

Kissinger cooks up a new Mideast plan for Reagan

by Nancy Coker

Ronald Reagan's Sept. 1 Middle East policy speech may have marked the President's debut in the Arab-Israeli arena, but it was no first-time-around for the real author of the speech, Henry A. Kissinger.

Kissinger, the éminence grise behind Secretary of State George Shultz, has been pulled into the inner circle of policy-making in the White House, and is doing his utmost to ensure that U.S. diplomacy in the Middle East in the wake of the Beirut crisis leads not to a comprehensive resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict based on the economic development of the region, but results instead in a never-ending series of crises and—Kissinger's specialty—overseeing crisis management.

What President Reagan *thinks* his initiative is, it is not. Reagan is under the illusion that what he has proposed—the confederation of some kind of autonomous Palestinian entity with Jordan—will break the Camp David deadlock and pave the way for Jordan and Saudi Arabia to join the much-celebrated Camp David "peace process." What Reagan fails to see is that Camp David, for all intents and purposes, is dead, killed by Israeli intransigence on the Palestinian autonomy issue, and that Egypt is dangerously isolated. Under Kissinger's guidance, Reagan has chosen to ignore this reality and instead has embraced the former Secretary of State's modus operandi: creating the *illusion* of initiatives and progress on the peace front, while the region disintegrates into chaos under the twin pressures of economic collapse and terrorism.

Kissinger's gameplan is not his own. It is a product, just as he is, of a longstanding British intelligence strategy to maintain the Middle East in a perpetual state of tension and

irresolution aimed at undermining the region's nation-states, including Israel. This will not only facilitate continued oligarchical control over and manipulation of the area, but enhances British efforts to skew entire national economies away from their commitments to industrial and agricultural development and to transform them into dirty-money, dope-trafficking ventures.

The Bernard Lewis Plan

The U.S.-based case officer for this operation is one Bernard Lewis, a British Secret Intelligence Service operative since 1940 and a professor at Princeton University. Kissinger's role in all of this is to make sure that the United States carries out its end of the operation to carve up the Middle East, an operation dubbed by insiders as the Bernard Lewis Plan.

Since the mid-1970s, when the Bernard Lewis Plan was put into high gear, the nation-states of the Middle East, one after the other, have been chopped to bits. Lebanon has been decimated; Iran has been reduced to a seething sea of Islamic fundamentalism; and Egypt is reeling under the weight of accumulated financial woes. Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and the Gulf states are next on the list for destabilization.

Like many of its recent predecessors, the Reagan administration, in pushing for Camp David II, has not addressed the basic issues at hand. With Kissinger now running the show in this post-Beirut "new era," these issues are likely not to be taken up with any degree of seriousness. Under Kissinger's influence, the urgent necessity for destroying Khomeinism and related terrorist capabilities, or the urgent

necessity of promoting a U.S.-sponsored development plan for the region centering around Egypt and utilizing Israeli technology, will be ignored.

'Kissinger's baby'

"Reagan's speech," commented one Georgetown University source, "was Kissinger's baby."

"Kissinger was heavily, heavily involved in what came out of Reagan's mouth that night," said another source close to official Israeli circles. "Don't let anyone tell you otherwise. If you don't believe me, read the speech for yourself. His footprints are all over the place." So far, the Reagan-Kissinger proposal has met with outright rejection by Israel and the Arab radicals, and silence by the Arab moderates. According to insiders, the people who are picking up on the Reagan plan behind the scenes are Jordan and Saudi Arabia, and, in Israel, Shimon Peres's Labour Party. Washington has also bought, through the good offices of Prince Abdullah in Saudi Arabia, the cooperation of Syria, sources report.

