

International Intelligence

Saudi oil threatened by 'Arab radicals'

"Radical Arab nationalists with ties to Iran" may soon "take the Saudi Ras Tanura oil export terminal hostage to extort monetary and political demands from the West," according to a scenario now being discussed in Israeli and Georgetown University strategic circles. The scenario calls for Israeli units to form the core of a "strike force" to liberate the seized terminal.

The unfolding of the scenario depends on the ongoing destabilization of the Gulf by Iran and its allies, planners emphasize.

Lending credence to the potential scenario is the recent appearance in Tabriz, in northern Iran, at a meeting of Iranian leftists of a top leader of the Saudi "nationalist left."

According to emigré Iranian sources, the Iranians have been intensifying their political operations throughout the Gulf. Pro-Khomeini agents have organized hunger strikes among members of the Shiite Islamic group in Bahrain, and similar unrest is reported in Kuwait.

PCF under pressure following Ponomarev trip

Following the visit to France two weeks ago by Boris Ponomarev, the Soviet Communist Party official in charge of foreign communist parties, pressure has mounted on the French Communist Party (PCF) to reconstitute a "Union of the Left" with the Socialist Party. Ponomarev had threatened French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing that if his policies displeased Moscow, the PCF could rejoin the Socialists and possibly destroy Giscard's chance for re-election this spring.

The Union of the Left comprised the Communists, Socialists, and the tiny Movement of Left Radicals. In the 1974 presidential elections, the Union gave its backing to François Mitterrand against

Giscard. The Communist support for Mitterrand launched both his and the Socialists' prominence in French national politics.

A recent incident involving a Communist-administered town's refusal to let African immigrant workers relocate into the locality has triggered a wave of attacks against the PCF as "Stalinist" and "racist" by the Socialists, French Zionists, and the right-wing daily *Le Figaro*. The French Anti-Defamation League (LICRA) put out a statement comparing the Vitry-sur-Seine town government's actions to those of the Ku Klux Klan and the Third Reich.

In a front-page article, *Le Figaro* asserted that the PCF is in "a political ghetto" because of its refusal to ally with the Socialists.

Sharper fighting forecast in Lebanon

Major battles between the militias of the Lebanese Falangists and the Palestine Liberation Organization are foreseeable during the immediate months ahead, the London *Economist* reported Dec. 27.

According to *The Economist's* special Levant correspondent, the PLO takes this threat so seriously that "over the past two or three months it has been mobilizing its full fighting strength, even pulling young men and women out of high schools and universities" locally and from around the world. This is a sign that the PLO fears it may have to fight a "last-ditch battle" in Lebanon.

Lebanese sources report that a PLO-Falange clash may follow from the consequences of Syrian-Falangist fighting in Zahle, a town in eastern Lebanon. That fighting brought about the unity of various Christian militias, and created the military preconditions for a new Falange offensive.

As the tension in Zahle peaked, Israel's military expanded its raids against PLO camps in southern Lebanon. During a Dec. 30 raid, Israeli jets shot down two Syrian jets that had interceded into Lebanon's south.

One week earlier, during a raid into Lebanon, Israeli units killed three Syrian soldiers, the first time in the five-year history of Lebanon's civil war that Syrian soldiers had been killed in combat with Israel.

President Giscard target of terrorist attack

President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing of France was an apparent target of a terrorist attack when a bomb exploded in the Guadeloupe airport waiting room Dec. 28, just hours before Giscard was scheduled to arrive there.

Since the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe has been the scene of terrorist violence by Corsican-linked autonomist terrorists for months, the French press had reported on the extraordinary security precautions planned for Giscard's Guadeloupe trip.

One week earlier, following the Dec. 21 capture in Paris of Italian terrorist Marco Donat-Cattin, Giscard hailed the arrest, and called for European police forces to be given more effective freedom of action to pursue terrorists across international borders.

Such freedom of action is a minimum condition for undertaking effective anti-terrorist activity under conditions in which European terrorists escape capture by crossing borders, said Giscard.

Murder, riots mount in Italy

General Enrico Cavaligi, the deputy commander of the carabinieri antiterrorism force in northern Italy who was assassinated by terrorists Dec. 31, had worked closely with Judge Giovanni D'Urso, the magistrate kidnapped early last month. Cavaligi was in charge of security in the maximum security prisons where convicted and suspected terrorists are held.

