

U.S. Policy Collapse In Middle East

Brzezinski, Javits Set War Course

President Carter, faced with political revolt at home and abroad on his bungling Middle East policy, yesterday ordered a "moratorium" on official comment about the details of U.S. Middle East policy, to be continued until the arrival of Israel's Prime Minister Menachem Begin in Washington on July 19. "Everything in this city will be shut down tight until then," a prominent pro-Israeli Washington lawyer said hopefully today. "You won't get a word out of anybody until then."

Carter's gag rule followed a week in which nearly every section of the U.S. Senate, and both Arab and Israeli leaders, blasted the incompetent and dangerous U.S. course in the Middle East.

The uproar was triggered by reports in the Middle East that Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, who is scheduled to return to the area on a mission of shuttle diplomacy later this month, will carry with him an order to revive the discredited "Allon Plan." Under the Allon Plan, and similar projects proposed in 1972 by Jordan's King Hussein under the rubric of the "United Arab Kingdom," Israel and King Hussein would divide the West Bank between themselves at the expense of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

According to several sources in Washington, the man behind the Allon Plan revival is Zbigniew Brzezinski, the President's assistant for national security. Brzezinski will try to ram the plan past both Israeli and Arab opposition by threatening to ignite a fifth Middle East war. The strategy behind the Brzezinski gambit is a quick power play to achieve a U.S. takeover of the Middle East, a Pax Americana in which the U.S. would be the sole mediator of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The formula proposed by Brzezinski is a direct challenge to Soviet interests in the Middle East, and therefore sets the region on a course toward a thermonuclear showdown. For that reason, U.S. opposition to the Brzezinski scheme has exploded in Congress and in U.S. political circles.

The Ha'aretz Leak

According to the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz*, whose views closely reflect those of Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, Washington intends to make public in the near future a Pax Americana plan for the Middle East authored by Brzezinski and the National Security Council. The plan, the implementation of which will involve a return to Henry Kissinger's step-by-step diplomacy, calls for Israel and King Hussein's Jordan to share jurisdiction over the West Bank, which would have "internal autonomy" under Jordanian political control and with a continued Israeli military presence.

The plan leaves out the PLO, which is seeking to establish an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank. Nor does the plan involve the reconvening of the long-postponed Geneva Conference on the Middle East.

The destruction of the PLO, which was narrowly averted during a two-year civil war in Lebanon that ended only with the Saudi-imposed ceasefire of last October, thus becomes a prime agenda item for the Carter Administration. The elimination of the PLO, which fully backs the Palestinian claim to a State on the West Bank, and of the PLO's supporters in the Arab world, would leave the U.S. in almost total control of the Arab world, shutting out the USSR. This, in turn, would permanently block the current momentum toward a Mediterranean security pact among the Comecon, the EEC, and the Arab League.

The *Ha'aretz* leak, which was confirmed by Washington sources, may have been part of a prearranged effort by circles around Dayan and Kissinger to derail the unrealistic and dangerous Brzezinski plan in favor of a return to step-by-step diplomacy à la Kissinger — purely a stalling effort, with no commitment, like Brzezinski, to an immediate Pax Americana. *Ha'aretz*, known as a supporter of step-by-step diplomacy, is thought to be working also with Senator Jacob Javits, "the Senator from Chase Manhattan." Javits, desperate to win Saudi petrodollars for the Chase coffers, issued a sharp attack on the Carter Middle East policy early last week before leaving on a tour of the Middle East.

Soviets, PLO Hit Carter

The Soviet Union and the Palestine Liberation Organization have served notice on the Carter Administration that current U.S. plans to impose an "American solution" on the Middle East will not only fail, but will lead to a fifth Arab-Israeli war.

In a series of statements, the PLO blasted Carter and affirmed its demand for the creation of an independent Palestinian state on the occupied West Bank and Gaza in a Middle East peace settlement. Responding to reports that the U.S. is seeking to implement a version of the "Allon Plan," a PLO spokesman announced that his organization "categorically rejects" an imposed federation between Jordan and the West Bank.

"The Administration of Jimmy Carter knows what it is doing," said the PLO's Voice of Palestine radio. "Carter's recent statements are inciting reactionary Arab forces to a new criminal war against the Palestinians," warned the PLO, which added that the Carter regime was seeking to continue "Kissinger's two-year war in Lebanon, which failed to remove the Palestinian revo-

lution as an obstacle to the American solution.”

Soviets Back PLO, Arabs

The Soviet Union has made it clear that it fully supports the Arab states in a rejection of the “Allon Plan” Pax Americana. If the U.S. dares to provoke war in the area to enforce its policy, the USSR is prepared to meet the confrontation head on.

The tone for the Soviet counteroffensive in the Middle East was set by Victor Zamyatin, the director of the TASS news agency, in an interview on Soviet television June 26. Dropping previous Soviet restraint in attacks on the Carter Administration’s Middle East policy, Zamyatin accused the U.S. of “exercising tremendous efforts to weaken Soviet influence in the Arab world.”

