

Soviets move into Middle East vacuum left by American withdrawal

by Allen Douglas

Since the February pull-out of U.S. Marines from Lebanon, the United States has been steadily abandoning its former friends and allies in the Middle East, allowing the Soviets to move in to forge new diplomatic and trade relations in the area. In the last month, the Kuwaitis have joined Jordan in looking to Moscow for arms, signing an unprecedented \$324 million arms deal with the Soviets; the Egyptians and Soviets have announced full resumption of diplomatic relations; the United Arab Emirates has announced the initiation of tourism to the Soviet Union; the Soviets have dramatically expanded purchases of Iraqi and Saudi Arabian oil; and over 40 Soviet divisions stand poised across the northern and eastern borders of Iran amid widespread talk of invasion. Even in the United States' presumed major strategic ally in the area, Israel, the press has periodically erupted with talk about reopening Soviet-Israeli diplomatic relations.

The New Yalta deal

As Kissinger and his allies in the State Department and the Jesuit-run Georgetown Center for Strategic and International Studies have increased their control over American policy in this vital area of the world, the United States' Arab allies are shaking their heads in rage and disgust at the results.

But the constant series of American foreign policy disasters are calculated. They follow a script outlined in the Bertrand Russell-directed Pugwash Conferences beginning in the late 1950s. Central to the "back-channel" discussions between Russell and his U.S. networks and the Soviet leadership was redrawing the world map as it was outlined at the Yalta Conference of 1945. In the drive for a one-world empire, Russell proposed to cede significant areas of the world, including Western Europe and the Middle East, to a Soviet sphere of influence. Under the direction of Pugwash participant Henry Kissinger from his various foreign policy positions in the 1970s and 1980s, American interests have been systematically sold out.

The only countervailing force to the Kissinger policy in the Reagan administration has been through the influence of the policy recommendations of Lyndon LaRouche. LaRouche demanded that the United States take action to force both Syria and Israel out of Lebanon. He has demanded that

the Reagan administration enforce an international embargo on Iran and act decisively to destroy the Khomeini regime, which has declared war on the United States. The United States, LaRouche has urged, must take a role in recognizing the PLO of Yasser Arafat and forcing a settlement to the Arab-Israeli question based on the full industrialization of the region. At every point that the United States has held back on these recommendations and followed Kissinger's advice instead, the door has been left wide open for the Soviets to intervene.

The turning point: Lebanon

The crucial turning point for U.S. withdrawal from the region was the Kissinger-directed U.S. abandonment of Lebanon in February of this year. Amid a series of treasonous acts by Kissinger's State Department buddies, such as ordering Marine sentries to carry unloaded weapons in front of the Beirut Marine Compound, the United States abandoned an ally it had solemnly sworn to defend. This was the handwriting on the wall for American allies in the area.

The pullout signaled the final triumph of Kissinger's plan to partition Lebanon, which had begun with his orchestration of the 1975 Lebanese Civil War with his allies, former Lebanese President Camille Chamoun and former Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon. As the U.S. administration waffled and equivocated, another Kissinger friend, George Shultz, negotiated the disastrous May 17, 1983, treaty giving Soviet-puppet Syria a de facto veto over any Israeli troop pullout. The dénouement is being played out now, as Lebanese cabinet ministers troop to Moscow and the Soviets offer to train and equip the Lebanese Army.

The partition of Lebanon is the prelude to the same process for all nation-states in the area. True, the Mideast is to be ceded to Moscow, but as a wreckage of fundamentalist and ethnic rivalries, with Kissinger's oligarchical masters in the West calculating that Khomeini-style fundamentalism will spread into the Muslim areas of the Soviet Union itself.

The Gulf war

One of the most crucial arenas for effecting the Kissinger policy has been the five-year-old Iran-Iraq war and perhaps

nowhere has the Kissinger crowd been so open about their agreements with Moscow. The war has benefited no one but the Soviets and Kissinger's oligarchical deployers. It has allowed the mullahs to tighten their grip over the Iranian people, has spread Khomeinism throughout the area, has drained perhaps \$100 billion from the development of the region, and has pushed America's Gulf allies increasingly into the arms of the Soviets for protection. Secretary of State Shultz recently announced the United States and Soviets to be fundamentally "in agreement" in their handling of the Persian Gulf crisis. In reality, this means that the State Department continues to run a protection racket for Khomeini, while the Soviets build massive assets on both sides of the war:

Moscow has supplied Iraq with millions of dollars of armaments, including long-range surface-to-surface missiles, and two new types of Soviet-made air-to-surface missiles for its bomber fleet. Along with the sophisticated weaponry come thousands of Soviet "advisers and technicians," infiltrating themselves into all aspects of the country. This political inundation was reflected in a conference in Baghdad on July 10 of 500 terrorists and terrorist supporters from 107 different countries, including representatives from the radical PLO factions, the Spanish Communist Party, the French Socialist Party, Bulgaria, Vietnam, and India, and the Eritrean Liberation Front.

