

The 'Connally Connection'

In The Middle East

Key Western European countries and the socialist bloc are now engaged in joint diplomacy to create a framework for Middle East peace negotiations. The diplomacy centers on a delicate set of contacts with Israel and the Arab states, to be followed by planned initiatives during the United Nations General Assembly session that begins next week, during which the EEC and the East European countries will introduce a UN Security Council resolution in support of Palestinian rights. But most observers, including Arab diplomats at the UN, are extremely pessimistic, expecting a U.S. veto of such a resolution.

In the context of the present diplomatic stalemate and the reduced prospects for a reconvened Geneva Conference, a U.S. veto at the UN Security Council could well provide the trigger for a renewed crisis and war in the Middle East.

Increasingly, the European forces concerned about the Middle East are therefore coordinating their activity with a circle of U.S. conservatives centered in Houston, Texas, and led by former Texas governor John Connally.

EEC-Arab Links

The member states of the European Economic Community, though hardly united over the Middle East, are meeting this week in Brussels to discuss strategy for the upcoming UN session. An EEC spokesman at the UN said that an East European country had recently approached the various EEC states to secure their cooperation for the coming UN session.

"We want to put Carter up against the wall," said a diplomat from Western Europe. "He's already said he supports a Palestinian homeland, so we're thinking to introduce a resolution in the Security Council that would include an operative paragraph that calls for the UN member countries to recognize Palestinian rights, possibly with a reference to a 'homeland'."

The source continued, "The U.S., of course, is strongly opposed, and has ordered the State Department to notify EEC governments that they would 'displease' Washington if they introduced such a UN resolution. And in the EEC itself, the Dutch in particular, are resisting the rest of us, who are united in varying degrees." The source expressed the belief that the passage of such a resolution, even if it did not fully meet Arab expectations, would at least set up the basis for Middle East negotiations.

The recent trip to Rumania by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin is generally considered to be part of this diplomatic thrust, other sources said.

But the key to the success of the European initiative is the extent to which important U.S. circles can be drawn into supporting the Europeans and the Arabs — which is

where John Connally comes in. Connally is the leading political representative of a group of Houston-centered interests with close ties to Saudi Arabia and the other Arab oil producers, along with numerous ex-State Department officials such as James Akins, former U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia, who was fired by Kissinger in 1975. The "Connally connection" is the crucial link which, according to insiders, will be to bring enormous pressure to bear on Washington not to block the peace initiatives of the Europeans.

Mondale For War

At present, the forces led by Vice-President Walter Mondale, who maintains close ties with New York "Jewish" investment banks, are using every trick to prevent the consolidation of a Euro-Arab axis backed by Connally and Co., including war. On the domestic side, Mondale's backers, using the "Lance scandal," are undercutting Carter with a view to catapulting Mondale himself into the White House, and are thereby preventing Carter from moving in the direction of the Europeans' initiative. This is the first effect of the so-called "Zionist lobby" in the U.S.

Internationally, the Mondale forces, allied to Henry Kissinger, are pushing the Middle East toward war. According to highly informed sources, CIA Director Admiral Turner is the leader of a faction that wants to unleash a quick Israeli blitzkrieg against the Arabs in order to crush the armies of Egypt and Syria, knock out a substantial part of the Arab oil-producing facilities, and jack up oil prices to \$25 per barrel. This, they believe, would rescue the dollar!

The nature of such a war was described this week by a source closely connected to Israeli military circles. "It will be a very short war, sudden and explosive, lasting only two or three days, at the end of which the Israelis will be overwhelmingly victorious. The Russians will not have a chance to react before it is over. Arab oil fields will be a subsumed target."

The Connally Role

The role of John Connally is to provide flanking support in the U.S. for the European initiative. In fact, the Connally crowd are already deeply involved in Western Europe, especially Italy, in arranging deals whereby Arab money is being invested in European industry.

The chief problem for the Arab-connected forces around Connally in the U.S. is to secure channels for contacting the Israelis, whose Begin government is disposed to be receptive to such an approach. One such avenue is via the Pentagon, where CIA Director Turner

and Defense Secretary Brown are actively purging the Pentagon-Israeli connection, and informed sources report that Senator Stone of Florida and defense analyst Edward Luttwak are leading advocates of a strong link between Israel and the U.S. military community, and might provide a channel through which the Connally forces could contact Israel.

