

variant 'limited' nuclear war, hardly differs from the essence of the 'counterforce strategy.' The 'new' strategic conception is even more dangerous, since it is based on more modern and more destructive technology.... Thus the conception of 'target selection' and its main variant, 'limited' nuclear war, can only be seen as an attempt by the Pentagon to 'legalize' the use of nuclear weapons in conflict situations, under conditions favorable to the USA.

"The world press greeted with great interest the recent meeting of the General Secretary of the Soviet Union L.I. Brezhnev with the well-known American political and public figure A. Harriman. Newspapers and information agencies single out the words of A. Harriman that L.I. Brezhnev resolutely disagrees with theories of 'limited' nuclear war, and believes that to speak of the permissibility of such a war is a big mistake."

Italian Press On Forlani-Ford Meet

Oct. 1 (NSIPS) — The following are excerpts from Italian press reports Sept. 30 on yesterday's meeting between President Ford and Italian Foreign Minister Arnaldo Forlani.

La Repubblica:

Forlani Talks With Ford About The Economic Crisis

"I cannot see — stated Forlani — how the fact that the PCI (Italian Communist Party) declares its availability for the development of Europe and accepts the Atlantic Alliance as a factor for equilibrium, can be considered as an alteration of our foreign policy or a weakening factor."

(Forlani) confirmed the active participation and the determined commitment of Italy in the process of European development, not ignoring the difficulties but recognizing there are no other positive alternatives... This European commitment is characterized by a conviction that the integration into the European Economic Community must occur with the collaboration of the U.S. ..."

According to Forlani the American President showed a great openness to consider a tangible solidarity, that is, possible aid, and he (Ford) committed himself to evaluate proposals and considerations made by Italy.

Il Popolo:

Exchange of Views Between Ford and Forlani

The second issue mentioned by Mr. Forlani concerned the Mediterranean and recurrent crises in a crucial region within the world equilibrium.

(Quoting Forlani) "I expressed our viewpoint, in part anticipating the judgment that we will formulate tomorrow at our

United Nations intervention. Above all I stressed our pre-occupation in regard to Lebanon — a sector about which our judgment does not indulge in optimism... Though (we) respect the attitude of the Arab League, which persists in the search of solutions... without outside initiatives we fear that much time will be lost and that the situation will be further complicated, with the worsening of security conditions in terms of that region and in general."

Il Giorno:

"Ford Assures Forlani: We Will Help Italy Overcome The Difficulties"

They talked about the situation in the Mediterranean with particular reference to the recurrent crisis there which in the gameplan of world equilibrium seems often to be the needle swinging the balance.

Minister Forlani thus anticipated part of his intervention at the United Nations General Assembly tomorrow, an intervention (in which he) will cite Italy's offer of all possible help in influence and mediation.

Coming back to foreign policy, the Minister said he stated to President Ford Italy's role of active participation and determined commitment to the process of European development, despite present difficulties. These difficulties make that commitment always stronger since there are no alternatives except those of eventual disaster...

At the end of the meeting, a White House spokesman stated that the U.S. government "wishes the continuation of consultations with the Italian government on all issues of mutual interest."

MIDEAST

Kissinger Unleashes Syria

Soviets Set Oct. 31 Deadline For Geneva

Oct. 2 (NSIPS) — Syria's long-expected full-scale offensive against the Lebanese left and Palestinian forces in Lebanon began this week as a force of upwards of 12,000 Syrian troops and several hundred tanks stormed into the mountain strongholds of the left-Palestinian alliance east of Beirut. The Syrian units are advancing in coordination with Lebanese fascist forces from the west and north behind intense barrages of heavy artillery, rockets, and incendiary devices — possibly including napalm — and have forced their way into several mountain villages. By latest account, the key towns of Mtein, Aintoura, and Hammana have fallen to the Syrian-rightist onslaught, while the village of Aley, the home town of leftist leader Kamal Jumblatt, is under heavy attack.

