

Likud Victory Puts Mideast War On Hairtrigger; Oil Crisis Looms

A band of terrorists and assassins under the leadership of Menachem Begin, former leader of the fanatic Irgun Zvai Leumi of the 1940s, was catapulted into power in Israel on May 17.

The stunning victory of Begin's rightist Likud bloc virtually ensures the eruption of a Middle East war, and likely World War III, within a few weeks. According to Washington sources, all sections of U.S. intelligence services went on "Critical Alert" as of the morning of May 19, in response to the electoral victory of the Likud Party in Israel.

The prospect of Menachem Begin, a close friend of Brzezinski and an extremist on issues of foreign policy and defense, assuming the reins of power as prime minister has already thrown the Arab states into an uproar, and sources in Washington have predicted an early showdown between Israel and the Arabs.

Begin and his cronies, including General Ezer Weizmann and General Ariel Sharon, immediately made it clear that peace negotiations with Israel would now be virtually impossible since, under no circumstances would Begin's government be prepared to make concessions on the crucial West Bank, now occupied by Israeli troops. "Occupied territories?" asked Begin. "They are liberated territories!" The *Baltimore Sun* quoted a Likud official who said, "If the Arabs do not accept our terms, well, that is unfortunate — it may mean war — but...we will win in a showdown." Weizmann, in a press statement, declared that Likud will give up "not one inch" of occupied land, "and there is not a damn thing Washington can do about it."

"When we take over the West Bank and put it under full Israeli sovereignty, the political temperature of the region might rise at first," said Weizmann, "but then it will go down."

The plurality obtained by the Likud in the May 17 vote is part of a calculated policy on behalf of Carter's National Security Council (NSC) and the Rockefeller financier faction to launch a head-on confrontation with the Arabs in a power play to establish airtight political control over the Middle East and its vast oil resources, and thereby provoke a direct themonuclear showdown with the USSR. Although the Likud is an appropriate instrument to carry out the Carter Administration's war plans, the inherent fanatic nationalist and expansionist outlook of the Likud makes it an absolutely uncontrollable factor in the Mideast crisis.

Israel, and its military arsenal, is now totally in the hands of outlaws, including Begin, Weizmann, Sharon, Shimon Peres — who ousted moderate Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin last month — and former Chief of Staff

Yigal Yadin, the fascist technocrat who heads Israel's third Party, the Democratic Movement for Change. Uniting this clique of warhawks is the figure of General Moshé Dayan, the former defense minister who is Rockefeller's chief Israeli accomplice.

NSC Oil Embargo

The results of the Israeli election advance the active plans of the Carter Administration to cripple or destroy the capacity of the Persian Gulf to produce at its current level or more than two-thirds of world oil exports. Although an estimated 30 to 70 percent of Saudi Arabia's immense production remains shut down after last week's sabotage of a huge pipeline and pumping station complex by Rockefeller and Co., the destruction of Arab oil facilities — in the context of a general Middle East war — remains a primary strategic target of the NSC and James Schlesinger, the U.S. energy czar.

Already the impact of the limited sabotage in Saudi Arabia is being felt around the world, giving leverage to

None Of The Soviets' Business

William Smith II, head of the State Department's Israeli desk granted the following interview to the EIR.

EIR: What is your view of the ramifications of the Likud victory in Israel?

A: Well, we haven't decided yet. People have been meeting all day trying to develop our line. You know, if we shoot our mouths off independently of one another, it gets us into mischief.

EIR: Well, what's the general thinking about the Israeli situation?

A: There is a bit of anxiety — although there's no need to be upset. Begin is a bit of a hard-liner. He doesn't want to give back a stitch of the occupied lands.

EIR: Have you been discussing the Soviet response to Begin's election?

A: Look, the Soviets aren't really involved in the Mideast. The only reason they're involved is because of their egos. They only want to advance their own interests by throwing a wrench into the works. Regardless of what the Soviets think, we don't care. The Mideast is not their business.

the Rockefeller oil multinationals to initiate a unilateral "embargo" against Europe and Japan. The four operating partners of Aramco — Exxon, Mobil, Socal, and Texaco announced yesterday that they had begun a cutback of 30 percent in oil deliveries to contracting buyers in Europe and Japan, citing "force majeure."

In addition, a Japanese source reported that after the first explosion and fire in Saudi Arabia, four days later a second blast further crippled the country's output — although the second explosion went unreported around the world!

The threat of an oil crisis that could decisively assert Atlanticist control in Europe and Japan and strengthen the dollar — in a replay of the Great Oil Hoax of 1973 — is already being expressed in Western Europe, in both the Italian and West German press. *La Stampa* and the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* both worried, in the wake of Begin's election, about the possible evaporation of Saudi moderation on both oil supplies and pricing, where the Saudis have been a major impediment to the Rockefellers' efforts to jack up prices.

At NATO headquarters in Brussels, the security of oil supplies to Western Europe and North America is actively being discussed as a pretext for the illegal extension of NATO's military sphere to the Persian Gulf. Large-scale military maneuvers and strategy planning sessions took place this week under the rubric of SHAPEX 77, with a primary focus on NATO responsibility for the Middle East and Africa, ostensibly to protect oil sources and tanker routes around the South

African cape.

Israel, under Begin's yet-to-be-formed coalition, is an active candidate for membership in NATO and that organization's regional police force. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, who spent several days in Iran this week, is seeking to combine a NATO-Israeli-Iranian threat to the Arab oil-producing countries.

Breakaway Ally

Under Begin, the chief danger of war is the threat of Israel acting according to the "breakaway ally" mode. This Rand Corporation scenario was reinstated by the Likud victory which, according to several observers, will bring the U.S. and Israel into a managed conflict. According to this computer routine, Israel — following some provocation — would launch a preemptive strike at the Arabs ostensibly against the wishes of the White House, and for which the White House could lyingly disclaim responsibility.

The hottest area for the activation of this scenario is the issue of the West Bank. The official Likud position is that the occupied West Bank is part of Eretz Israel, and the first act of the new regime will be to "annex" the area.

Arab sources are predicting a wave of violence and terrorism should the Likud attempt to implement this program, and J. Bowyer Bell of Columbia University, a renowned terrorist controller, said that the Arabs will "activate the Habashes, the crazies, to put pressure on the U.S." — indicating that the NSC intends to unleash its blind terrorists to heighten tensions in the area.

Begin: West Bank Is Our Country

The following is an interview with Menachem Begin in Die Welt this week:

Q: Do you think that your position on the occupied territories means that war is inevitable?

A: We want to keep peace. The West Bank is our country; if the Arabs think that Israel is weak, they can invade us. Israel cannot go back to the 1967 borders,...this will be an invitation to the Arabs to attack us. Too few people know that. I'll try to convince the Carter administration of this view. I'll be prime minister in two weeks and I'll offer the Arab neighbor countries a meeting with me, somewhere in the Middle East, Geneva or anywhere else.

Q: What will happen with the West Bank?

A: It is our country. This is not imperialism. This is Zionism.

Q: What about the Palestinians?

A: They are representing a deadly threat for Israel. Only the Communists, who are subservient to Moscow, can afford to see a Palestinian state....

Q: What do you think about those who say that you are a terrorist?

A: I don't bother about it, I am used to it. They even said I was a KGB agent. I was in the KGB jail.

Q: How was it that you came to power in the light of being out of power for thirty years?

A: I was a member of the Knesset (Israeli Parliament — ed.) and didn't feel excluded from political life. Now I want a national unity government, the times and the political conditions are demanding that.... Only the Communists have to be out.