

also does the proposal made by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko on his recent Paris visit to integrate all the nuclear nations into the current SALT II negotiations.

A more comprehensive solution was recently proposed by Paul Granet in the French daily *Le Figaro*. Basing his ideas on those of Trade Minister Jean-François Deniau, Granet wrote:

“Political Europe is only possible in independence, and we cannot talk about European independence as long as NATO exists. . . . In this area, one can only advance suggestions with prudence . . . but finally, wouldn't it be possible to arrive at a joint political Europe in those sectors which come into play in defense policy: computers, weaponry, space and nuclear? Couldn't we endow Europe with a permanent conference of Ministers and a permanent group to investigate and evaluate crises (which would have nothing to do with NATO's institutions)? Are such perspectives utopian? Times have changed.”

— John Sigerson

5. Pushing a U.S.-USSR Mideast showdown

Current efforts to set the stage for a U.S.-Soviet confrontation are, in the Mideast context, the direct response to growing consensus in the Arab world and Europe that reconvening the Geneva peace talks, rather than the Camp David fiasco, is the proper forum for negotiating a peace settlement.

With the Camp David accords fast disintegrating as a result of Israel's fanatic refusal to “link” the West Bank-Gaza Strip issue to a bilateral settlement with Egypt over Sinai, elaborate efforts are afoot to undercut international pressure on Israel that could topple the Begin government.

Israel has its back to the wall. Its backers know this, and are out to force the U.S. into line behind Israel's war government by raising the spectre of the escalating Soviet threat to the Middle East.

However, the principle Zionist excuse — that Israel must fight to survive as a nation — now stands

You would have chaos, one government after another will fall, and Israel will be like the French Fourth Republic or like many recent situations in Italian history.

Nix to comprehensive peace

These portions of a commentary by Joseph Churba, former intelligence analyst for the Air Force chief of staff, appeared in the Nov. 15 Baltimore Sun:

The Carter Administration's current interpretation of the Camp David accords is much more damaging to peace prospects than anything the Soviet and Arab rejectionists have so far been able to mount. By its behavior the Administration is making it highly uncertain that the forthcoming Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty will facilitate any broad accommodation in the Middle East. . . .

Presumably, the State Department prefers to encourage Arab solidarity rather than to strengthen the pro-Western regimes of the area. As in the past, this approach plays directly into the hands of the radicals and Moscow. American overtures to Damascus will be used as a weapon against Cairo and as proof that no “genuine” peace is possible without the cooperation of Syria, the PLO and Moscow. This is precisely the disastrous formula envisaged in the Soviet-American statement of October, 1977. Observers will recall that joint communiqué as a major factor in prompting Mr. Sadat's journey to Jerusalem last November. Then, President Sadat's bilateral initiative pre-empted Mr. Carter's comprehensive approach. The danger today is that shifting U.S. interpretations of the Camp David accords intended to facilitate a wider peace are threatening to destroy the prospective Egyptian-Israeli settlement.

Washington Post syndicated columnist Joseph Kraft boldly called for the U.S. to lay off Israel and forget about a comprehensive peace settlement. In a Nov. 14 op-ed, Kraft points out that insistence on an overall settlement may bring down Begin's intransigent coalition.

Putting new pressures on Israel at this time . . . makes little sense. The parts of the agreement that make for pressure — the parts relative to Jerusalem and the Palestinians — cannot be immediately operative anyway. Sadat does not need concessions on these items to carry his country. So for the time being, at least, the issues of Jerusalem and the Palestinians are secondary. What is primary and immediate — and what the Carter Administration ought to concentrate on almost exclusively — is the Sinai accord between Israel and Egypt.

completely destroyed with the announcement at the recent Baghdad summit meeting that the Arab heads of state accept as a given the existence of the Israeli state within its pre-1967 borders.

Last week, Jordan's King Hussein closed out a three-day visit to Bonn, West Germany by telling the press that only a return to Geneva can rescue the Middle East from a "flatly unacceptable" Egypt-Israel separate peace. Hussein arrived in Bonn immediately after the Arab summit in Baghdad, where Arab leaders issued a call for Israel to return to its 1967 borders as the precondition for peace. The Baghdad call shatters the myth that the Arabs do not recognize Israel and hence are "not interested" in peace.

Standing alongside King Hussein as he called for Geneva was West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, who nodded his approval.

The Europeans — in particular the West Germans and the French — and the Arabs are united in clearing the way for a comprehensive Middle East settlement at Geneva. They are dedicated to blocking the emergence of an anti-Soviet "Middle East Treaty Organization," which Israel's Zionists, the British Crown, and Zionists in the U.S. have sought to shape out of the Camp David accords.

Begging for war

In the past week, no less than five major Zionist lobby strategy planning sessions have taken place to lay out the drive for war.

First and foremost was a series of meetings between Israeli Prime Minister Begin and the Bronfman family-controlled networks in Canada. In Toronto, Montreal, and other Canadian cities, Begin and his entourage met with hundreds of Zionist financial backers and Canadian government leaders to plot out, among other things, the consolidation of an anti-Soviet, pro-NATO alliance in the Middle East, possibly to be guaranteed by Canadian troops. It should be remembered that it was liquor and drug magnate Edgar Bronfman who first put forth the idea of just this sort of "Middle East Treaty Organization" alliance.

This policy line came to public light at a Nov. 10 meeting in Washington of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy, a group of rabid anti-Soviets overseen by Anglophile former ambassador to Spain Angier Biddle Duke. During the conference,

which was entitled "American Policy in the Middle East After the Camp David Summit," speaker after speaker discussed how best to force the Carter Administration into a strategic showdown with the Soviet Union in the Middle East. Among the speakers were **Joseph Churba**, a former head of U.S. Air Force Middle East intelligence and known controller of the Jewish defense League; **Bernard Lewis**, architect of the infamous "Lewis Plan" for unleashing tribal warfare against legitimate Arab-Islamic governments; **Edward Luttwak**, author of scenarios for invading Arab oilfields; **Robert Tucker**, a leading advocate of Israel's exercising its "nuclear option"; and **Uri Ra'an**, who recommends that the U.S. "threaten national suicide in a nuclear war" as a means of terrifying the Soviets into backing down in a strategic confrontation with the U.S.

Summing up the prevailing attitude, conference chairman **Hans Morgenthau** of the New School of Social Research told an interviewer that the U.S. had to demonstrate, first, a "willingness to blow ourselves up to save Europe" in order to prevent the Europeans from making ambitious trade-and-development deals with the Soviets, and second, "resolve to go on nuclear alert as in October 1973" in response to an alleged Soviet design to "launch a war against Israel through their clients Syria and Iraq." This scenario includes opening a U.S. military base on Israeli territory to "counter Soviet designs."

Press picks up the line

The line coming out of the Washington conference was picked up rapidly by pro-Zionist press spokesmen. Since Nov. 13, *New York Times* hatchetman William Safire, Henry Kissinger's mouthpiece Joseph Kraft, and Joseph Churba have written virtually identical editorials blasting those State Department officials intent on achieving a comprehensive Middle East peace and warning that such U.S. effort could lead to an Israeli preemptive strike against the Arabs.

In turn, this theme was picked up at a special conference in Verona, Italy, attended by Italian and French "friends of Israel" earlier in the week. Entitled "The Superpowers in the Middle East," the conference featured Israeli strategists close to Moshe Dayan who insisted that the current Egypt-Israel bilateral talks were "just a ceasefire," and that a new Arab-Israeli war is looming on the horizon.