

Europeans Move Against Dayan

France, Belgium and West Germany are now coordinating action to prepare a new resolution to be introduced at the United Nations Security Council in support of Palestinian rights. "This scared the shit out of Dayan" when he was informed of this development by the Belgian Foreign Minister in Brussels last week, reported a former Israeli parliamentarian.

Rather than veto such a resolution, the U.S. is expected to abstain from voting altogether in order to facilitate its passage without igniting a crisis between the U.S. and Israel. The French, who are leading the European efforts to intervene in the Middle East, are in the forefront of action to stop Dayan. *France Soir* featured major exposés on Dayan's secret meetings in Paris last week with Egyptian and Jordanian officials.

Israel Makes Military Grab For Southern Lebanon

After five days of ferocious combat in southern Lebanon including Israeli land and air incursions, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin last week offered the Lebanese government a truce. Begin's terms are Israel's participation in settling the crisis in southern Lebanon — a demand which is juridically outside of Israel's sovereign interests.

Just before the eruption of fighting — which is directly under the orchestration of Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan — the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), Syria, and the government of Lebanon were on the verge of settling the southern Lebanese crisis through deployment of special Lebanese forces into the region in accordance with the painstakingly negotiated Chtaura Accords. Under the conditions of the accords, both the Palestinians and their rival right-wing Christians all but agreed to peacefully withdraw. The Israeli intervention "broke" the accords, noted an Arab diplomat, when they were "awfully close" to finally being instituted. The big danger now facing the Mideast is whether the 30,000 Syrian troops occupying Lebanon will intervene on the side of the Palestinians.

Target Syria

According to Britain's *Guardian*, the Israelis hope to call Syria's bluff in Lebanon and in so doing, "humiliate" Syrian President Assad into doing nothing to defend the PLO. Such an operation is designed to discredit the Syrians in the eyes of the PLO, and break the Syrian-PLO alliance. This would leave the PLO more vulnerable, in Dayan's calculations, to being sold out by the Arab states in a Mideast settlement.

Both Egypt and Saudi Arabia, says the *Guardian* are not "unhappy" about Assad's precarious position, noting that Assad may "suffer another blow to his personal prestige" at home. Assad has been heatedly opposed to both Egypt and Saudi Arabia's willingness to go along with a Dayan-dictated sellout of the PLO. Alone, Syria could hardly confront the mighty Israeli military machine. Assad has ordered a near press blackout of the Lebanese situation for fear that Syria's lack of action may provoke unrest against his none-too-stable regime.

At the same time, Dayan hopes that the southern Lebanese fighting will physically weaken the PLO forcing them to accept his formula for a Mideast peace. In

this connection, the violence in the south has also disrupted the crucial Central Council meeting of the PLO where a strategy was to be set for the ongoing United Nations General Assembly. The outcome of the Central Council meetings in Damascus has been eagerly awaited by Europe.

Israeli Ultimatum

Lebanese right-wing warlord, Camille Chamoun, arrived in Damascus shortly after the outbreak of fighting, acting, according to British sources, as a "plenipotentiary" of the Israeli government. Chamoun informed Syria that if the large Palestinian population is not cleared out of the south and taken to Syria "where they came from," Israel will intensify its escalation. Such an ultimatum underscores Israel's intentions of virtually annexing the territory south of the Latani river — a process clandestinely begun through the "Good Fences Policy" during the Lebanese war.

Israeli military incursions are aimed at breaking the Palestinian supply lines through the eastern route from the Bekaa Valley and to the west by sea through Tyre, which is presently blockaded by Israeli gunboats. While Israeli troops are well inside the border, Israeli artillery shells are being lobbed as far as the Latani. According to the Cuban newsservice, *Prensa Latina*, Israel bombed a dam on the Latani knocking out its power generating station and half of Lebanon's electricity and creating near panic in the country.

The Israeli plan is to beat out of the beleaguered Lebanese government an agreement to set up a buffer zone on the Lebanese-Israeli border in which the Israeli controlled Falangists would remain. The Lebanese government has officially condemned the Israeli invasion, and has called on Washington to stop the Israelis. To date, the only response from the White House has been to diplomatically act as a middleman between Jerusalem and Damascus, in a capacity strikingly similar to the role Washington played during the long and bloody Lebanese war.

Israel, meanwhile, is intent upon violently bullying its way into the next round of talks which produced the nearly instituted Chtaura Accords — after having insured its solid control over its new piece of Arab real estate in southern Lebanon.

— Judy Wyer