In response, the Soviet Union has for the first time set a deadline for the convening of a Geneva Conference to settle the Mideast conflict, Oct. 31, in a message sent to the governments of all the Middle Eastern nations near Lebanon, including Israel. This theme evidently played a significant role in the discussions yesterday in Washington between President Ford and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. Earlier in the day, the Soviet chargé d'affaires in Lebanon met with Lebanon's new president, Elias Sarkis, to report that the Soviets were launching an international initiative this week to solve the Lebanon crisis "immediately."

Coupled with the Soviet peace offensive, Soviet and other socialist nations' press have mounted their sharpest attacks to

date on Syria. The German Democratic Republic's Neues Deutschland commented yesterday that "consciously or unconsciously the Syrians are easing the massacre perpetrated by the Falange." Radio Moscow last night implicated Syria for the first time in an "imperialist plot," with the Falangists and the Israelis, to liquidate the Palestinian resistance.

The Soviet initiatives have received public backing from the Foreign Ministers of Italy and Canada. At the United Nations yesterday, Italian Foreign Minister Arnaldo Forlani brought the Mideast crisis to the forefront of his speech, advocating an immediate overall solution. Canada's recently appointed Foreign Minister Jamieson told reporters that he was "closer to Gromyko" than to the U.S. on Geneva and was "working jointly on" getting Geneva talks underway with the Soviets.

From the U.S., the leading Midwest industrialists' organ, the Chicago Tribune, reprinted a months-old story that President Ford would make a Mideast peace trip a top priority upon re-election. No confirmation on this has come from the White House, which admitted that the President "would like" to make such a trip. Ford is under heavy international pressure to make some such initiative, having met Forlani the day before his meeting with Gromyko. But the President has so far not taken the explicit steps necessary to defuse the Lebanese crisis — beginning with putting Kissinger out to pasture.

On the diplomatic front, informed sources report a raging debate within Egyptian government circles over whether to continue to align with Kissinger and face what one Egyptian diplomat labelled "further disintegration and war," or to align with the Soviets and Iraq around the immediate perspective of putting a halt to Syria's bloodbath in Lebanon. The Syrian invasion was sharply attacked by Egypt's President Sadat in his Sept. 28 "President Nasser memorial address," in which Sadat vowed "not to let the Palestinians be wiped out." In an interview with an Egyptian magazine this week, Sadat unexpectedly expressed his "closeness" to Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, while Egypt's official Al Ahram newspaper this week for the first time ever publicly "appreciated" the Italian government's pro-peace role in the region. Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmi suddenly travelled to Paris mid-week, and has been joined there today for consultations with the French leadership by Jumblatt, who arrived from Iraq after a several days' visit to Egypt. Late reports from Paris and Lebanon moot a possible joint Egyptian-French military intervention in Lebanon in the coming days.

Within Lebanon itself, heavy fighting has expanded to Lebanon's south and to the capital city, Beirut. Today, Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasser Arafat gave a "kill or be killed" fighting order to the Palestinian resistance in the besieged southern port city of Sidon. Arafat's order followed his emphatic rejection yesterday of an Assad "peace offer" calling for unilateral disarmament of the Palestinian forces and their withdrawal to refugee camps within 15 days. Arafat vowed to continue "defense of the objectives of the Palestinian and Lebanese people, side by side with the Lebanese national movement."

Yesterday's Baltimore Sun, conduiting Kissinger's gameplans, predicted that Syrian leader Hafez Assad will pursue a policy of "talk-talk-fight-fight" towards the Palestinians, i.e., issuing unacceptable demands and then escalating the confrontation. The Sun expects an Assad policy of "starvation" of the Palestinians, possibly accompanied by the "bloodiest fighting in Middle East history." In this, he will receive the back-up of the Israeli and Lebanese fascist militaries. Informed sources report that the Israelis have now penetrated 20 miles into southern Lebanon, while the hard-line fascists under ex-Interior Minister Camille Chamoun demanded that the Palestinian population in Lebanon be reduced from 500,000 to 100,000.

