

NEW SOLIDARITY INTERNATIONAL PRESS SERVICE



Mideast Newsletter

Kissinger Orders All-Out Offensive In Lebanon

Thousands Die; Soviets, Iraq Pledge Defense of Left, PLO

July 10 (NSIPS) — Henry Kissinger issued orders this week for Syria and its Lebanese rightist allies to unleash the bloodiest military campaign of the Lebanese civil war against the forces of the revolutionary Lebanese left and the Palestine Liberation Organization. According to Damascus Radio, in the three-day period beginning July 8 an estimated 3,866 people were killed and thousands more injured in what has become a virtual war of extinction against the left and the Palestinian movement. The deliberate decision by Kissinger and Co. to proceed with methodical mass murder in Lebanon — despite the repeatedly stated determination of the Soviet Union and Iraq to defend the Lebanese left and the PLO — has again brought the entire Middle East to the brink of a thermonuclear showdown.

The fighting is deliberately calculated to provoke an international crisis. Syrian tank columns and Christian rightist militia launched two simultaneous attacks on Tripoli and Sidon, both port cities controlled by the left. Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the PLO, has charged in a message to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat that Syria was preparing to drive to capture western Beirut, the main stronghold of the left-PLO forces. Numerous instances of massacres have been reported to have been carried out by the Lebanese Falangists, the largest fascist army. The crazed Falangists have surrounded a besieged Palestinian camp in Beirut with dozens of dead bodies on poles and, in one gory incident, a Palestinian commander was crucified by frenzied rightists, according to L'Humanite, newspaper of the French Communist Party.

Kissinger's Nuclear Brinkmanship

The Soviet Union and the Arab left have vowed not to permit the destruction of the revolutionary forces in Lebanon. Both Iraq and Libya have already threatened direct military intervention into Lebanon, and the Soviets have publicly announced their support for the left by airlifting food and medicine into Lebanon. But the level of fighting now reached almost guarantees that Arab, and possibly Soviet, military units will be deployed into Lebanon to put an end to the atrocities of the Christian right and Syria. An explosive confrontation of exactly that sort is being sought by Kissinger, in an insane brinkmanship drive to disrupt and destroy ongoing efforts by the Soviet Union, the Third World, and pro-development strata in the capitalist sector to reach an agreement on debt moratoria and the new world economic order.

The key to Kissinger's escalation in the Middle East, as per the Schlesinger doctrine of "limited" nuclear warfare, is the danger of an Israeli strike against Syria and Lebanon, and possibly Iraq, under the Rand Corporation-designed "break-away ally" mode. The aftermath of the barbaric Israeli raid on Uganda has left Israel's hawks in control of a manic defiance and arrogance within Israel. The precedent set by the illegal Israeli invasion of Uganda threatens to unleash an Israeli attack on Lebanon now that Israel has shown that it can act decisively "independent" of U.S. backing. Referring

to the raid on Uganda, Israeli Chief of Staff Mordechai Gur stated, "We could do it again, if it happened again, in a couple of days."

Thus, the Israeli military — including its nuclear arsenal — has been placed on a hairtrigger by Kissinger, set to respond to the crisis generated by the Syrian offensive in Lebanon. An outside intervention into Lebanon to block the Syrian advance, or a leftist coup d'etat against the hated regime of Syrian President Hafez Assad, is now scheduled to touch off an inexorable scenario for a test run of the Schlesinger doctrine. Its result can be nothing else but the incineration of the world in a nuclear holocaust.

The renewed threat of a U.S.-Soviet showdown makes it imperative that Henry Kissinger, his fellow terrorists at the Institute for Policy Studies, and his agents and puppets in the Middle East — including the Israeli warhawks, the Syrian junta, and the bestial Lebanese right — be removed from any position of power and placed on trial under the Nuremberg statutes. An Algerian-sponsored charter for the Non-Aligned Group of developing countries, whose text this week was endorsed by the socialist countries, includes a key provision making the Nuremberg laws applicable to individuals who, like Kissinger, violate the basic laws of human rights.

The Soviets and Iraq this week launched a broad-based international effort to organize an overwhelming political opposition to Kissinger's drive for war in Lebanon. Through the World Peace Council (WPC) and the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO), the USSR has sought to undercut the remaining world toleration for the Syrian role in Lebanon and force a retreat by Assad. The WPC executive issued a call making this week a Week of Solidarity for the Lebanese Revolution, and AAPSO — in the strongest statement from Moscow yet on Lebanon — unreservedly backed the left and the PLO and demanded the withdrawal of the Syrian invasion force.

In Iraq, Prime Minister Saddam Hussein announced the formation of a front to support the Lebanese revolution, comprising Iraq, Algeria, Libya and the PLO. The Arab Baath Socialist Party of Iraq has called for the immediate overthrow of Assad in Syria, and has formed a "provisional regional leadership" to replace the collapsing Syrian regime. On July 12, a meeting of Arab League foreign ministers is scheduled to hear Iraqi and Palestinian charges against Syria, and Arafat and the PLO executive have called for a meeting of Arab heads of state to condemn the Syrian invasion.

There are increasing signs that the regime in Syria is crumbling faster than its army can advance in Lebanon. Yesterday, another battalion of 100 Syrian soldiers and 15 tanks defected to the side of the left, and in Damascus an emergency meeting was convened to discuss the situation in Lebanon. King Hussein of Jordan and leaders of the three largest right-wing militia attended the sudden meeting in Syria, which followed the return of Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam from Moscow, where the Soviets told the Syrians in

no uncertain terms of their unalterable opposition to the role of Syria in Lebanon.