Following the Dec. 28 announcement

Briefly

by the Italian government that it will close the maximum security prison on Asinara Island, near Sardinia, where approximately 25 Red Brigades terrorists are being held, riots broke out at two separate Italian prison facilities where other terrorists have been imprisoned.

At Trani prison on the southern Adriatic coast, rioting prisoners captured 19 guards, demanding the repeal of antiterrorist laws instituted in the late 1970s under the auspices of police general Alberto Dalla Chiesa, who has specialized in investigating the Red Brigades and who had been working closely with Cavali.

In addition, the prisoners demanded the repeal of a new law that allows preventive detention of suspected terrorists. While the guards held hostage were released, several convicted terrorists escaped.

At Palmi prison in Calabria, prisoners staged a protest also demanding repeal of antiterrorist laws.

The government's capitulation on the issue of closing Asinara prison is a result of severe pressure on the government to negotiate with the Red Brigades for the release of Judge D'Urso.

Adding to the pressure on the government from the terrorists has been pressure from the Socialist Party, whose secretary, Bettino Craxi, has cast himself in the role of "negotiator" with the Red Brigades, as he did during the 1978 Aldo Moro kidnapping.

Craxi, according to the Dec. 28 *Washington Star*, is rumored to be "headed for the prime minister's office."

Emigration is Israel's 'most serious problem'

Four parliamentary motions were presented before Israel's Knesset last week to deal with the problem of the increasing numbers of Israelis who are emigrating from the country.

During a Knesset debate on the subject, Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Simcha Ehrlich declared that emigration is

"really the most important national problem" facing Israel. Another Israeli parliamentarian stated that Israel's "emigration problem comes even before defense."

On Dec. 23, the Jewish Agency, an international Zionist organization committed to encouraging immigration to Israel, held a special press conference in Jerusalem to warn of the dangers to Israel arising from the growing number of emigrants.

Agency sources revealed that there are now between 300,000 and 500,000 emigrants in the United States alone, and that 60 percent of those recently departed were between 20 and 40 years old, and were highly educated people who had held productive jobs in industry and the professions.

One of the press conference speakers, Prof. Ephraim Urbach of Hebrew University, stated that "emigrants are now boasting about leaving rather than being ashamed as before. The problem is in Israeli society and its declining values at home and in school."

Tories, Heritage plan Mideast scenario

Julian Amery, a British Tory ideological controller of the Washington-based Heritage Foundation, has been holding policy planning meetings on how the Persian Gulf oil-producing area can be militarily occupied, intelligence sources report.

According to these sources, Amery has been holding meetings in Washington and London on how the Middle East can be destabilized by leftist groups and then occupied by an Anglo-American-led military force possibly including Israeli participation.

In mid-December, the Washington-based Heritage Foundation sponsored a luncheon speech by J. B. Kelly, the Tory-linked author of the book *Arabia, the Gulf, and the West*. Kelly's book recommends the "recolonization" of the Gulf by the Western powers.

● **PEKING** has just issued its most pessimistic evaluation of prospects for fossil fuels output. Professor Lu Yingz-hong of Quinghua University's Nuclear Technology Institute declares that on a per capita basis China is both petroleum-and coal-short. He states that nuclear power is the best long-term answer. Carter administration foreign policy has greatly encouraged U.S. oil development investment in China in the last several years.

● **MUAMMAR QADDAFI**, Libya's dictator, has announced his support for the "Kurdish liberation movement." Qaddafi declared that the Kurds have a right to "self-determination." Intelligence sources suspect a signal of support for Armenian-linked Kurdish terrorists, or an operation against Iraq-linked Kurdish factions, or both.

● **JAPAN** is lending Mexico 150 billion yen (about \$75 million) in low-interest government and Exim Bank loans for "unspecified purposes," a highly unusual form of loan. Only the countries of Southeast Asia and a fellow oil producer of Mexico's, Iraq, have previously received such loans for unspecified use. Japan's desire for increased oil from Mexico is believed to be the motivation for such generosity on Tokyo's part.

● **BRAZIL** has contracted to sell the Soviets 1.6 million tons of sugar during the next five years. The U.S.S.R. is supplying Brazil with oil, and thus qualifies under Brazil's new policy of seeking long-term sugar contracts with oil exporters. Similar deals have been signed with Venezuela and some Middle Eastern countries. The Brazilians are also gearing up for a likely visit to Russia by Planning Minister Delfim Netto some time this year.