Amid reports of renewed arms shipments by the USSR into the Middle East, Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Tlas arrived in Moscow for high-level consultations. The visit by Tlas comes only days after a visit to Moscow by the PLO’s Nayif Hawatmeh, following which the Soviets reaffirmed their commitment to back the PLO in setting up an independent Palestinian state.

Citing both Egyptian and Syrian military sources, the Soviet military daily *Red Star* reported extensively yesterday on Arab preparations for war. According to *Red Star*, Defense Minister Gamassy of Egypt told Egyptian troops yesterday that Egypt’s “armed forces are again ready to show their might in hostilities with the enemy.”

“Washington continues to refuse to play an effective role in the region,” *Red Star* quoted the Syrian newspaper *Al-Baath* in an editorial. “The Arabs don’t expect anything more from the U.S. The Arab masses justly demand from their leaders to hold a more serious position, and to mobilize all their forces before it is too late.”

Javits Wants War

The growing strength of the Arab-Soviet alliance, which includes moves by Egypt to end its long Cold War with the Soviet Union, coincides with a dangerous new tack by the Carter regime and the Rockefeller forces: to shift toward a confrontation with the Arabs and ram the “Allon Plan” past strong Arab resistance. The primary spokesman for the Carter shift is Jacob Javits, the “senator from Chase Manhattan Bank.”

Javits, who is desperately seeking to break the will of the Arabs and seize hold of Saudi Arabia’s vast store of petrodollars to bail out Rockefeller’s bankrupt New York banks, issued a widely publicized attack on the Carter Administration’s Middle East policy two days ago. Javits accused the Administration of putting too much pressure on Israel, called the PLO “riflemen” and terrorists, and urged that the U.S. lend its full support to the new Israeli government of extremist Menachem Begin.

Javits’ speech was delivered the day after Carter decided to sell \$115 million in high-technology weaponry to Israel. The speech — which clearly was choreographed by Nelson Rockefeller, Javits’ paymaster — and the arms deal, taken together, are a signal from Carter that the U.S. is considering an about-face on its Middle East policy, toward open support for a new Israeli attack on the Arabs.

In the meantime, the just-installed Israeli government is growing more and more fearful of a political confront-

ation with Carter, unless the U.S. abandons its mealy-mouthed proposal for a Palestinian “homeland” and a return to Israel’s 1967 borders. This, and U.S. reports of rising “U.S.-Israel tension,” are nothing more than a cynical effort to convince the Arab states to accept U.S. offers to mediate a peace plan.

The idea of a real U.S.-Israeli split was ridiculed yesterday in the Soviet Union’s *Pravda*, which blasted the U.S. announcement of the arms sale as indicating the “gap between words and deeds” in Carter’s Middle East policy. By posturing in an anti-Israeli manner, said *Pravda*, the U.S. “is trying hard to create the impression of a friendly attitude toward the Arabs.” However, some Arab states — especially Egypt — are giving broad indications that they might be willing to consider the U.S. imposed solution.

U.S. Losing Control

But the hard reality of the situation in the Middle East is that, because of Soviet military superiority vis-à-vis the United States, the U.S. cannot really afford the risk of a showdown in the region. The threat of war in the Middle East is nothing more than a brinkmanship bluff by Carter, while the Arabs — and possibly the Israelis — look toward closer links with Moscow and Western Europe. “The Administration is losing control in the Middle East,” said a top planner at Rand Corporation headquarters, “of both Israelis and Arabs.”

The election of the Likud bloc’s Menachem Begin has inserted a wild card into the politics of the area. To the extent that the Begin government can resist the influence of Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, the Likud may further destabilize Carter’s plans by refusing to withdraw from the West Bank at all, Allon Plan or not!

In fact, one Pentagon analyst says that Vance, during his shuttle, may offer to dump Begin and replace him with Dayan as a concession of sorts to the Arabs. The analyst added, “The problem Carter has is that it’s not easy to destabilize the Israeli government without getting into big trouble.”

Israeli Blackmail

Brzezinski and Vance hope to terrify Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia into going along with the planned Pax Americana by threatening to let loose the Israeli war machine now controlled by Dayan and Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, Dayan’s brother-in-law.

Weizman and Dayan, along with General Ariel Sharon, have effectively taken over the Likud bloc government, established this week after Likud’s surprise victory in the May 17 Israeli elections. The Weizman-Dayan clique — operating on direct orders from Nelson Rockefeller — is now in a position to maneuver the Likud fanatics into an Arab-Israeli war using the growing crisis in south Lebanon.

Last week, the new Israeli government issued a continuous stream of provocations to the Arabs, beginning with loud proclamations from Dayan and Prime Minister Menachem Begin on Israel’s “holy right” to annex the occupied West Bank.

Dayan made his statement after a telephone conversation with Henry A. Kissinger.