What this means is the following: At the upcoming Arab League summit in Fez, Morocco, pressure will be placed on the participants to discard the 1974 Rabat summit agreement making the Palestine Liberation Organization, not Jordan, the sole representative of the Palestinian people. This done, Jordan will then be free to enter into the "peace process" on behalf of the PLO and to take up Reagan's nebulous confederation plan, a plan that Reagan has categorically stated precludes the establishment of a Palestinian state. Kissinger's long-term sidekick Philip Habib, fresh from winning his Middle East crisis-management credentials as the U.S. special envoy to Lebanon and Israel during the Beirut siege, has already been named to carry out what is expected to be years of sterile shuttle diplomacy to negotiate Phase II of Camp David around the President's Jordan confederation scheme.

The immediate danger of the current situation is the possibility that the Begin-Sharon government might use the Reagan proposal, which Jerusalem has out-of-hand rejected, as a pretext for breaking with the Camp David accord altogether (as advocated by Defense Minister Sharon's crony Yuval Ne'eman, the newly appointed Minister of Science and Development) and annexing the West Bank and Gaza (also called for by Ne'eman). Despite reports that Reagan's initiative had actually preempted Sharon from carrying out what was perceived as imminent annexation, Washington sources close to Israel predicted that Sharon "could still go haywire."

Administration officials are unusually sanguine about Israel's total rejection of the Reagan proposal. When asked about this, one Israeli intelligence-connected source responded, "It's not surprising; Washington is getting ready to play the Peres card."

By all accounts, the installation of Peres is seen by Kissinger and Co. as the best come-on to King Hussein to join the Camp David process. The administration fully expected to provoke a fight inside Israel between the ruling Likud Party and the opposition Labourites, and is said to be throwing its

weight to Peres. In mid-August, while on a trip to Washington, Reagan unexpectedly summoned Peres for a meeting at the White House, presumably to discuss this now-active scenario.

"If Begin dies, things are going to be a lot easier for everyone concerned," one source said, "I know this is the way some people in the administration are thinking, and even a lot of Jews. Begin just isn't any good for this next period that we are going into."

It is significant, in this light, that less than 48 hours after the Reagan speech, the Israeli supreme court declared the Begin government's ban on El Al flights on the Sabbath to be illegal. This is a severe blow to the religious fundamentalist government of Begin and could further weaken him.

A well-informed Israeli source reports that Peres was recently bought by the notorious Chinese-allied Israeli mafioso Shaul Eisenberg, who the sources called "the most dangerous man in Israel." Eisenberg, in combination with a network of old Jewish Sephardic banking families led by the Recanati, is a top figure in the Golden Crescent drug trade. It is known that among the secret clauses worked out by Kissinger in the Camp David accords is the establishment of a strong Chinese-Middle East axis, which, in effect, will mirror the old British-East India Company domination of Asia through which illegal drug trade flourished in the last century.

Egypt out on a limb

Since the start of the Lebanon crisis in June, Egypt has maintained a firm position that until Israel gets out of Lebanon, there can be no autonomy talks, and hence no Camp David. In addition, Egypt has prevailed on Washington to put forth a comprehensive solution to the crisis and not engage in mere crisis management exercises. These implicit attacks on Kissinger have recently become explicit. The Egyptian press has begun attacking Kissinger, proclaiming that Egypt will reject any attempt by the former Secretary of State to involve himself in the Middle East and to interfere in Egypt's policies.

Egypt's firmness reflects a certain inside knowledge gained as a result of that country's intimate experience with the Camp David process. The economic benefits promised to Egypt at the time of the Camp David accords have not been forthcoming. Cairo is now in the throes of a severe economic crisis as a result of the Open Door policies pursued by Anwar Sadat under the aegis of Camp David.

President Mubarak is highly vulnerable as a result, particularly in light of the growing threat of terrorism by Palestinian and Arab radicals, whose extremism has been fueled by the Beirut crisis and now by Reagan's non-initiative, Camp David II. The radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine has pledged to "undermine any alternative which imperialism is trying to impose." From Tripoli, Libya's Muammar Qaddafi is threatening to launch a terror wave around the world aimed at destroying moderate Arab governments.