

USSR Tells Carter He's 'Playing With Fire' In Mideast

The Soviet Union has blown the whistle on the Carter Administration's hottest regional war scenario, an Israeli military strike against Saudi Arabia or another Persian Gulf nation. Through the government daily Izvestia May 7, Moscow precisely described the plan — which European and Arab circles have called an operative U.S. National Security Council "breakaway ally" option — and warned it was "a game with fire." The "breakaway" pretense has no credibility: a move of this sort by Israel, or by South Africa against Angola, will be taken as a direct U.S. assault on Soviet security, sufficient to trigger World War III.

This and other statements from Moscow confirm that since Cyrus Vance's Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) mission there just over one month ago, the Soviet military and other leaders calling the shots in the Kremlin have adopted an angry posture of war readiness. They make plain how foolish are any presumptions by Secretary of State Vance and arms negotiator Paul Warnke that they will be able to bludgeon concessions from the Soviets at talks in Geneva this month, the same approach that flopped during Vance's trip. The Soviet policy declarations augur an angry response to the U.S. administration's latest dangerous provocations, Carter's appeal to "raze" the Berlin Wall and Warnke's threat of a U.S. nuclear first strike.

Soviet Strategic Interest In Middle East

Excerpted from the article "From a Position of Realism" by M.H. Heykal, former editor in chief of Al-Ahram, the Egyptian paper. It appeared in Pravda, May 8.

I will briefly lay out the geographical and historical factors, and consequently the political ones, determining the significance of the Soviet role in the Middle East crisis. This is worth recalling.

The Soviet Union has geographical borders with the Middle East, and therefore cannot fail to have an interest in what occurs in this nearby region. And the USSR does not need our permission for this. The Soviet Union is a great power, which can turn its attention to something to the extent that this is required by its interests and the interests of its security.

Persian Gulf Scenario Exposed

Excerpts from Izvestia, May 7 article:

But one thing is clear: the oil concerns of the U.S. will force ahead further penetration into the Middle East through all channels — economic, political, military; and in this regard they will act hand in hand with the

USA Institute Personnel Let Loose For Deception's Sake

In apparent defiance of the staunch Soviet refusal to budge on the Carter Administration's SALT package already rejected last month, officials of Moscow's USA Institute have leaked a compromise package as their "personal opinion." Interviewed by William Beecher for the *Boston Globe*, the Institute's Section Heads for defense technology and arms control, G. Svyatov and Y. Streltsev, proposed SALT agreements on:

- 1) a ten percent reduction of the ceiling on intercontinental ballistic missiles;
- 2) "some limitation" of the Soviet Backfire bomber (Moscow has adamantly refused to classify this plane as a strategic weapon);
- 3) a ban on some but not all U.S. cruise missiles, leaving the air-based ones at a limit to be negotiated;
- 4) unspecified nuclear weapons test limitations.

Beecher, whose article relating the interview appeared in the *International Herald Tribune* as

well as the *Globe*, observed that these suggestions were miles closer to the Carter package than anything else to come out of Moscow.

Paul Warnke, headed for Geneva to confer with the Soviet arms negotiator V. Semyonov, grasped at the proffered straw. Mr. Warnke "said he was cheered by (the) interview ... in which Georgii Svyatov ... suggested a possible SALT compromise," reported the *Tribune*, "I thought it was quite a positive article. If it does in fact represent the Soviet position it would be a very favorable development."

Mr. Warnke is not the only one being treated to promises, leaks and come-ons that Mr. Georgii Arbatov's USA Institute can no longer deliver on. Think-tank circles in the U.S. report a veritable torrent of USA specialists has rushed to this country during and after Mr. Arbatov's recent tour here. Moscow, when it doesn't trust its experts, is amenable to letting them run loose for deception's sake.