

## Israel Breaks Lebanon Ceasefire

According to an October 14 press release from Tel Aviv, "Israel has broken off talks with the United States aimed at reaching a permanent settlement in south Lebanon as a result of violations in the ceasefire." The September 26 ceasefire which brought a respite to the heavy fighting of last month was reached through an agreement between Israel and their Christian-Falangist allies with their Palestinian leftist opponents in southern Lebanon.

### *U.S.-Israel Accord*

According to the terms of the U.S.-inspired ceasefire, a full Israeli military withdrawal from southern Lebanon would met with a corresponding Palestinian withdrawal to the north bank of the Litani river, thus paving the way for the positioning of troops from the regular Lebanese army in the contested area. The ceasefire would permit the successful conclusion of the third phase of the Chtaura Accords, an agreement reached between Syria, the PLO, and Lebanon last July whereby the reconstituted Lebanese army would take over the south in order to separate warring Christian Falangist and Palestinian forces.

In a Tel Aviv meeting September 25, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Chief of Staff Ezer Weizman gained assurance from U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis that Syria, Lebanon, and the PLO would act as partners in good faith. In addition, the U.S. was working closely with Lebanese President Elias Sarkis and Defense Minister Fouad Boutros to ready the Lebanese army for redeployment. According to press reports from that period, Begin and Weizman acted "in concert with international forces" and declared a withdrawal of Israeli troops from the area. Only Israeli Foreign minister Moshe Dayan then in the U.S. issued a statement contradictory to the decision of the Begin government. In a Washington press conference Dayan declared that he was opposed to any ceasefire afford.

Renewed fighting in Lebanon this week occurred simultaneously with Lebanese President Sarkis' decision to deploy 1,500 men from the newly reconstituted army into the south. Although vanguard units have taken over barracks in the cities of Nabatiyeh, Tyre, and Tibnin, this is only a cosmetic gesture. According to one Lebanese officer, "Israel is trying to sabotage the operation. Just when the Government was going to restore its authority, they began shelling again to obstruct the entry of the army." This *New York Times* report is corroborated by an October 12 article in the *London Financial Times* which reported that "Israeli forces still occupy six strategic sites in southern Lebanon."

### *Dayan-Falange Axis*

The situation at the Israeli-Lebanese border was relatively calm until Dayan's arrival in Israel on October 1. On that day the *Jerusalem Post* issued a statement from Saad Haddad, commander of the Christian militia forces in southern Lebanon. Haddad said: "The ceasefire was forced on us.... and as far as my men are

concerned Israel has virtually sold out because of broader foreign policy considerations." Claiming that the Palestinian leftists were amassing an army of 10,000 men, Haddad declared that his forces would never get out of southern Lebanon — a direct challenge to the authority of the Lebanese government.

But according to the October 12 *Financial Times* it is the Christians, also under control of Dayan, who are beefing up their forces. "The Christians claim that they are residents of the area, although the locals trained and armed by the Israelis are known to have been strengthened and outnumbered by reinforcements from the north." The Haddad-Dayan axis is manipulating a major flaw in the Chtaura Accords; the accords do not specifically make evacuation of the sensitive border area by Palestinian leftists conditional on a corresponding one by the Christian Falangist forces. Rejecting the reconstituted Lebanese Army as a viable peacekeeping force, Haddad has further declared that the Lebanese soldiers are "in reality the allies of the Palestinians" and would unite with the leftists as they did in the 1976 civil war.

Abou Iyad, number two man in the Fatah wing of the PLO and military overseer of the Chtaura Accords has declared that "the Palestinian Resistance would carry out their responsibilities to the letter." It is generally recognized that the Palestinians are eager to abide by the withdrawal guidelines in order to show their willingness to negotiate an overall Mideast peace settlement.

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## N. Yemen Assassination Linked To Saudi, British Policy Interests

North Yemen is tense in the wake of last week's assassination of President Lieut. Col. Ibrahim al-Hamdi and his brother Lieut. Col. Abdullah al-Hamdi. The well-timed murders came one day prior to the President's departure for the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen-South Yemen, where he was to finalize ongoing efforts to reunify the two countries. This would have been the first meeting of the two Yemens since the 1962 civil war.

Presently the ruling Command Council is being led by its chief of staff, Lieut. Col. Ahmed Hussein al-Ghashmi, and two other army officers, all of whom served under Hamdi in the military command set up after seizing power in a coup in 1974.

Hamdi's death will have ramifications for the region as a whole, as well as within Yemen. Already the French paper *L'Aurore* was hinting Oct. 12 that the murder might touch off a destabilization in one of the most "vital regions in the world, controlling the Bab el-Mandeb straits and the oil routes."