Other contacts are being pursued by the Connally forces via conservative elements of the American Jewish community — despite the blocking efforts by its titular leader, NSC agent Rabbi Alexander Schindler — and through “leftist” and non-Zionist circles such as BREIRA and the Paris weekly *Israel and Palestine*.

Saudi Response

In the end, a crucial determining factor will be the response of the Saudis to the refusal by Carter to seriously consider a Middle East peace settlement. The Saudis, said a top U.S. analyst, are “unhappy” with Carter but do not intend to break with the U.S. strategy at this point, using the occasion of the Arab League foreign ministers’ meeting to give the U.S. “one more chance.” West German sources speculated that Saudi Arabia might decide to exercise its immensely powerful financial leverage to impose its will in the Middle East, which would occur in the form of stepped-up Saudi industrial

investments, rather than cash infusions into Chase Manhattan Bank.

Already the Arabs have decisively rejected a “peace plan” that Dayan intends to present during his visit to the U.S. and UN later this month. The Dayan plan, announced last week, calls for Israel to retain permanent control over the West Bank while providing King Hussein of Jordan with a chimerical political jurisdiction for the area. Syria, Jordan, and other Arab states are concerned that Egypt might be tempted to accept a “separate peace” with Israel, and a Egyptian diplomat said outright that if Egypt decides to accept the Israeli plan then “Syria will have to follow.” But Egyptian newspapers are highly unfavorable to the plan, and it is therefore quite unlikely that Egypt will accept.

A key indicator came this week with the report that Dayan held a secret meeting with King Hussein in London, where the Israeli foreign minister presented his “plan” to Hussein — who rejected it outright. Although Hussein denied having met Dayan, in Paris the Jordanian monarch stated that the Arabs “have made enough concessions and can go no further,” likely a reference to Jordan’s rejection of the Dayan plan. Hussein spent a few days in Paris meeting President Giscard d’Estaing, where the two leaders discussed the furthering of Arab-European contacts to achieve Middle East peace.

Mondale Man Dayan Prepares Coup In Israel

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan is making his move to seize power from Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin. If this “cold coup” is successful, it will mean the consolidation of a war government in Israel and will set the stage for an Israeli preemptive strike against the Arabs and a fifth Middle East war.

ISRAEL

Dayan’s power play is receiving the full backing of Vice-president Walter Mondale and his network of pro-war Zionists, including Rabbi Alexander Schindler, the top Jewish community leader in the U.S. Schindler, according to reliable sources in the intelligence community, is directly involved in the efforts to sabotage any peace initiatives by Begin and is working to abort the support of conservative U.S. Jews for the Israeli Prime Minister.

A spokesman close to the intelligence community has confirmed that a Dayan-Mondale victory would lead to “a highly controlled precision lightning war” ignited by Israel. Last week, a key Dayan ally, Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, threatened that “Israel will make sure that the Palestinians don’t have a base in southern Lebanon that would permit them to attack us.” Earlier, Weizman accused Egypt of violating the Sinai pact ac-

cords — a warning of a pre-emptive strike.

The Hoods Come Off

Last month, *New York Times* columnist C.L. Sulzberger, a mouthpiece for the Mondale crowd, wrote that Israel’s hawkish generals — Dayan, Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, and Ezer Weizman — were lurking in the wings, preparing to “whip off their hoods” and stage a coup d’etat against Begin.

This week, Dayan pulled off his hood.

On Sept. 1, the *Jerusalem Post* announced that Dayan sent out 500 invitations to his allies in all of Israel’s political parties to join in setting up a “Tribune for the Clarification of Social and Political Issues.” Leading members of the Likud, the Labour Alignment, and the Democratic Movement for Change — Israel’s three main parties — are already coming out in support of the Tribune, which Dayan has euphemistically described as a “debating society”! However, according to the *Jerusalem Post*, Dayan’s innocent club may soon evolve into a new political party, a likelihood not denied by Tribune organizers. “Observers believe,” notes the *Post*, that the Tribune forum “is also designed to strengthen Dayan’s political power.”

Among the top organizers of the Dayan creation is Zalman Shoval, a parliament member from Begin’s Likud Party. Shoval is a leader of the La’am faction of Likud and a former member of Rafi, the Dayan-led faction in the Labour Alignment. Another La’am