

How Israel Got The Bomb

Israel is in possession of tactical nuclear weapons and it has had such weapons since the 1966-68 period. At that time, under personal authorization from President Johnson, "very limited-range theater nuclear weapons" were conduited to Israel through U.S. bases in West Germany, according to informed sources.

This debunks the wild story put into circulation last week at the Salzburg anti-nuclear conference that the Israelis came into possession of a nuclear capability by stealing 200 tons of uranium in 1968.

According to the sources, President Johnson authorized the conduiting of the weapons to Israel under strict stipulation that they be stored in facilities jointly guarded by Israeli and U.S. agencies and that the weapons would not be used without joint approval from the Israeli government and the U.S. Pentagon. This agreement was violated during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war at which

time, in the context of an Israeli assault against an Egyptian tank unit, Israeli military officials requested the firing of tactical nuclear weapons. The purpose of the firing was to clear out the Egyptian tank unit and pave the way for a direct Israeli drive on Cairo. The terms of the U.S.-Israeli agreement were that the weapons could only be activated in the context of a total threat to the existence of the Israeli state, a situation clearly not represented by the Six Day War.

This Israeli request was picked up by monitors on the U.S.S. *Liberty*, then stationed off the coast of Israel. As a result of the intercepted transmission, Israel ordered its ships to sink the *Liberty* in an attempt to prevent the request from being transmitted back to the U.S. where steps would be taken to prevent the nuclear strike. Although the *Liberty* was hit, the message was conveyed, and the nuclear weapons were not used.

Arab, European Left Mobilize Peace Offensive

The Algerian official daily *El Moujahid* this week warned that "the total cancellation of Third World debt" is urgent to avoid nuclear war. The newspaper condemned the International Monetary Fund for its efforts to impose "dictatorships" on Third World governments to collect the debt.

The Algerians' frankness is part of a programmatic peace offensive by the Palestinian Liberation Organization, and the Mediterranean and Middle Eastern Socialist and Communist parties. The pro-Soviet alliance of Libya, Algeria and Iraq supports the effort.

Libya's President Muammar Qaddafi this week reaffirmed the need for an Arab Common Market to facilitate economic growth, a proposal simultaneously put forth by the prominent former Egyptian Communist Party member Lutfi Kholy. Libya's Foreign Minister Abdulsalam Jalloud and Algerian Prime Minister Houari Boumedienne, in talks in Algiers this week, jointly denounced "colonial and imperialist offensives in Africa" which they linked to the unravelling situation in the Mideast. A similar delcaration emerged from a meeting of a delegation of Iraq's ruling Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party with Algeria's National Liberation Front.

A joint Italian Communist (PCI)-Socialist Party (PSI) delegation met a few days ago with PLO chief Yasser Arafat and PLO Foreign Minister Farouk Kaddoumi in Beirut. Enrico Manca, a member of the PSI's directorate, underlined the crucial link between peace in the Mideast and Mediterranean development through the establishment of the new world economic order, and affirmed the European socialist movement's willingness to back the PLO's efforts to achieve a Mideast peace.

The PLO also made public, meetings it had with the

Israeli Communist Party (Rakah) in Prague in early May. It is expected that PLO representatives will meet with members of Israel's left-leaning Mapam next month during a conference in Malta on Mediterranean socialism which will also be attended by Algeria, Libya, the Cypriot Communist Party, and Yugoslavia. Mapam, a member of the Labour Party ruling alignment, has been most forthcoming in its support for a Palestinian state.

PLO's Kaddoumi Condemns U.S. Cold War Posture

"Israel will go to war on one or more of several possible pretexts," said the PLO's Foreign Minister Farouk Kaddoumi in the Lebanese *Monday Morning* magazine. "Regardless of the military strength of Israel, the fifth war will be better for the Arabs than was the fourth war because the Arabs also have friends who will supply them with the arms they need at the appropriate time. It will not be the last Middle East war, nor the next to the last."

The U.S., he said, "wants to set the continents ablaze.... Looking at recent developments in the Arab world, Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America, we cannot conclude but that the United States has chosen to wage a new cold war." Kaddoumi demanded the immediate reconvention of the Middle East Geneva Convention.