Just one week before the assassination, think tank sources linked to British interests were making it clear that Hamdi's efforts at peace and reconciliation were not at all welcome, adding credibility to pro-Soviet South

Yemen's accusations that the murder was an act of "imperialist sabotage" and "a plot aimed at undermining relations between the two Yemens."

The timing of the assassination underlies the motives behind it. Over the past four months, Hamdi has been working with prodevelopment French forces to pacify the heated Red Sea area and the war-torn Horn of Africa, and had just returned from a visit to France after meeting with French President Giscard on economic and technical cooperation for peace.

While his death did prevent his scheduled visit to South Yemen last week, it did not prevent the meeting between South Yemen's ruler, Salem Robaya Ali, and acting president al-Ghashmi. Salem Robaya Ali instead traveled to North Yemen.

#### *Marked for Assassination*

In efforts to counter a British destabilization of the Red Sea countries, Hamdi before his death was organizing a Red Sea security pact that would include Ethiopia, and would pre-empt any attempt to block the Red Sea and therefore an attempted oil embargo. At home, Hamdi's

decidedly backward and tribal country — a feature encouraged by the Saudis — was being reorganized along progressive political programs, geared to strengthening the central state power and building up the economy to be independent from both the U.S. and the Saudis.

Just prior to the assassination, the coalition of all the country's parties, the National Democratic Front of North Yemen, published such a program, and Abu Raed, a member of the Front's Secretariat, told the Paris newspaper *Le Monde* that just such a program was needed to "safeguard the sovereignty and independence of the nation, threatened by Saudi reaction supported by imperialism, especially American." He demanded that the country end its economic dependence with a "modern productive national economy founded on the principles of scientific planning." He called for an end to "feudal relations" and to the "flagrant intervention by Saudi Arabia in the internal affairs of the country." Accusing the Saudis of encouraging tribal opposition to the government, he said, "The result of this policy can be catastrophic for the country. Yemen has become a volcano that could explode at any time."

## Why MI-6 And Its Saudi Friends Are Out To Get The Shah

Ultraconservative elements in the Saudi Royal family that have strong alliances with British Intelligence, MI-6, are becoming increasingly disturbed by their neighbor, the Shah of Iran, and his bold development perspective. According to a well-informed Texas source, the Saudis see Iran as an obstacle to their scheme of transforming the Arab world and the subcontinent into a hotbed of rightwing Sunni Islamic reaction.

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### IRAN

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The Saudi-British intelligence operation has already yielded a military coup in Pakistan and seriously meddled in the internal affairs of Bangladesh and India. The Saudis are known to be closely working with Pakistani opposition leader Agha Khan to achieve their destabilization of the subcontinent. The entire Arab world, too, has felt the resurgence of Sunni Islam, a mystical belief structure conducive to zero-growth economic policies, which numerous banking institutions centered in the City of London and Wall Street are promoting.

The Shah knows that he is the target for possible assassination. This week his twin sister, the powerful Princess Ashraf, released a statement that any attempts to dissuade the Shah from his pro-growth orientation, of which nuclear energy is the major component, would fail. Princess Ashraf, herself having narrowly escaped assassination a month ago in France, affirmed "the Shah has a mission to accomplish and we all stand behind

him." The same week the Iranian Foreign Minister Khalatbari brought to the United Nations General Assembly a proposal worked out in cooperation with West Germany to form an international body to fight terrorism.

#### *A Prodevelopment Example*

For both the subcontinent and the Middle East Iran's fight to appropriate the most advanced technology in its efforts to develop its economy has become a forceful example. Most noteworthy in this effort has been Iran's vanguard role internationally in promoting nuclear energy. Last week Iran and France signed a far reaching deal for two reactors with four more now being negotiated. Iran's domestic and foreign policy has become increasingly harmonious with both France and the Soviet Union whose outlook is markedly at variance with that of Great Britain.

To support the growth of Iran's population of 37 million, the Shah has engaged in an ambitious policy of expanding the state-owned National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) to sell its oil directly to consumers, circumventing the multinationals traditionally handling Iranian crude oil. Such a policy yields more revenues for Iran and gives the Shah the freedom to engage in broad barter agreements which often supply Iran with badly needed commodities and knowhow.

The Soviet Union and Eastern Europe have benefited the most from such oil barter deals, which in turn has produced a sizeable upturn in Comecon-Iranian trade. Most recently an East German delegation in Tehran at the end of last month, agreed to extend Iran credits for the purchase of East German machinery. The East