

'Peace' pact equals massive militarization

The just signed Egypt-Israeli peace treaty is a vehicle for a massive military buildup in the Middle East which seems certain to provoke accelerated Arab-Israeli conflict and threatens, as Arab spokesmen are publicly warning, to produce direct U.S.-Soviet confrontation.

The bases for this assessment are both the content of the Camp David *policy package* — which poses a direct (and unnecessary, from the standpoint of U.S. interests) threat to both the Arab countries and the Soviets — and the fact that the arms-laden U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli deal behind the treaty is aggravating a series of hotspot situations which, individually or in combination, will propel the U.S. and Soviets rapidly toward war.

The most alarming aspect of the arrangement is that it provides for an American nuclear umbrella over Israel.

Any doubts about this were dispelled by a front-page banner-headline *Washington Post* article detailing the contents of the still not officially released U.S. "memorandum of understanding" with Israel. This document,

says the *Post*, guarantees "an increased American presence in the Middle East and new emergency aid for Israel" and special American "naval action to block a sea blockade and emergency military resupply efforts" to Israel should Egypt break the treaty. And it contains a U.S. pledge to organize and maintain "an acceptable multinational force" of NATO-member countries to police the Sinai area if the United Nations Security Council refuses, as is likely, to endorse the Camp David Pact by providing a UN Security force for the area.

The dangerous content of the Camp David arrangement was further elaborated in a precisely worded March 27 *New York Times* editorial entitled "Battle Plans for Peace." Citing President Carter's affirmation that America must now "wage peace," the *Times* noted that the U.S. "has become in all but name their ally in a risky enterprise.... Americans should understand ... how deeply they are now committed to the support of that process, diplomatically and economically. *The enemies of the process stand to become enemies of the Un-*

Sadat for sale

An article in the March 9 Baghdad Observer entitled "Sadat Hires Out the Egyptian Army to Highest Bidder," details Sadat's plans to reorganize the Egyptian Armed Forces into a mobile strike force in behalf of American-Zionist interests.

Ever since Sadat embarked on his long journey for peace with the Zionist enemy, the major problem facing him has been: What to do with the Egyptian army, numbering more than a quarter million soldiers?

It is well known that the first American-Zionist condition for peace was that the Egyptian ruler should disassemble his armed forces and render them incapable of an effective role, even if his regime were to collapse and be replaced by a patriotic regime willing to enter the battle of liberation against the Zionist entity....

The recent Iran events have basically contributed to heightening Sadat's vanity. He proposed to U.S. Secretary of Defense Harold Brown that he replace the Shah in playing the role of sentinel of imperialist and Zionist interests in the area....

....Thus he sent the army chief of staff, General Badawi, at the head of a military delegation on a one week visit to Zaire to "study the possibilities of military cooperation" between the two countries following the mass demonstrations in the capital Kinshahsa, which have threatened the regime of President Mobutu with internal collapse.

At the same time, Sadat sent to the Sultanate the so-called "vanguard" army group to replace the Iranian troops which were stationed there to defend the sultan's throne against the internal insurgents.

Furthermore, an Egyptian force had left for Sudan more than two months ago to reinforce the Egyptian force which had been stationed there for years, for the sole purpose of protecting the regime of President Numeiry against the internal dangers threatening it.

ited States... The opportunities now opened are as risky as war itself." (Emphasis added.)

The same day's *Times* ran a feature from its military correspondent, Drew Middleton, entitled "Treaty Opens the Door to New Power Balance," which detailed how the creation of a "new power structure in the Middle East" had been created based on "Israel and a rearm-ed Egypt" and "supported by expanded U.S. military involvement and arms deliveries."

This level of the militarization drive is to be accompanied by arms buildup campaigns directed toward North Yemen, Oman, and Somalia and toward the establishment of U.S.-NATO naval facilities at Haifa and Alexandria in the Mediterranean and in several potential sites in the Indian Ocean-Arabian Gulf area.

Crisis zones

Regional crisis spots have heated up considerably in the wake of the treaty. France's *Le Figaro* on March 27 reported a new offensive in southern Lebanon by Christian forces against Palestinian and leftist forces. The leftists in turn were put on high alert in anticipation of Israeli "retaliatory raids"; two bloody terrorist incidents inside Israel for which the Palestine Liberation Organization claimed responsibility in Beirut were to be used by Israel as a pretext for the Israeli move.

High-level Arab sources in Brussels, Belgium have indicated to this news service that the Lebanese situation is to be the excuse for Israeli strikes against both Syria and Iraq with the aim of destroying Iraq's oil supplies.

