

Both Syria and Saudi Arabia are talking to Bonn about nuclear power and research deals, and a number of other West German commitments have been made in order to support a massive economic development plan for the area. On Oct. 30, King Hussein of Jordan will arrive in Bonn for key talks on the eve of the Arab summit.

Both Schmidt and Giscard have rejected the Camp David formula and called for a comprehensive settlement based on a Palestinian state.

The Soviet Union has made it clear that it is ready to defend the Arabs militarily, especially Syria and Iraq, if the Israel extremists attempt to foment a war in that area. Syria has warned Israel and the United States not to challenge Soviet "interests" in the area.

#### Camp David: a dead duck

With the success of the Baghdad summit and its supporters virtually assured, the stalled Egypt-Israel treaty talks are near collapse. Arab diplomatic sources say Egypt — aware of the growing Arab pressure — gradually began to insist on a stronger linkage between the Sinai treaty and the key Palestinian issue.

The Israelis, sensing that their cherished separate peace, originally agreed to by Egypt's Sadat under duress at the Camp David session, was dissipating, began hardening their line. The Israeli right rammed through an "amendment" to the U.S.-proposed Egypt-Israel treaty draft that explicitly ruled out linkage. Prime Minister Begin underlined the point that Israel would never abandon the West Bank and East Jerusalem by announcing that Israel was expanding its illegal settlements on the West Bank. In a crowing insult to the Arabs, the Israelis announced that they were moving several government offices into occupied East Jerusalem.

At that point, Egypt announced

from Cairo that it was considering calling its delegation home from Washington and breaking off the talks: U.S. Secretary of State Vance issued a lame statement warning Israel that the U.S. is "deeply disturbed" over the "very serious" Israeli moves.

With Camp David in shambles, the key may be in the hands of the PLO. The Iraq-Syria reconciliation brings together the two wings of the Organization, and informed

sources report the PLO is considering declaring a "government-in-exile," long considered a precondition for convening a Geneva conference.

Lending credence to that view, both the Soviet Union and the EEC again called for Geneva, as PLO chief Arafat, who received four letters from President Brezhnev in the past two weeks, flew off to Moscow for political talks.

— Robert Dreyfuss

## The truth about drug decrim

The Oct. 16 release of a 1978 New York State study showing that "heavy" use of marijuana by students in grades 7 through 12 has increased more than **300 percent** since possession of "small" amounts of marijuana was decriminalized in the state 15 months ago has already caused an uproar in upstate New York.

The 1978 report of the New York State Substance Abuse Services Office was initially previewed by the *Buffalo Evening Courier* in a four-part series which decried the increase of drug use in the area.

The Substance Abuse Services bombshell is a followup study on one done by the same agency in 1975. In the 1975 survey, **one** out of every 17 students in grades 7 through 12 (**6 percent**) smoked marijuana once a week. The 1978 study shows that **one** out of every **six** students (**17 percent**) now smokes marijuana twice a week. The **6** to **17** percent jump is even more drastic because "heavy" use of marijuana was redefined in the 1978 report from once to twice per week.

Even more damning, the new study shows a startling increase in the rate of heavy use of cocaine, hashish, heroin and illegally acquired cough medicine by New

York students, which is directly correlated with the availability of hard drugs since the New York State legislature decriminalized marijuana 15 months ago. The New York State Office of Substance Abuse Services surveyed more than 35,000 students from 146 public schools and 48 parochial schools. The *Buffalo Courier Express*, in its own survey of the Buffalo area, independently found that **50 percent** of all high school students in the Buffalo area use marijuana "heavily."

The New York State Substance Abuse Services Report thus provides a nationally important piece of incontrovertible scientific evidence that decriminalization of marijuana has resulted in vastly increased use of **both marijuana and hard drugs** by youth. The 300 percent increase in marijuana use since decriminalization represents a dramatic indictment of the pot lobby, as New York State's decrim law had been touted as a national model by the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML). As the *Buffalo Courier Express* concluded its series editorially, "It is time for a reexamination of the drug laws. . . ."

— Anita Gallagher