

Israel aims war machine at OPEC

Begin threatens to hit Palestinians 'at any moment and at any place we choose'

As Carter administration and U.S. Zionist lobby spokesmen issue calls for "retaliation" against the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) for raising the price of oil, the Israeli Army has stepped up its campaign of military intimidation against the nations along its eastern border. This campaign has the purpose of softening these countries up for internal destabilization and eventual occupation by U.S. and Israeli (and possibly Egyptian) special forces of the oil-rich states of the Arabian Gulf.

Israel's military policy guidelines were officially set out at a cabinet meeting July 1, which endorsed the doctrine enunciated by Prime Minister Menachem Be-

ment collapse and Lebanon-style chaos and confusion.

Either way, London's strategy to create a crisis in international oil production and distribution, as in the "Crash of '79" blueprint, would rapidly be implemented. Short of effecting that objective, Israel's military brinksmanship is the one the growing nexus of collaboration between the members of OPEC and the nations of continental Europe.

"A possible irrational overreaction"

Israeli strategic thinking was elaborated by the *Jerusalem Post's* military correspondent Hirsh Goodman in a June 29 news analysis. Reporting on Israel's downing of Syrian-piloted MIG aircraft in southern Lebanon last week, Goodman assessed that the "overall repercussions" of this air battle "could prove highly positive for Israel in both the long and short term."

"The downing of the MIGs," Goodman continued, "would undermine the morale of the military in Syria; undermine the tenuous control President Hafez Assad retains in his country, currently wracked by internal turmoil; illustrate to the terrorists that they can expect little from Syria in terms of real protection, and, finally, weaken Syria's position as the spearhead of the Arab rejection front...."

"Assad's power base is still the armed forces, and particularly the Syrian air force. He has consistently, during his presidency, placed great importance on the air force and his power is linked with the prestige of that branch of the armed services...."

"The credibility of Syria's ability to protect the terrorists or even constitute a viable threat to Israel ... has been seriously impaired by Wednesday's incident."

A more chilling version of Israeli strategic thinking was elaborated in the same edition of the *Post* by Yehezkel Dror, described by the paper as "one of Israel's few strategic analysts." In a piece titled, "Time for a Grand Strategy," Dror stated:

"A successful deterrence grand strategy must be based on elements such as (a) a demonstrated capacity to execute graduated military operations throughout the Middle East, ranging from surgical strikes to massive surprise war; (b) the establishment of credible threats to main 'assets' (i.e., oil supplies—ed.) in the

Menachem Begin warns European governments that Israel will launch a terrorist bloodbath on the European continent if the PLO is recognized.

gin in a June 28 speech, that Israel will no longer "retaliate" against Palestinian "terrorist action" but will "prevent the murder of men, women and children" by hitting the Palestinians "at any moment and at any place we choose until they desist." This is "legitimate national self-defense" and "the Syrians mustn't shoot down our planes.... If they do, they'll be responsible."

The cabinet's endorsement of the Begin doctrine means that nonstop bombardments into southern Lebanon will continue, and that the Syrians will perpetually be faced with the choice: confront the militarily superior Israelis or back down and be humiliated. Out of the crisis of "choice" faced by the Assad regime in Syria, Israel's leadership calculates, either the Syrians will make a series of miscalculations as did Egypt's Nasser in 1967 and give Israel a pretext for a preemptive strike, or the internal situation in Syria, already worsened by a Muslim Brotherhood massacre of Syrian army men June 16, will worsen to the point of govern-

Arab Middle East to offset anti-Israel Arab blackmail against the West using those assets; (c) the maintenance of an ambiguous image of being able to create a variety of troubles, without the need to actually resort to politically problematic direct intervention; and, (d) the projection of an image of reason coupled with the switch to a possible irrational overreaction by Israel if provoked beyond various 'red lines.'

"... Israel should also consider the possible political uses of its military strength, not for delivery of brute strikes but also as a delicate instrument of suasion. Coercion is beyond the will and capacity of Israel, but careful signaling of a possible resort to force and of the potential consequences of conflict can serve as an inducement to the Arabs to be cautious. For instance, realization by Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and the Palestinians of the possible serious consequences to them of another Middle Eastern war fanned by their adamant opposition to the Egypt-Israeli peace may serve to

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mitigate their dedication to disrupting the peace process."

Enflaming terrorism

While developing this policy of blackmailing-the-enemy-with-your-insanity—a war policy first elaborated by Henry Kissinger and California's Rand Corporation in the post-World War II period—Israel is simultaneously building up an international "red scare" climate around "Palestinian terrorism" to justify new military strikes into Lebanon and elsewhere.

In Israel this week, a conference is taking place on "international terrorism" at which the leading lights of the Zionist lobby and the British Tory government are present, all pushing the line that "the KGB is behind terrorism" and that "the KGB works closely with the PLO to foment terrorism." This line followed the cue of outgoing NATO Commander Alexander Haig, who railed against "Soviet backing for terrorists" after having his own car hit by a NATO-run terrorist squad last week.

Keynoting the conference was Begin, "Mr. King David Hotel" and one of the 20th century's most bloody terrorists. Begin called on the "free world" to

band together against the PLO and warned that recognition of the PLO would open Europe to a "terror wave"—i.e., that Israel would launch a continental European bloodbath if European governments decided to open public discussions with the PLO.

At the conference, and harping on the same theme, were U.S. Zionist lobby Senator Henry Jackson, aging British Tory Lord Chalfont, Georgetown University geopolitican Ray Cline, and two former Israeli intelligence chiefs, Gens. Chaim Herzog and Aharon Yariv.

Informed Middle East sources have identified this meeting as the starting-point for a "no-holds-barred" Israeli war against the Palestinians. According to West Germany's *Allgemeine Jüdische Zeit* this week, Israel is planning a "war of extinction" against the Palestinians in Lebanon, regardless of the risks of war this may involve.

Obviously, such a military campaign will only severely *radicalize* the Palestinians, and cause greater shockwaves of destabilization, potentially disrupting the flow of oil from the Gulf. This dangerous scenario was warned about in an interview with *Newsweek* by Saudi Oil Minister Zaki Yamani, who stated:

"Look at what happened this week when the Israelis shot down five Syrian planes over Lebanon. This sort of thing can escalate rapidly. The Israelis are looking for pretexts to avoid facing the inevitability of a Palestinian homeland and withdrawal from the West Bank. The Palestinians are growing ever more desperate, and I wouldn't be surprised if one day they sank one or supertankers in the Strait of Hormuz, to force the world to do something about their plight and Israel's obstinacy. This would block the channel through which pass 19 million to 20 million barrels daily. This would make the present crisis seem like child's play. Either the U.S. can compel Israel to implement U.N. Resolution 242 and withdraw to the pre-June 1967 borders—or it can't. If it can't, then you must be prepared to face the consequences."

PLO leader Yasser Arafat told the press in response to Yamani's prediction of increased conflict in the Gulf that "Yamani wouldn't have said it without inside information."

One more ominous sign for the Middle East is the presence of former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in Israel at the same time as the terrorism conference. Kissinger had just come from Egypt, where he huddled with Egypt's President Anwar Sadat for several days. In the view of certain observers, Kissinger's trip to Egypt had the purpose of coordinating a destabilization against oil-rich Libya, to prepare the way for an Israeli-orchestrated Egyptian move into that country and the overthrow of the Qaddafi regime.

—Mark Burdman