On March 27, *Baltimore Sun* Washington correspondent Charles Corddry reported that "Washington intelligence sources" were circulating reports about Libya "moving troops eastward" toward the Egyptian border to prepare for "border harassment" against Egypt. Corddry's sources claimed that a Soviet general and several Soviet officers were coordinating the operations. This could in fact be the signal for a long-feared Egyptian strike against Libya similar to the one that Sadat launched in July 1977.

The gendarmes

The crux of the Camp David treaty is the establishment of Egyptian and Israeli military power as regional "strike forces" to move into oil-producing regions at the behest of NATO.

To achieve this, the two countries will be provided with massive arrays of weaponry and military-directed financial aid.

Israel, already the most highly militarized country in the Middle East, is slated to receive \$6 billion in Camp David Pact aid above and beyond the country's yearly \$2.975 billion allotment from the U.S., \$1 billion of which goes for armaments.

The additional \$6 billion breaks down as follows:

- Speeding up the sale and delivery of arms by 1980, including 75 F-16s, more tanks and armored personnel carriers and air-to-surface and air-to-air missiles. Total: \$3 billion.
- Providing payment for the Israeli evacuation of the

Sen. Helms: Mideast accord a war plot

Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) entered a stinging criticism of the Mideast "peace package" into the Congressional Record of March 27. Following are excerpts of Helms's statement.

... The heart of the problem is that the treaty is not a comprehensive settlement, that major questions remain outstanding, not only between Israel and Egypt, but also among Israel, Syria, and the rest of the Arab world. These outstanding questions are already eroding the stability of the agreement. The treaty may not be a step toward comprehensive agreement at all; it may be a step that makes comprehensive agreement unlikely....

...The Soviets need fear only one development; that the war could spread and include Soviet and American military forces in direct confrontation and war. But, to limit this risk, they need merely keep their own military personnel in the Middle East to

unofficial advisory status, and let the Arabs and the non-Soviet East bloc personnel do the actual fighting. And this is within their control.

Unfortunately, there is always the possibility that one side or the other may make a dreadful miscalculation with events spiraling out of control into general war. Although the possibility of this happening should not be underestimated by us, the Soviets may well believe that they can keep this risk under control.

For that reason, Israeli military planners will now be compelled to make the next war not a limited one, but the broadest conflict possible. It must be so decisive that it alters the fundamental situation in the Middle East. Anything less than that could be fatal to Israel's territorial ambitions.

Now, a successful war from the Israeli point of view must include most of the following elements:

First, the end of Arab OPEC and the Arab oil weapon.

Sinai area, with the money slated for military-related infrastructure projects and the building of new air bases. Total: \$3 billion.

Combined with Israel's drastic austerity situation, the military focus of the aid will lock Israel more than ever into a garrison-state, regional gendarmerie role.

Egypt will receive close to \$3 billion in military aid, according to Washington sources. This is to be centered around the shipment of F-5s, F-4 Phantoms, armored personnel carriers, surface-to-air missiles, jeeps, trucks and other vehicles.

The crucial factor in Egypt is to be the transformation of that country's citizen-republican army into a truncated force of two "elite" divisions comprising 5000 men each, to be used as "strike force" intervention units into the region. According to one top Zionist lobby source with extensive Pentagon connections, "Egypt does not need a big army, and there is no way anyway that the Egyptians can logistically run any big military operations. At this point, the only useful thing for us to think about is to create special divisions that can be used for roles in Africa and in the Arabian Gulf."

The transformation of Egypt's army in the direction of a mercenary force is the one potential major hole in the agreement. Will the mass base and junior officers of the army tolerate such an operation? A columnist for the English-language *Baghdad Observer* thinks not, and traces the reason back to the original ways in which Henry Kissinger hoodwinked Egyptian President Sadat into dismantling his own armed forces (see box).

Second, the eviction of many of the Arabs from the West Bank.

Third, the utter destruction of the Arab armies.

Fourth, the destruction of Arab morale.

Fifth, the active involvement of the United States in actual military operations in conjunction with Israel.

This war plan, while ambitious, is necessary for Israel. A war which would leave Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf oil fields unscathed would only mean that economic sanctions against the U.S. in the postwar environment would create new pre Israel to withdraw from the captured territories. It would also mean that plenty of money would be available to rearm the Arab armies.... There are a number of scenarios by which it might be accomplished (U.S.-Israeli military linkup) beginning encouraging the U.S. to upgrade its military capability to intervene abroad. Joint contingency planning exercises between American and Israeli military planners for a seizure of the Saudi oil fields would also be important.

