

INTERNATIONAL REPORT

Israel-South Africa Axis Set For Schlesinger Doctrine Military Showdown

by Bob Dreyfuss

The Schlesinger Doctrine for limited nuclear war has become an active and operational policy in the Middle East and Southern Africa, where the twin nuclear outlaws — Israel and South Africa — are gearing up for a military showdown with their neighbors in support of the Trilateral Commission's strategic policy.

The military power of Israel and South Africa, who are working in close cooperation with each other on all aspects of the coming confrontation, is the key element in the Carter Administration's bluff to blackmail the Arabs and Africans, and their allies in Western Europe and the Soviet Union, into backing down from a policy commitment to a system of trade based on the Comecon transfer-ruble, and to force their submission to the genocidal aims of the bankrupt Chase Manhattan Bank.

At issue throughout the Middle East and Africa is whether or not the Carter regime, whose day-to-day actions rest not with the President but with his National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, can achieve virtual NATO military control over the developing sector. The traditional African and Arab regimes, even the more Western leaning among them, are absolutely not capable of instituting the sort of austerity required by the immense debt service owed principally to the New York banks, and the threat — or actual application — of Israeli and South African armed force is the Carter-Trilateral vehicle to achieve that. Such an eventuality depends on winning a conscious Soviet capitulation, which, despite the soft-sounding rhetoric from the pages of Pravda and Izvestia, is most emphatically not within the realm of possibility.

Middle East, Africa Aflame

To set the stage for Carter's brinkmanship and intended crisis-management negotiations, the entire corridor from the Middle East and the Persian Gulf through East Africa and the Red Sea to Southern Africa has been heated up to the brink of confrontation. The outlaw regimes in Israel and South Africa are preparing themselves for a nuclear "blitzkrieg" against the Arab and African states, with possible supplementary action from U.S. client regimes in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Iran.

President Carter's clumsy efforts this week to link any improvement in U.S.-Cuban relations to the situation in Southern Africa adds the Caribbean region to the growing crisis in the Middle East and Africa.

According to reports this week in the *Washington Post* and *Newsweek*, Israeli military and technical aid has now succeeded in giving the South Africans a capability to launch a nuclear strike. The *Post* reported that scores

of Israeli physicists have been streaming into South Africa in the past 18 months to complete the process of developing South Africa's nuclear arsenal, fueled by South Africa's production of uranium. Israel, which has had at least 12 to 20 atomic weapons since at least the early 1970s, targeted against Egyptian population centers and oil fields in Iraq and Saudi Arabia, in turn receives fissionable material from South Africa for its secret atomic reactor at Dimona.

The presence of a confirmed nuclear capability in both the Southern Africa and Middle East hotspots obviously heightens the dangers of the rapidly deteriorating situations in both areas.

In the Middle East, the start of Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's shuttle diplomacy Feb. 14 put that region closer to a confrontation. The Vance shuttle has as its explicit purpose an effort to derail the growing motion for the Geneva Conference on peace in the Middle East. Behind the soft-spoken style of Mr. Vance lies a brutal threat: Unless the international forces that now support the Geneva Conference — primarily the Europeans, the Soviets, and Egypt and Saudi Arabia — backdown and accept a resumption of Kissinger-style shuttle diplomacy which would give the U.S. unchallenged political hegemony in the region, they will face a mounting Arab-Israeli war crisis fueled by Israel's hawks by early March 1977.

In Southern Africa, the Pretoria regime is fast preparing to back up its Rhodesian ally in a precipitous crisis aimed at Mozambique, Tanzania, Angola, Zambia, and the Rhodesian Patriotic Front. The Rhodesian military is on full mobilization, with reserves called up and men from 38 to 50 recently mobilized, and Rhodesian raids against neighboring Mozambique have become almost a daily occurrence. Rhodesian Defense Minister Reg Cowper, who was under tremendous pressure from that country's businessmen and industrialists to ease the mobilization because of the strain it placed on the Rhodesian economy, resigned this week, apparently to be replaced by a hardliner who can enforce the suicidal military buildup over growing opposition from Rhodesian whites. According to informed African sources, the Smith regime in Rhodesia is getting its orders direct from Washington.

A series of smaller disturbances have also been provoked up and down the coast of East Africa.

One scenario involves the long-standing dispute between Ethiopia and Somalia, the latter a close ally of the socialist countries. U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Andrew Young, back in Washington from his visit to Africa, announced suddenly this week that the

Soviet Union "is playing games in Northeast Africa." Young's provocative remarks feed into the danger that unstable Ethiopia, recently the scene of a bloody shoot-out among rival ruling factions that has left the country almost ungovernable, may choose to pick a conflict with neighboring Somalia and Sudan. Several Arab states have charged that the Israelis have set up a secret air force base in Ethiopia, and according to *Le Point*, a French magazine, have warned Egypt's President Sadat about the existence of the base.