The Syrians are providing full support for the right. Syrian units attacked the left both in Lebanon's north and south today, while covertly abetting the Tel Zaatar attack. Not willing to face the political consequences of the fall of Tel Zaatar, however, Assad has been trying to talk the Palestinians into surrender. Assad's political fears are well-grounded. Iraqi News Agency today reports that nine Syrian pilots have just been executed for refusing to fight in Lebanon; in an interview last weekend with the French newspaper *Le Monde*, Saddam Hussein estimated that all it would take to get rid of Assad would be to "announce a new government over the radio."

The litmus test for the future of the Lebanon crisis revolves around the battered Palestinian refugee camp at Tal Zaatar in eastern Beirut. The huge camp, under attack for three weeks by Syria and the right, has become a symbol of the civil war. Its fall to the rightists, Palestinians say, will trigger an uncontrollable explosion throughout Lebanon dwarfing even the present carnage, and it is thought that Tal Zaatar has become the "tripwire" for an Iraqi or Soviet intervention into Lebanon. Since July 8, Arafat and Soviet Ambassador Soldatov have met twice in Lebanon, and there are reports that Arafat is on his way to Moscow for further talks.

The heaviest fighting of the week occurred in the region between Beirut and Tripoli, the northern port. Leftists launched a military offensive from Tripoli toward the heart of the Christian rightist stronghold, in order to draw rightist forces away from Tal Zaatar and Beirut. But an estimated 10,000 Christian militiamen, backed by three fresh battalions of Syrian troops, repulsed the leftist attack and are now driving toward Beirut. A second Syrian column is heading for Tripoli from the northeast. The casualty toll in this fighting in the north was immense, with hundreds of dead and dying lying unattended along the edges of the battlefields. Over 20 villages and towns were taken and retaken in three days of unprecedented carnage. Should the Syrian figures of nearly 4000 slaughtered prove correct, it will push the total dead in 15 months of civil war to over 35,000, with perhaps 100,000 wounded — a warning to the entire world of the slaughter perpetrated by Mr. Kissinger's Rand wars.

NSIPS Exclusive Translation

Le Monde Interviews Iraqi

Vice President Saddam Hussein

July 10 (NISPS) — The following interview by French correspondent Eric Rouleau with Iraqi Vice President Saddam Hussein appeared in the July 3 French daily, Le Monde. It begins with a statement by Mr. Hussein.

All these Arab regimes which equivocate and intrigue in the wings to favor the destruction of the Palestinian

resistance and the Lebanese national movement will pay dearly, very dearly, for their treason. These regimes will fall one after the other. Hereditary monarchies or dictatorships resulting from coups d'etats will benefit from no popular legitimacy. Forced to progressively lower the mask in order to effectively carry out their dishonorable action in Lebanon, they will be swept out by their own people.

The influx into our capital (for the 'popular Arab congress' held in Baghdad 26-29 of June) of some 200 representatives of all the patriotic and progressive formations throughout the Arab world, their decision to form a united front, is not due to chance. Baghdad has become the rallying point of all popular forces who do not accept and will never accept the fait accompli that they are trying to impose on us in Lebanon. The Arab people are here and now determined to give themselves new leaders. The imperialists and reactionaries of our regimes have sown discord; they will harvest the hurricane which will carry them away."

He says he doesn't have enough information on the Saudi and Kuwaiti attempt to reconcile Syria and Egypt, but he says: "Agreement between Arabs in itself is a noble objective. But we are not duped by the intrigues being prepared to give Syria all latitude to pursue their criminal undertaking in Lebanon."

He is harder yet on (Syrian President) Assad: "A power hungry megalomaniac, as his career shows since the beginning."

—But Assad made himself the champion of the Palestinian cause...

"If you were an assiduous reader of detective books, you would better understand the ineluctable evolution of a man devoured by crazy ambitions who, step-by-step is driven to a crime, then to a second, then to a third, destined to 'cover' the first. Assad is plunging into the blood bath that he provoked because he can no longer pull back. He began by stretching out his hand to the Americans and reactionary Arabs, who filled it up with dollars and pieces of gold, he then allied himself with (Jordanian) King Hussein before making a common cause with the Lebanese right, whose objective is to liquidate the left and the Palestinian movement. He dreams of a confederation which would regroup Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and a puppet Palestinian state of which he would be the patron. Political means having failed, he took recourse to constraint, then to violence, and finally to massacres. He has now attained the point of no-return.

"The regime of Assad is condemned to disappear in short order. You know the visceral attachment the Syrian people have to the Palestinian cause. His army will not tolerate shedding Arab blood. Assad has already lost power. All that remains is the radio proclamation announcing the installation of a new regime..."

—But couldn't the Syrian army win maybe? In 1970 in King Hussein's army, 60 percent Palestinian, did not turn against the monarchy as some said would happen.

"That parallel does not correspond to reality. The conjuncture in Lebanon today is totally different from that which prevailed in Jordan in 1970). The majority of the Lebanese people fight on the side of the Palestinian resistance. King Hussein had at least for his benefit, the pretext that he was protecting his kingdom, his own existence, against the action of the fedayin, who were camping on his territory. But by