'Islamic Pact' — on the Soviet border

Simultaneous with the consolidation of the Camp David military buildup, the British-NATO geopoliticians are working for a further military reorganization across the entire Soviet southern rim. At the center of these plans is the formation of a military alliance among those nations undergoing the so-called Islamic revolution, an "Islamic Pact," which would function as a de facto replacement for the defunct Central Treaty Organization (CENTO).

Pakistan dictator Ziaul Haq has offered himself as the anchor of such an operation and has sent his ministers off to meet with the Muslim Brotherhood networks throughout the East. His foreign minister Aga Shahi has been touring Turkey on behalf of the concept which he is billing as "independent" and even "anti-West."

Despite the standing anti-West rhetoric, recent events make it amply clear that the role of such a formation would be to provide the pretext for extended U.S.-NATO military presence in the region. Zbigniew Brzezinski has indicated on many occasions what the salutary effects of the Islamic "revolution" could be for anticommunist actions, while Pakistan has already declared itself to be the base of operations for Muslim Brotherhood-run attacks against Soviet-backed Afghanistan. The Pakistan leader's public relations drive promises to be the introduction to a full scale war between the two countries.

NATO military push

The U.S.-NATO military side of this scenario has begun to be implemented in concert with the Camp David deployments. The *USS Constellation*, deployed into the Indian Ocean on the basis of the flimsiest of pretexts concerning an "immediate" Soviet threat to the Gulf area, will now remain in the area, and, according to Indian sources, will become the anchor of a new "Fifth Fleet" in the region with U.S. military bases expanded in places like Diego Garcia and Bahrein. At the same time U.S. military personnel and equipment from Iran are now being deployed to British bases on Cyprus, where it is well known that the British maintain an active nuclear capability. This combined Cyprus/Indian Ocean deployment is calculated to add to the Camp David capability of "mobile and flexible" response to regional dangers concerning oil or Soviet "provocations."

These activities are calculated to draw a response

from the Soviet Union, especially as the joint Pakistani-Iranian attacks against Afghanistan continue. Soviet and Afghan media have been carrying a continuing series of reports identifying especially U.S. and British support for the Muslim Brotherhood terrorists threatening the Taraki government. The Indian government, also working under defense assurances from the

Soviet Union, has responded further to this threat to the security of the region. According to well placed sources, the Indian government has recently filed an official protest with the government of Great Britain charging the British with supplying nuclear bombs to the government of Pakistan.

The price of peace for Israel, Egypt

The Camp David peace treaty is likely to be the straw which breaks the camel's back. In this case, it is the Egyptian and Israeli economies which stand to lose. The aid package to both is either for military hardware or defense-related expenditures — no transfer of high technology, no direct investment into consumer goods or nonmilitary capital goods production. The net effect, given the debt situation and inflation rates in both countries, is a downward plunge to bankruptcy.

Consider the statistics characterizing the Israeli economy, only slightly better than the Egyptian. The inflation rate is 48 percent. The cost of living last year increased 48 percent. The Israeli pound was devalued again last week to a rate of 20.5 to a dollar. Military spending already accounts for 29 percent of Israel's Gross National Product and the aid package will incur an additional cost of 90 billion Israeli pounds.

U.S. government aid to Israel was set by the Camp David accord at \$3 billion, of which only \$.8 billion is an outright grant. The aid is on top of the approximate \$2 billion the U.S. gives yearly to Israel.

Where is this aid slated to be spent? Not in consumer goods production. In fact, the Begin government last week cut subsidies to basic consumer foodstuffs, sending prices skyrocketing. The government's economic advisors have suggested that consumer goods prices be increased from 30 to 40 percent above inflationary in-

creases in order to cut consumption and demolish "inflationary" savings of the Israeli citizenry.

The aid package will go to cover the cost of rebuilding the fortifications and infrastructure of Israel's defenses in the Negev desert and the construction of two airbases in the Negev to replace the two that Israel constructed in the Sinai which they are now relinquishing to Egypt.

Then there are the secondary expenses of writing off the investment in the Sinai settlements and relocating Jewish residents. By giving up the Sinai, Israel is also giving up the Abu Rudeis oil field which accounted for 20 percent of Israel's oil supply.

But it is the terms of the aid package which might very well shove the economy over the edge. The \$2.2 billion in loans is payable over a 20-year period following a 10-year grace period. The rub is that beginning in 1982-1986, Israel's schedule for repayment of foreign exchange debt goes from the 1981 level of \$1,285 million to a combined interest and principal amount of \$2,810 million. This figure, which excludes internal debt and both internal and external private debt, will be supplemented with the commencement of payments on the Camp David aid package beginning in 1989.

This is simply an impossible burden with only one way out at this point: a war against Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq, and Syria.