On the other side of the coin, though its relations with Iran have been publicly cool, Moscow is gaining a strong hold over the collapsing Khomeini regime. The June 6 visit to Moscow of the director-general of the Iranian foreign ministry, Sayyed Mohammed Sadr, was the first high-level contact between the two countries in 18 months. Sadr met with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko to arrange a visit of Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akhbar Velayati to Moscow. Shortly thereafter, Gromyko sent a letter to Velayati on "matters of mutual interest." In late June, a Soviet delegation led by Deputy Power Minister Alexei Makukhin visited Iran for talks on energy and power projects. One of the rumored topics of discussion was reopening the natural gas pipeline from Iran into the U.S.S.R., which has been closed since Khomeini took power. Through these technical and economic relations, the Soviets have built up in-depth capabilities in Iran. The Soviets still help train Iran's intelligence service, and command extensive capabilities among its ethnic groups, including the Baluchs in the southeast, the Kurds in the northwest, and numerous KGB agents among the large Afghan refugee population in Iran.

Abandoning the Gulf

Since the Gulf war heated up in May, the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council have sought to avoid superpower military intervention while requesting the means from the United States to defend their territories and oil facilities against Iranian attack. Saudi Arabia was permitted to receive its long-requested shipment of Stinger missiles under the emergency

powers granted to the President. But when Kuwait asked for the same, the State Department denied the request, knowing this denial would propel Kuwait toward Moscow.

Following a Kuwaiti military delegation to Moscow on July 9, led by Kuwaiti Defense Minister Sheikh Salem al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti government issued an invitation for an official state visit by Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko, the first time in history a Gulf state has invited a top Soviet official into the area. The Soviets will be sending troops and advisers to Kuwait to train Kuwaiti armed forces. As this unprecedented activity was taking place, Kissinger crony and National Security Council head Robert McFarlane dismissed the news as "not significant." McFarlane defended the U.S. decision not to sell Stingers to Kuwait with the sophistry that he "had to consider whether U.S. weapons could fall into the hands of violent terrorist groups." McFarlane continued: "The situation in Kuwait, a country whose security we are very concerned with, is such that the availability of a certain kind of arms is a risky business." Of course, there is no "risky business" in introducing extensive Soviet advisers and technicians to the country.

The introduction of Soviet "trainers" into Kuwait follows a report in the Israeli paper *AlHamishmar*, that Soviet experts have been in Jordan for some time, training Jordanian officers in the use of SAM-8 Soviet anti-aircraft missiles. Foreshadowing things to come if Kissinger continues to dictate American foreign policy, a Kuwaiti paper *Al-Anba* called for the Gulf Cooperation Council to formally open diplomatic relations with Moscow.

The cynical statements heard at Georgetown's Center for International and Strategic Studies about "how many more years the Saudi Royal Family has left" reflect the degree to which the United States is preparing to dump a long-time ally. Since Franklin Delano Roosevelt met with King Saud in 1944, the relationship has been highly valued on both sides, at least until Kissinger's ascendancy in the past 15 years. Reflecting long-term strategic decisions, set in motion by Kissinger's oligarchical masters, the American share of business with Saudi Arabia has dropped from 60% 10 years ago to 16% last year, to a projected 2% this year, according to sources in the U.S. Businessmen's Association in Saudi Arabia. Even the new U.S. embassy to be constructed in Saudi Arabia was awarded by the State Department to a South Korean firm though American companies' bids were more than competitive.

This spring, the new Saudi Ambassador to the United States, Prince Bandar Bin Sultan, son of the Saudi defense minister, sponsored a dinner in Washington, D.C., for the Soviet ambassador—an unthinkable event a few years ago. The Saudis are also reportedly encouraging both Kuwait and Egypt to strengthen relations with the Soviets. While U.S. oil purchases from the Saudis have plummeted over the years, Saudi oil trade with the Soviets, nonexistent in the first quarter of 1983, has grown to \$105 million this quarter, and is expanding.