumania to propose that Mediterranean security be adopted as a major topic for serious negotiations. Yugoslav Foreign Minister Minic, cited yesterday by the Cuban wire service as reporting a list of significant steps towards peace achieved since Helsinki placed the recently signed friendship and cooperation accords between NATO member Italy and her non-aligned Mediterranean neighbor Yugoslavia at the top of his list.

### 'Unless There Is Peace, There Will Be War'

*The following is an article by Ljubo Djovic issued June 15 by Vjesnik, the Yugoslav press service on the Mideast situation:*

Unless in the fall, when the two great powers have announced when the Geneva meeting is supposed to occur, a meeting of the Middle East actually does occur — and with some actual prospects for a political solution of the Middle East crisis — an Arab-Israeli war is inevitable. In that case the Arabs have no other alternative but to turn to arms again.

This is the most succinct way to put the perspective put forward by Syrian Prime Minister Khleifawi in recent days in talks with high Yugoslav officials.

An exactly identical evaluation was also delivered by Egyptian Vice President Mubarak, the Palestinian leader Arafat and then the Chief of the Political Division of the PLO Farouk Kaddoumi and Libya's number two man Jalloud, during their recent visits to Yugoslavia. The same opinion was also expressed by other Arabs contacted through various channels.

And this is especially significant, because it indicates the states of minds and the mood in the Arab world, which in this case is of the same opinion, as seldom happens, especially in recent times. The Arabs who belong to the "rejection front" as well as those who are for a political solution share the same opinion. Of course, let us not forget the fact that the former do not at all believe that a peace can be achieved without a new war, while the

latter is still ready to give diplomacy a chance, before it too will have no choice but to decide on that deadly means, war.

But even if we have before us two different viewpoints on solving the Middle East crisis, it is indicative that the two touch at the point, beyond which, if thoughtlessly passed, there is no return to peace.

But since Khleifawi belongs to that camp of politicians who do not speak before they have thought out well what they mean to say, his warning about the possible consequences of events in the Mideast must be considered in all seriousness. He is the representative of a nation who does not wave its war flags unintentionally, nor for black-mail purposes.

Let us recall the year 1973. Cairo and Damascus, for a few months persistently from day to day issued warnings that war was inevitable, in case of insistence on the state of "neither peace nor war." Events showed that those who did not heed these warnings were gravely mistaken as were those who felt that these were merely empty threats... The war began October 6.

What is worrisome today is that the Arabs are again warning as they did in 1973 that a new war is possible, but today again there are those who pretend not to hear the warnings, trusting their military superiority. Or those who live under the illusions that the number of airplanes, rockets, or tanks is worth more than the desire and the decisiveness of those whose land is occupied to free it.

Khleifawi pointed out another very significant event, over which we must not pass too lightly. This concerns the painful and long process of Arab solidarity, and its re-

newal. Damascus and Cairo have solved their problems, as have Syria and Jordan. There are certain signs that there will be a cessation of the Egypt-Libya crisis, as well as between Tripoli and Tunis. At the same time moves have occurred to put in order relations between the Palestinians and the Arab governments.

What Arabs seek from Israel was clearly stated by Khleifawi: return to the 1967 borders, the enablement of the Palestinian people to create their own state in the Transjordan and the Gaza, and the return of those Palestinians who desire it to Israel and compensation for those who are unable to return. With these measures, the conditions would be created for an end of the state of war in the Mideast and securing the borders of all nations of this region.

Tel Aviv's reply, however, lends a new weight to the warnings of Khleifawi, Jalloud, Arafat, Kaddoumi, Mubarak and others. Because for Israel withdrawal from the occupied territories, a Palestinian state, and to return or compensation for the Palestinians are "unacceptable."

Under these circumstances, unless a change occurs in the Israeli position, there will be nothing to discuss at Geneva. And without discussion there can be no political solution. And thus the circle is closed on the fifth Arab-Israeli war, which as was shown in the fourth — cannot be confined solely to the Mideast region.

It would be good for Khleifawi's warnings to be considered seriously by the participants of the Belgrade summit on European security and cooperation, because a new war in the Mideast would have an extremely negative effect on the situation on the old continent.

## Israelis Continue Lebanon Provocations

### LEBANON

Warnings issued by the Soviet Union's *Pravda* on June 18 make clear that the current Israeli aggressions into southern Lebanon are putting the world on a short fuse to World War III. *Pravda* called the Israeli buildup of troops along the Lebanese border and artillery attacks on Palestinian forces "blackmail," against the Arab forces: if they do not give in to Israeli conditions, a preemptive strike will be the follow-up to Lebanon. "Reports have appeared on a plan developed by Tel Aviv for surprise strikes on oil pipelines and oil-processing enterprises in several Arab countries," warned *Pravda*. "Israeli provocations on the border with Lebanon have increased." Radio Moscow the next day reiterated the *Pravda* warning and attacked General Moshe Dayan, who was sworn in June 20 as Israel's new Foreign Minister, as a "proponent of aggression."

The Israeli buildup for war in Lebanon this week became so critical that the Lebanese government has appealed to the United States and the Soviet Union to mediate between the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel. Lebanese Defense Minister