State Department:

Price is High for Assad

Oct. 1 (NSIPS) — The following interview was conducted with David Long of the U.S. State Department on Sept. 28.

Q: What are your estimates of Syria's role in the Lebanese crisis?

LONG: Syria would like to reunify all the elements in Lebanon by peaceful means if possible but the problem is that the various parties are so estranged that they are no longer persuadable and now they are going after each other with weapons.... Sure Assad could quit, but now that would be a disaster ... a year ago maybe, but not now... it would look bad at home.... Assad has tried for a ceasefire many times...

Q: How far do you think he's ready to go now?

LONG: Well, if he goes all the way, he will have to bear the price which will be high. He wants a Lebanon under his control so he would have to deal with the Christians... and later on, that will be a problem. When Assad makes clear he wants all of Lebanon's government, the Christians will turn against him and he knows it. His current offensive is simply to ensure that he gets somewhere in negotiations... and he'll go as far as he has to to be sure the left agrees to a settlement on his terms.... He's held his troops back in Lebanon for a long time, and nothing has happened, and now, he wants to put muscle behind his words.... He must convince the left without going whole-hog militarily. He has to support the Maronites as long as he is fighting, but the Maronites are recalcitrant. The same thing will happen with the Israelis... now they are cooperating because they have to....

DFLP's Hawatmeh Explains Split with Assad

Sept. 30 (NSIPS) — On Sept. 28 Le Monde published an interview by its correspondent, Lucien George, with Nayef Hawatmeh, head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), described as "the principal ally of Mr. Arafat within the PLO ... virulent towards Syria after having played a role of conciliator until April 1976 between President Assad and the Fatah." The following are excerpts from the interview:

LG: The resistance is split into several currents. What are they?

NH: They come down to three essentially: right, center and left — or rather, national bourgeoisie, petty bourgeoisie and progressive. The essential force of the resistance is constituted by the center-left alliance, which determines the strategy and the daily policy of the Palestinian revolution. The right-wing current is isolated, and relatively weakened because the Syrian right and Arab reactionary forces play the main role in the execution of the American-Israeli plan. The Palestinian masses are conscious (of this). As for the Rejection Front, it has considerably weakened itself after its nihilist positions and its incapacity to propose a policy and a tactic in general....

LG: Do you think that Syria can be replaced as the main ally of the Palestinian resistance?

NH: ...Through its geographic position and its traditional hostility towards colonialism and Zionism, Syria constitutes a strategic base for Palestinian resistance. The loss of this base is surely irreplaceable. We can only struggle to provoke the rectification of Syrian policy, whose deviations do not date from yesterday.

LG: There is much talk about an accord between the "super-powers" on a settlement of the Lebanese crisis. What about it?

NH: We must distinguish between detente based on peaceful coexistence and entente. The facts have demonstrated that nowhere does an American-Soviet entente exist, neither in South America, nor Africa, nor Southeast Asia, nor even in Europe. In the Middle East, there is no entente, not even detente. This is why all the international decisions relative to this region of the world ... have remained dead letters. Concerning Lebanon, the United States is busy with imposing their plan, in collaboration with Syria, Arab reaction and the Lebanese right. Whereas the Soviet Union has followed a clear-cut policy of support for the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese national movement — a policy which was notably expressed by Brezhnev's message covered by *Le Monde*, (a message addressed to the Syrian government from Soviet Party leader Brezhnev calling for their prompt withdrawal, reported in *Le Monde* on July 14 and 20 and NSIPS — ed.). Rumors about an entente between Washington and Moscow on Lebanon are based on an article which appeared in *Pravda* on Sept. 8. It is sufficient only to go through the trouble of reading this article in full to dispense with the search for hidden significance between the lines. It constitutes a long accusation against the American plan and Syrian role, and ends with a small phrase containing a criticism of the tactic followed by certain elements of the Lebanese and Palestinian left from which one can imply that a certain suppleness could be useful to gain time, prepare forces and broaden to the maximum the international, Arab and internal front in order to oblige Syria to withdraw its troops from Lebanon. It is a simple, limited criticism on purely tactical order.