In addition, tensions within the East African Community — comprising Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya — have risen again, with Tanzania and Kenya embroiled in a border dispute after a Kenyan seizure of community assets, and Uganda again driven with bloody tribal disputes under dictator General Idi Amin.

The Question of European Intervention

The critical intervention to halt one or more of these intersecting crises from triggering a U.S.-Soviet showdown must come from Western Europe, which has so far shown a continuing failure to make the proper sort of move to intervene. Although behind the scenes there is considerable quiet diplomacy — for instance, the British have taken an extremely active role in Southern Africa on a *bilateral* basis — there is a complete refusal by the European Community (EEC) to take a stand contrary to the line from Washington.

This was painfully in evidence during the recently concluded session of the European-Arab Dialogue in Tunisia, where the EEC wavered and refused to issue any declarations in support of Arab proposals to settle the conflict in the Middle East, despite what amounted to virtual political ultimatums from the Arab League during the meeting.

The European ambivalence, if continued, will make a confrontation between the U.S. and the USSR a virtual certainty. This was the content of a series of declaration from the Arab states both before and after the Tunis meeting, warning Europe of the dangers of their continued toleration of U.S. provocations in defense of Israel and South Africa. Italy, in particular, has shown tremendous courage so far, both in endorsing the Palestine Liberation Organization and the creation of an independent Palestinian state, and in starting to make official contacts with the Rhodesian Patriotic Front via the meeting this week between Joshua Nkomo, the leader of one of the Front's two main factions, and an official of the Italian foreign ministry in Rome.

But it is only when the Carter regime is certain that the slightest military action by either South Africa or Israel will result in a total break by Western Europe with the NATO command structure and the U.S. dollar that war will become a remote possibility. As it is, neither Israel nor the South Africa-Rhodesia alliance has the capability to fight a sustained war in either region. Instead, both countries are basing their military "strategy" on the insane threat that their nuclear arsenal might be deployed as part of a Samson-like scenario in which an entire region of the globe would be devastated in a holocaust. Despite the fantasies of the Rand Corporation and James Schlesinger, architect of the "limited nuclear war" scenario, any use by Israel or South Africa of its nuclear arsenal would result in the immediate and total

destruction of the aggressor by the Warsaw Pact.

But the Carter bluff is to wield such threats despite the Armageddon-like end result of their use.

Vance, Washington Post Provoke War

Cyrus Vance's shuttle, unless it is derailed, will place the National Security Council in a highly advantageous position to extend its ability to manipulate tensions in the Middle East to their own ends.

The dangers implicit in the Vance mission were shown most clearly today when one possible formula for Middle East settlement, proposed by Egypt's President Anwar Sadat, was wrecked before it got off the ground by a planted story in the *Washington Post*. Sadat, treading carefully amid the minefield of Middle East politics, proposed that Jordan and the PLO negotiate a solution to the primary problem of the Geneva Conference — the question of Palestine — by establishing an agreed-upon confederation, or "an official and declared link," between Jordan and the occupied West Bank, to be ruled by the PLO. As Sadat, with Vance at his side, set out this proposal, the *Washington Post* ran a front-page story that revealed publicly that Jordan's King Hussein has received money from the CIA over a 20-year period. This exposé, which dramatically undercuts the remaining prestige of the hated King, can only impede possible talks between the PLO and King Hussein, and sets back the Sadat proposal.

What Sadat suggested is in fact the outlines of a proposal that could lead to a détente of sorts in the Middle East, between capitalist stability and the socialist states of the region, such as Iraq, Libya, and Algeria, who strongly denounced the Vance mission this week.

Highly informed sources reported that the *Washington Post* article was planted on direct orders from the NSC. This action reveals in sharp fashion that the Rockefeller forces who control the NSC are not interested in any form of capitalist stability in the Middle East, but instead, as monetarists, intend to provoke a confrontation even at the risk — or probable certainty — that the moderate, Western-leaning regimes cannot survive such a fight.

Adding to the dangers in the situation, as Vance left Israel there was little doubt that the Defense Minister, Shimon Peres, the leader of Israel's hawks, would oust Rabin at the Feb. 22 convention of the Israel Labour Party. A Peres takeover would place the entire country in the control of the NSC, since Peres and his mentor, Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, are the closest Israeli collaborators of the Rockefeller faction.

Israel this week set the fuse burning on the crisis by refusing, under any circumstances, to undertake negotiations with the PLO, even under a Jordanian umbrella. The Israeli hardline won the full support of Cyrus Vance during his visit there. Vance is travelling on to Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Syria.

His trip to Saudi Arabia will be crucial because the U.S. is exercising every muscle it has to prevent the impending takeover of Aramco, the giant Rockefeller-owned oil company, by the Saudi government, an action that would free the immense Saudi production to fuel development outside the control of the Exxon group. The NSC has created a special task force for preventing the Saudi nationalization of Aramco, and is set to use force if necessary.