

more World Bank investment in non-OPEC Third World oil development, a policy which would greatly enhance British Petroleum's status in the world oil markets. Presently BP is known to control more non-OPEC oil resources than even Exxon. A State Department spokesman earlier this month issued a statement denying the forecast that non-OPEC sources could meet the growing demand for oil in the 1980s.

By London's calculation, the destruction of Aramco would signal a decisive political defeat to the U.S. industrial interests for which Bert Lance has been

working. Numerous analysts of the Mideast agree that the present Saudi triumvirate, King Khalid, Yamani, and Crown Prince Fahd, will remain loyal to Aramco and the U.S. even if the F-15 deal does not go through. However, it will weaken their defense of a staunch alliance to Washington in the eyes of such Saudis as Planning Minister Hisham Nazir, and the head of the Royal Guard Prince Abdulla, who lean much more in the direction of a loyalty to the City of London.

—Judy Wyer

### **Saudi Arabian Ambassador: We Cannot Tolerate Delay**

*Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Washington H.E. Ali A. Alireza responded in a press conference this week to both accusations from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that Saudi Arabia supports Palestinian terrorism, and a call for the postponement of the arms sale from Jewish Lobby supporter Senator Jackson.*

A delay is just as bad as a rejection...a delay would mean postponement of a year....Saudi Arabia cannot tolerate such a delay.

Saudi Arabia condemns terrorism in all its forms and those who have committed it against any peoples.

### **Israelis on Saudis: "Luckily, Roosevelt Died..."**

*Davar, Israeli daily, March 13:*

Saudi involvement and the fact that Saudi Arabia is the closest ally of the United States by virtue of the oil and the millions of petrodollars, is our gravest Achilles' heel in our relations with the Administration in Washington. In fact, this is not new. At the beginning of 1945 after the Yalta Conference, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt claimed, after his meeting with the founder of the dynasty, King Ibn Saud, that he had in five minutes

learned more from him about Jewish and Arab relations than he had learned on any previous occasion.

Roosevelt was not mistaken: At that same summit meeting, which was a continuation of the visit by Colonel Hopkins and other envoys, he learned of the abyss-like hatred of the ruler of the "purest" Arab country for the nationalist struggles of the Jewish nation and this only increased his doubts as to whether it was indeed worth giving establishment of a Jewish state following World War II, which brought the holocaust down on us.

Luckily for us, Roosevelt died a short time after that meeting with Ibn Saud and the new constellation during President Truman's time nevertheless permitted the realization of the Zionist objective, despite the warnings of the political and military establishments that the establishment of a Jewish state would endanger the supplies of oil and the U.S. national, strategic, and economic interests and despite the warnings of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow to the effect that this would increase Soviet influence among the Arab countries.

*New York Post, by Evans and Novak, March 20:*

"Israel wants the U.S. all to itself," one Mideast authority told us. "The Saudi connection drives it up the wall." If true, that means the pro-Israel block in Congress and the American-Jewish community will pressure Carter to void the F-15 aircraft deal, thereby creating trouble between Washington and Riyadh.

## **Southern Lebanon: Israel's Vietnam?**

Military analysts agreed this week that Israel's invasion of southern Lebanon has fallen far short of its original goals, and, as a result, has put Israel in the untenable position of having to fight a protracted Vietnam-style war of attrition with Palestinian guerrilla forces.

Israel's prime aim has been to provoke Syria to respond militarily. With Syria's refusal to fall for Israel's gameplan, Israeli troops continued their drive north. Having siezed the entire area south of the Litani River with the exception of the port city of Tyre, Israel was on the verge of launching the fourth phase of its operation: moving beyond the Litani and occupying a 200-square mile area including the strategic Palestinian stronghold of Nabatiye. The move was not made, though U.S. military intelligence sources assert that the option may yet be activated.

As a result of Israel's failure to provoke Syria, Syrian President Hafez Assad has predicted that "Israel will bleed." Israel's sweep into southern Lebanon did not succeed in wiping out the Palestinian fighting forces, confirming charges that the invasion was, in fact, a political-military disaster for Israel rather than the great victory that the Israeli press has made it out to be.

According to Michael Parks in the *Baltimore Sun* March 23:

The Israeli Army, long regarded as one of the world's best, was little better prepared for its invasion of southern Lebanon and the guerrilla warfare it entailed than the American armed forces were for the conflict in Indochina, according to military analysts now assessing the seven-day operation.