Qaddafi:

“Sadat Is Bankrupt”

Sept. 30 (NSIPS) — The following are excerpts of an interview by journalist Enzo Catani with Libyan head of state Muammar Qaddafi, published in the Oct. 3 edition of Tempo Illustrato under the title, “It Is Necessary That This One Here Learns How To Rule.”

EC: Fifty thousand Egyptian troops are ready to cross the border. But Libya is paying no attention to this... I was sure of finding a frightened atmosphere at the border just like in places where a coup is about to take place. Instead people I spoke with swore that: “Qaddafi's position has never been more solid.”... Are you nervous, Colonel?

MQ: I never felt more at ease.

EC: Are you annoyed?

MQ: I am pained. Libyans and Egyptians are brothers. I do not understand why Sadat preaches war.... The sole truth is the following: part of Egypt's secret service works hand in hand with the American secret service to worsen Libya's relations with the Middle East. The attempted hijacking at Lahore is

maybe the biggest operation staged under the CIA's suggestion.... At this point I only wish one thing: to meet with Sadat — for no less than five hours — without mediators and in a neutral country. Perhaps there have been misunderstandings, perhaps there are only differences of principle to clarify.... I do not hate Sadat... Libya has never had any (closed) borders with our Egyptian brothers and they know it. This is so true that 5000 immigrants demonstrated in front of Cairo's Embassy at Tripoli. And not only that, every day at least 50 soldiers put down their arms and join our troops. I have ordered my officers to avoid any friction. Furthermore, since this is the season where heat and thirst are at their peak, I have ordered that food be given to Egyptian soldiers. As for myself, I want it known that I'll never get tired of tending a hand to Sadat. But do not mistake my gesture for weakness.... But Sadat risks ruining everything.

EC: Why would Sadat do this?

MQ: I think that many of the maneuvers put into motion (by Sadat) are for internal use. Egypt is bankrupt. It is said that its foreign debt amounts to more than \$13 billion. Parasitism and inflation are going hand in hand with the debt... At this moment Libya is nothing else but a diversion to distract Egyptian public opinion.... Diversions and scapegoats are in Sadat's tradition. In 1972 he eliminated Soviet advisors in a few seconds.... Why, for example, doesn't he say that the capitalist powers and the Eastern countries — with whom Egypt has established an economic and military dialogue — have demanded a lot from Cairo but have given only crumbs in exchange?

EC: Colonel, maybe you have not been able to digest that now pro-American Sadat is sitting in pro-Soviet Nasser's chair.

MQ: Nasser was not a pro-Soviet or a pro-anything. He was only a friend of the Arabs who preached unity among the Arabs. When Nasser talked, all Arabs were ready to listen... With his anti-Libya strategy (Sadat) has shifted the attention of Cairo's public opinion from another Arab tragedy: the massacre of Palestinians in Lebanon.... How can the world believe today those imperialist campaigns encouraged by the CIA according to which there is a coup atmosphere here?

EC: Libya has money and oil, but doesn't have iron, finished products, and most of all, technology. However, in July 1970 you said, “Out, everybody,” and in one blow you extradited 20,000 Italians.

MQ: Maybe that's all the Italian press reported at the time. But I also said this: “We do not accept the presence of these fascists in our country; we do not accept imperialists, intruders, traitors. But at the same time we welcome all those who do not come with imperialist pretensions.” We make a distinction between the Italy of 1912 (when Italy colonized Libya — Ed.) and the Italy of today which has assumed a noble position towards the Arab cause.... Today, Italy is Libya's first trading partner. Today, Italian export labor, manufactured products. They work together with the Libyans in order to turn the desert into a large oasis. Here we work. We have no time to think about war or to organize a coup.