

Middle East, North Africa Nuclear 'Balkans'

The unstable and deceptive truce that prevailed at press time on the Libya-Egypt border, following four days of heavy clashes between the two Arab countries, hides a growing regional crisis pushed by the Carter Administration to inflame the entire Middle East region. The goal of the Rockefeller forces is the immediate breakup of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the subsequent destruction of the economy of Western Europe in a new oil crisis.

Rockefeller's strategic target is the oil-producing states of the Persian Gulf and North Africa, who are increasingly aligned with Western Europe in seeking the basis for a new world monetary system to replace the bankrupt dollar empire.

The attack on Libya, which was set into motion by Sen. Jacob Javits during a visit to Cairo last week, has seriously destabilized the entire region from Morocco to the Persian Gulf and the Horn of Africa. The unholy alliance between Egypt and Sudan, which cooperated in the war against Libya, is now threatening to explode the volatile Horn of Africa, where Sudan is supporting separatist Eritrean guerrillas in a conflict that could throw out of control the simmering conflict between Ethiopia and Somalia. Also on the agenda is a conflict between Algeria and Morocco, the former allied to Libya and the latter to Egypt. And looming in the background is the danger of a new Arab-Israeli war touched off by the crisis in southern Lebanon.

An elaborate smokescreen of disinformation puffed-up by the National Security Council has so far blinded key circles in the U.S. intelligence and political community to the scope of the Rockefeller move against OPEC. According to the version of Brzezinski et al., the war between Egypt and Libya was a controlled U.S.-Soviet proxy conflict that, from the beginning, was limited to a short test of strength between "pro-Soviet" Libya and "pro-Western" Egypt.

In fact, the scope of the operation — still ongoing — extends far beyond the Middle East and is by no means under the NSC's control — whatever Brzezinski may think. The deception operation by the NSC did not succeed in fooling the West Europeans — who responded to the Rockefeller threat to their flank in the Arab world by pushing ahead with a break with the dollar — and also elicited strong warnings from the USSR and its allies.

In Moscow on July 26, Soviet President Brezhnev and Janos Kadar of Hungary stated that the fighting in Africa represented a "danger to world peace." The statement from Brezhnev, broadcast over *Radio Moscow*, followed an article in *Red Star*, the Soviet military daily, which charged the West with encouraging "sporadic wars" in Africa in order to crush liberation movements and

establish effective NATO control.

According to TASS, the Soviet news agency, the government of Cuba also communicated its "anxiety" to the Egyptians, and added that Havana "hopes that Egypt, realizing the seriousness of the consequences of its aggression," will accept the Arab mediation by Algerian President Houari Boumediene, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, and various Arab foreign ministers.

The specific danger in the situation arises not from the reported links between the USSR and Libya (although Libya does maintain close ties with Moscow), since the Libyan leadership — which is violently anti-communist — is primarily oriented toward France and Western Europe. The danger of a Soviet military response to the crisis, whether in Libya or elsewhere in the region, arises instead from the Soviet awareness that an uncontrolled escalation of tensions in the area can only result in the shattering of the delicate political balance on which the USSR and Western Europe are attempting to build a détente. Libya, and other Arab countries, have so far served as diplomatic "bridges" between the Comecon and the EEC.

In fact, the Soviet press demonstrated quite clearly this week that the USSR is committed to defense of the OPEC sector. Two articles in *Pravda* underlined this determination, the first praising the Shah of Iran for steering his country away from single-track links to the U.S. and for building up Iran's industrial base, and the second urging OPEC to establish independent oil tanker facilities to free itself from dependence on the multinationals. An important Soviet-Saudi trade agreement was also announced by the Soviet firm Machinoexport.

For this reason, the Soviets hesitated somewhat in their public response to the Libya-Egypt crisis — where a Soviet show of force remains a definite possibility — and instead relied on behind-the-scenes diplomacy to contain the Sadat menace for fear of splitting Europe and the Middle East along traditional Cold War "left-right" lines.

But a provocative new arms export policy announced by the Carter regime this week does not leave the USSR any room for maneuver, and can only be taken by Moscow as a signal that the U.S. is bent on escalating the tension in the area to the breaking point. Under these circumstances, the possibility of a Soviet show of armed force becomes more likely. In Washington, the State Department said that Egypt, Sudan, Somalia, and Chad will become eligible for receiving U.S. arms shipments, following on the heels of U.S. commitments to ship weaponry to traditional U.S. clients Israel, Saudi Arabia and Iran.

