

French Press Hails Sadat Trip As Prelude To Mideast Development

Under the front-page banner headline, "Peace will permit a powerful economic takeoff in the Middle East, but not for tomorrow," the French financial daily Les Echos of Nov. 22 urged a cautious appraisal of Egyptian President Sadat's historic trip to Jerusalem. At the same time, however, the article, which is excerpted here, emphasized the tremendous potential for the economic development of the whole region under the terms of a successful peace settlement.

... The Egyptian President unlocked (the door to peace) by de facto acknowledging the existence of Israel, but Menachem Begin did not open the door: he will not go to Cairo.

However, hopes are still high. The negotiations between the two chiefs of state will continue. Peace in the Middle East would have a powerful economic impact. Peace would allow the resumption of aborted economic projects and the development of areas that have been sacrificed for thirty years. The southwestern part of Syria, for instance, has never been brought back to life because of the state of belligerency. The West Bank has had to stop its agricultural exports. The Arab countries that hold dollars would not hesitate to finance projects such as the creation of tax-free zones in Egypt... The Israelis, on the other hand, would not fail to provide their advanced technologies.

But all of this is utopian as long as peace has not been definitely reestablished. Everybody is speaking of peace but even the more optimistic ones acknowledge that, unfortunately, it is not for tomorrow.

The same issue of Les Echos carried an article bylined Tristan Doelnitz, which is based on an interview with Gen. Georges Buis, one of the world's foremost geopolitical experts. The headline was: "With peace, the

Middle East could again take the path toward economic unity, in General Buis's estimation." Excerpts appear below:

The main consequences of a possible peace in the Middle East are to be found on several levels:

1) The Arab states, once "liberated" from the Palestine question, will seek every means to reduce the divisions they inherited from the colonial period;

2) The development effort, thwarted by war, will be resumed, including Egypt and Syria;

3) The reduction in arms sales to the region will be more than compensated by more sales in other parts of the world;

4) The United States is bound to undergo the growing influence of petrodollar inflows.

... Independently from the regimes in power, the Arab states will endeavor to reach the unity that they have been dreaming of ever since the dismemberment of the Ottoman empire in 1920...

The Baa'th party — the party in office in Iraq — stressed the fact that the Arab problem is not sentimental but economic...

... Peace is, however, an economic must for Egypt. General Buis referred me to the case of the Answan Dam, which was a failure because of the lack of necessary investments for the completion of a power plant and the development of irrigation...

Syria ran into the same setbacks with the huge dam of Tapka, on the Euphrates, as Egypt did with the Answan Dam. With peace, the Syrians will recapture their traditional trade outlets on the Mediterranean through Tripoli and Beirut...

Capital inflows are likely to increase in Egypt... but through the mediation of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia... On the other hand, petrodollar inflows into the U.S., which now amount to \$20 billion a year, should reach the \$70 billion mark in 1982. Under those conditions, Arab investors in the U.S. are bound to exert a considerable weight against the Zionist lobby in Washington.

The Truth Of The Begin-Sadat Meeting

The following statement was released on Nov. 22, 1977 by Lyndon H. LaRouche, chairman of the U.S. Labor Party.

The way in which an American patriot should view the summit meeting of Israel's Menachem Begin and Egypt's Anwar Sadat is that, happily, once again U.S.A. intelligence services have defeated British intelligence services in a battle in the Middle East. The objections to this summit by Henry Kissinger and various Republican dupes of Kissinger should be viewed in exactly these terms of reference.

This is not to imply that Israel's Prime Minister Begin is a puppet of the U.S.A. Central Intelligence Agency. Rather, proceeding from an understanding of genuine, long-term U.S. interests, key parts of the U.S. Executive

Branch chose to support Begin's effort — with certain important conditions attached, conditions which are broadly in the genuine interest of the Middle East Arab populations. In this respect, the Carter Administration is to be credited with rejecting Kissinger's bankrupt imperialist doctrines in favor of a Republican approach to foreign policy.

As my friends in the Iraqi Ba'ath national leadership will recognize from our discussions of April, 1975, the Begin-Sadat summit is a vindication of the strategic perception which I and my associates have pursued openly as well as behind the scenes since that date. Although the Labor Committees can not take credit for the recent developments, our efforts have contributed to shaping perceptions in various relevant quarters toward this result, and because of this result, and because of