The Israelis' three brigades seized virtually all southern Lebanon below the Litani River...but failed to destroy the combat potential of the Palestinian commandos, who have regrouped north of the river after retreating from the south.

Israeli military planners originally proposed a much bigger operation designed to sweep all the commandos south of the Litani, perhaps 5,000 men, into an ever-tightening box in which they would be killed or captured, according to these sources.

But the government, wanting to limit the inevitable Israeli casualties, left the box open-ended, so most of the guerrillas escaped across the river with their heavy equipment.

The Israelis' massive use of firepower and other tactics reflected the need to minimize their forces' casualties and avoid domestic political repercussions, military analysts observed, but violated one of the basic rules of anti-guerrilla warfare.

"Six, 8 and 10-hour bombardments like those the Israelis used to saturate an area before they moved in generally only kill civilians," argued an officer with a number of years of varied experience in counterinsurgency warfare, "and they make enemies of the people, the Muslims of southern Lebanon in this case, whose friendship you want to win.

"The guerrillas usually get out without many casualties."

The Palestinian commandos are understood to have lost about 350 dead and about three times that number wounded. By contrast, 1,379 civilians were killed, a preliminary figure that Lebanese government officials believe will probably triple to

about 4,000 when a final count is made....This means the Israelis failed to destroy the commando units as an effective fighting force....

Conversations with both Palestinian commanders and guerrillas in the field also made it clear that the Israeli operation did not destroy their morale.

Their ability to withstand for a week one of the largest operations the Israelis have mounted seems, in fact, to have bolstered their morale, as has the prospect of continuing guerrilla raids on Israeli lines in Lebanon.

Elias Shoufani, a member of the Palestinian National Council, talked of the consequences for Israel of a protracted war of attrition:

For the first time, we are in direct combat with the Israelis across a large front, but soon we will be fighting on our terms....Begin has trapped himself by invading Lebanon. If he stays, he faces a guerrilla war that will give Israel no peace, that will tie down 20,000 soldiers indefinitely and will exact continuing casualties. If he pulls out, then his government could fall.

Israel, writes the *Daily Telegraph*, is now "bogged down" in Lebanon, paralyzed by the continuing supplies coming in from Syria to the PLO. At the same time, the *BBC* is speculating on Israel's ability to sustain a long war economically — the basic argument inside the Israeli high command for getting something started *now* with Syria.

## Syria, Soviets Push International Intervention To Stabilize Mideast

Immediately after Israel's March 15 invasion of southern Lebanon, Syrian President Assad issued a stern denunciation of Israel's violation of Lebanon's sovereignty and called for the world community to exercise its power in halting Israeli aggression. Syria's call for an international offensive to stabilize the Middle East tinderbox contributed to the speedy passage of a UN resolution calling for immediate Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon and the placement of a UN peacekeeping force there. In addition to coordinating this global intervention, Syria is exercising an important stabilizing role within the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) by keeping close tabs on certain British-controlled "rejectionist" elements whose primary aim is to break the fragile ceasefire in southern Lebanon by conducting more terrorist raids inside Israel like the recent "Fatah" attack which Israel used as a pretext for its pre-planned lightning occupation of southern Lebanon.

Syrian restraint in the face of extreme internal pressures to confront Israel head on reflects the powerful

Soviet-Saudi-French axis which is supporting competent elements in Syria and the PLO, and is using its political muscle to pressure the U.S. to terminate Israel's outlaw behavior.

### *Soviets, Syria Stand Firm*

It is clear that Israel intended a confrontation with Syria from the outset of their intervention into Lebanon. That confrontation is still an operational policy in the event that the situation deteriorates further. In an exclusive interview in the March 27 issue of *Newsweek*, Assad revealed that he was cognizant of Israel's intentions. In response to a question as to why Syria did not intervene into Southern Lebanon, Assad said, "That was precisely what Israel wanted us to do. Their plans will not draw us into adventurism. There will be no impetuous reaction." Instead, Syrian activity in defusing the crisis centered around the organization of the Arab "steadfastness front" into full support of the UN intervention. At the March 19 meeting of the "hardline" countries of Algeria, Syria, Libya, and the PLO, Syria