

Threat of war hangs over Camp David

The marathon Camp David fiasco, at latest reports held over into next week with no solution in sight, is under threat of an Israeli war against Lebanon, Syria, and Saudi Arabia immediately after the expected breakdown of the summit.

The Israeli war threat is the leading edge of a general war mobilization by the alliance among Great Britain, Israel, and China. Its centerpiece is a confrontation over the oil supplies of the Persian Gulf.

High-level sources in Washington and key press conduits suggest that the twin crises in Lebanon and Iran might set off a major U.S.-Soviet showdown in the area.

West Germany, Japan, and the Soviet Union last week focused major attention on the danger of an outbreak of war in the Middle East. Chancellor Schmidt, in the midst of a round of meetings with President Giscard of France, President Assad of Syria, and Foreign Minister Saud of Saudi Arabia, told the West German Parliament that "no one could rule out a fifth Middle East war" which would "clearly deepen the continuing structural crisis of the world economy." In Saudi Arabia, Prime Minister Fukuda of Japan echoed Schmidt's exact words after consultations with the Shah and the Saudi rulers.

The Soviets, continually hitting the threat of a U.S.-British armed "Middle East Treaty Organization"

coming out of Camp David, specifically attacked Brzezinski for being the architect of this scheme. Said Radio Moscow, "Camp David is deadlocked."

Geopolitical strategists in London, meanwhile, stepped up propaganda in favor of an imminent eruption of world war over the issue of "Soviet interference" in the Middle East. "It must be clear to the Soviet Union that the oil supplies of the Middle East are one of the West's essential interests," said a London *Times* editorial Sept. 13. "If there is one thing for which it is possible to imagine the allies going to war, it is Middle East oil." Lord Alport, in an accompanying note, said that the "oil-rich areas of the Middle East" are, unlike Africa, not expendable to the Soviet Union and East Europe.

The British, openly conspiring with Prime Minister Begin and the Chinese, are seeking to "encircle" the USSR. Echoing Begin's Cold War-era remarks that he is representing the "free world" at Camp David, Lord Alport concluded that Britain must exert its influence "in the interest of the free world as a whole."

On the ground, the situation in Lebanon is rapidly heading for confrontation. Both rightist Christians and the Lebanese left-Moslem alliance called general strikes Sept. 13 and 15, respectively, to strengthen their positions. According to a Soviet TASS release, the Nazi Falangists are carrying out "incessant" provocations against Syrian troops, while Israel shells southern Lebanon. The Israeli Air Force stepped up aerial reconnaissance over Lebanon, while gunboats of the Israeli Navy coasted just offshore.

Washington analysts, according to the *Wall Street Journal*, expect Israeli air strikes against the Syrian troops in Lebanon immediately after Camp David. And that means virtually certain general war.

Fukuda: Dollar Weakness Endangers World Peace

The following are excerpts from an article on a speech by Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda that appeared in the Sept. 13 Washington Post.

Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda warned yesterday that the decline in the American dollar could trigger a major increase in the world price of oil and start a "vicious cycle" that "will be extremely harmful to the world economy."

Fukuda's remarks came at the end of a two-day state visit to Saudi Arabia in which Fukuda held talks with King Khalid and Crown Prince Fahd.

"The situation we are in is similar to the one the world faced in the 1930s just before the outbreak of the second world war," Fukuda said, "and one of the big things in this is the depreciation in the value of the American dollar. If this goes on much longer this might induce another increase in the price of oil."

Fukuda, in unexpectedly strong language that came in an impromptu speech at the end of a press conference, said the Japanese government had

communicated its concern about the dollar and possible oil price increases to the United States and the oil producing world. Fukuda has been visiting oil producing states in the Persian Gulf this week.

"If the oil producing countries raise the price of oil to keep up with the depreciation of the American dollar, this will further increase the decline in the value of the dollar," Fukuda said.

"Thus the value of the dollar and the price of oil may indeed start a vicious cycle. This cycle is going to be very difficult to stop. This will be extremely harmful to the world economy."

Last month, Prince Fahd told a Kuwaiti newspaper that Saudi Arabia remains strongly committed to the dollar as the oil pricing currency and would resist any OPEC move to raise the price of oil this year.

Fukuda commended Saudi Arabia's stance in OPEC meetings as "extremely helpful to the stability of the world."