Weizman, who is fast reorganizing the defense ministry, has come out with a series of psychotic challenges to

the Arabs. On June 24, Weizman said he would like to meet PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, but then added, "I'll tell him what I think of him, and he will tell me what he thinks of me. If he shoots me, I'll shoot him back." Then in an interview with a Danish newspaper, Weizman invited the Arabs to start a war, "because this would perhaps help solve the Mideast problem. Either the two peoples learn to live together, or else one of them will be kicked out."

Ariel Sharon, the warhawk Agriculture Minister, promised to set up dozens of new Jewish settlements in the West Bank, despite international law and Arab public opinion, which will become inflamed by such provocations.

The EEC Angle

In London, a meeting of the heads of state of the European Economic Community (EEC) on June 29 called the Carter bluff in the Middle East. After months of vacillation, during which the EEC refused under U.S. pressure to issue a declaration on the crisis in the Middle East, the EEC Summit declared in favor of a concrete expression for the Palestinian "national identity," a return by Israel to the 1967 borders, and offered EEC support for a system of international guarantees for a peace settlement in the framework of a United Nations decision. The EEC also called for an "urgent" return to the Geneva Conference.

Naturally, in the Arab world, the EEC statement was welcomed. Cairo, which had earlier urged the EEC to not postpone its statement, was reported to be jubilant, and Foreign Minister Fahmi of Egypt called the move a "positive step." The PLO also endorsed the EEC call, but qualified its endorsement by noting "generalities" — a

reference to the fact that the EEC refused to mention the PLO by name.

More important however is the Israeli reaction. On the surface, of course, the Israelis condemned the EEC for capitulating to the pressure of Arab oil. In a fiery speech, Prime Minister Begin referred to Europe as a "continent drenched in Jewish blood," and vowed that Israel would never relinquish the occupied West Bank or recognize the Palestinians. But it is likely that Begin was largely playing to the galleries in Israel, while, quietly, Israeli diplomats were pursuing the EEC channel as an alternative to the U.S.; mediation and the horrors of Carter diplomacy.

Israeli sources in Rome, for instance, reported yesterday that a delegation from the Israeli foreign ministry arrived secretly in Italy for unofficial talks with Arab officials. Of note is the fact that Foreign Minister Khaddam of Syria was in Rome from June 28-30. In addition, the Israeli ambassador to Rome, on the inaugural day of the EEC-Israeli accords, July 1, said that the links between Israel and the EEC, like the links between the EEC and the Arab world, could lead to a general rapprochement between Israel and the Arabs in the Middle East.

The ambassador's statement was virtually unprecedented in Israeli history, since the Israeli attitude toward Europe — expressed most crudely by former Israeli Foreign Minister Allon — was to tell the Europeans to stay out of the politics of the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Even more interesting is the report from Capitol Hill, from a source close to Israeli circles, that Prime Minister Begin was considering declaring a debt moratorium. A hint in this direction was provided by the chairman of the Israeli Industrial Association, who said, "Israel is bankrupted. It has a foreign debt of \$10 billion."

— Bob Dreyfuss

PLO Rejects Carter Plans

The Carter Administration is beginning a concerted effort to dilute and ultimately replace the current leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization with pro-U.S. agents from the Palestinian rightwing on the West Bank and in the Syrian branch of the PLO, Saiqa. The move against the leadership of the PLO including chairman Yasser Arafat is part of the Carter-Brzezinski plan to establish a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation on the West Bank. The plan has been roundly rejected by the PLO leadership, who have also "categorically excluded" any possibility of discussion with members of the current Israeli government on this issue.

PLO Foreign Minister Farouk Kaddoumi demanded instead the formation of an Independent Palestinian state which, once independent, could form relations with Jordan or any other state. A Palestinian-Jordanian state on the West Bank would be little more than an "Arab province" of Israel if the Brzezinski plan is carried out. When asked whether the Arab states will accept the Carter Administration formula for the West Bank, PLO leaders were reported by the French daily Le Figaro to have "smiled and claimed to be able to play, for a long time yet, on Arab contradictions."

The following are excerpts from Falastin Ath-Thawra, the original organ of the PLO, warning against U.S.

peace efforts as but a cover for a war drive.

The pseudo peace-efforts of the United States will only lead to regaining a very insignificant part of the occupied Arab areas, at the expense of creating a dangerous situation in the Arab area. This will make the Arab demand for regaining their lands look like provocation to Israel, justifying a new aggression of the June 1967 type, with guaranteed results for Zionism and imperialism on the local and international levels.

The small U.S. peace steps are only a cover for big conspiracies against the Arab and Palestine liberation movements. This will lead the area to an inevitable war if the imperialist attempts currently taking place fail to subjugate the Arab area by easy capitulation to imperialist and Zionist conditions. We are confident that the Arab circumstances currently existing — aimed at reaping the fruits of the June 5, 1967 aggression and imposing imperialist and Zionist hegemony and influence on the Arab area for a long time to come. The Arabs have been given general phrases, hints and suggestions, void of any practical significance. Even the phrase "a homeland for the Palestinians:" which U.S. President Carter reiterates is merely general and vague lipservice imposed by the Palestinian steadfastness on the facts of the situation.