

Saudi Oil Fields No. 1 Target In New Mideast War

An Israeli attack on the oil fields of Saudi Arabia and possibly Iraq is the centerpiece of a move by the National Security Council to set into motion a Rand Corporation scenario for a Middle East war, according to informed sources.

The scenario may include the actual or threatened use of Israel's confirmed capacity for atomic warfare.

The intention behind the activation of such a crisis is to provide a suitable international political-military crisis, including a contrived energy shortage resulting from the destruction of all or part of the oil-production capacity of Saudi Arabia and Iraq, to ram through the energy program of Carter and Schlesinger over domestic and foreign opposition.

The activation of the Middle East war scenario is a live application of the discredited Schlesinger Doctrine for a "limited nuclear war." There is no doubt, according to informed observers, that such a scenario would leave the Soviet Union no alternative but to respond by unleashing World War III — despite delusions of Arab and Israeli circles and the U.S. Administration to the contrary.

Although there are several variants simultaneously operative in the building showdown in the Middle East, in every case the strategic focus is the Persian Gulf, the powerhouse of world oil output. "The primary scenario is for an Israeli invasion of Saudi Arabia, with the United States interceding on the side of Saudi Arabia 'against' Israel," said an informed West European source. He stated that Israel has recently received large quantities of highly sophisticated communications equipment from the U.S. for use in support of long-distance military action, and he cited the fact that General Mordechai Gur, the Chief of Staff of the Israeli Defense Forces, has four times in recent weeks named Saudi Arabia and Iraq as "confrontation states" in the war with Israel.

The idea of sending U.S. armed forces into the Persian Gulf has been under discussion since Henry Kissinger first raised it in early 1975. At present the U.S. move into Saudi Arabia would be based on pretended opposition to a "breakaway" Israeli action, possibly in the context of the outbreak of a general Arab-Israeli war. Robert Tucker, a defense consultant who authored numerous scenarios for invading the Arab oil fields during 1975, commented in an interview last week: "Sure this scenario might work. But it would depend on the world being convinced that Israel was acting independently and that the U.S. was acting in good faith."

Alternate Scenarios

Alongside the primary threat of an Arab-Israeli showdown including Saudi Arabia, a number of variants are

being put in place.

First, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, who is said to have placed Egypt into a firm alliance with the Dayan-Interpol forces in Israel, has volunteered his country's armed forces as a strike force against neighboring oil-rich Libya, or possibly even the Persian Gulf itself. Speaking at an Alexandria rally, Sadat accused the Soviet Union of seeking "to impose itself as the guardian of the Arab oil fields," and threatened action against the

U.S. Defense Secretary Claims Soviets Threatening Oil Fields

In testimony before the House of Representatives select energy committee, U.S. Secretary of Defense Harold Brown stated unequivocally that the U.S. foresees a Soviet threat to Middle East oil fields, and linked the threat of a military conflict in the Persian Gulf to Carter's energy program. Said Secretary Brown:

"In the event of some future confrontation, the Soviet Union might be able to restrict access of the Western world to its essential oil supplies to a degree of severity and duration greater than any embargo by the oil producers."

Brown added that the U.S. must therefore reduce its dependence on the Persian Gulf and develop strategic stockpiles of oil reserves of 1 billion barrels. "We cannot be in a position where we must accept a continuing vulnerability to arbitrary supply disruptions and price changes."

USSR. "Informed sources know that the strategic goal of the USSR is to effectively control Libyan oil." To "protect" Libya, Sadat has massed Egyptian troops along the Libyan border.

Libyan President Muammar Qaddafi, in response to the growing war threat from Egypt, denounced Sadat as "a CIA agent who was recruited by the Americans during his trip to the U.S. in 1966." A military clash between Libya and the much stronger Egyptians could easily demolish Libya's immense oil production and provoke a milder, but still serious, world oil shortage for Schlesinger.

Second, France — who has assumed surrogate responsibility for policing Africa for the NSC — has