

Israeli strategist: Iran will spark regional crises

Top Israeli strategist Moshe Arens, the chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, informed a U.S. congressional delegation visiting Israel that his country expects the "spreading of the Iranian syndrome into the unstable nation of Saudi Arabia very soon." Arens's eagerness to predict further crises in the Middle East points to the strategy underlying the British-backed destabilization of the Persian Gulf: Iran is to be used as a lever to ignite a round of governmental instabilities that would sabotage efforts for peace in the area.

The same week, Israel announced that it was seeking to establish diplomatic relations with China. President Sadat of Egypt stated that a treaty between his country and Israel was now even more critical to the Middle East in the wake of the Iranian crisis. And in both Iraq and Afghanistan, extremist Moslem Brotherhood fanatics have launched violent uprisings, spreading into southern Turkey as well.

At the core of this far-flung strategy is the "Bernard Lewis Plan" — the fracturing of the region's sovereign states into warring tribal units. Support for the Lewis Plan and its line that Islam and modernization are as incompatible and irreconcilable as the "differences" in Islam, came in a *Washington Post* column by Stephen Rosenfeld Jan. 5. Rosenfeld wrote that Islam "is a new dark force in the world whose real essence is only now revealing itself."

But Arab forces, along with the Bakhtiar government in Iran and the Europeans, are showing signs of moving to halt the disintegration of the Mideast by creating a major regional stabilization fund for economic development.

There is also a growing recognition of the fact that Great Britain has played the key role in provoking the Gulf region's instabilities. Last week, The Turkish government denounced Great Britain for "interfering in Turkey's internal affairs" and conspiring to destabilize and overthrow the regime of Prime Minister Ecevit.

Statements by Ecevit that Britain should not "interfere in Turkey's internal affairs" followed a diplomatic incident by British Ambassador to Turkey Sir Derek Dodson in the Parliament Dec. 26. On that day, when the parliament voted to impose martial law in 13 provinces following British-provoked riots in southeastern Turkey, Dodson ran down the halls of the assembly to congratulate Demirel for his role in weakening the Ecevit government and helping to bring about martial law.

Speaking before the parliament several days later, a deputy from the ruling Republican Peoples Party said: "Demirel (Suleyman Demirel, leader of Turkey's opposition Justice Party — ed.) has been caught in the act. It is proven that he is collaborating with foreign forces to

collapse the government." He then charged that a failed vote of censure against the Ecevit government called by Demirel had been ordered by Britain.

Foreign Minister Gunduz Okcun added that Dodson's actions were "incompatible with international law." He told the Parliament that he had summoned the British envoy to the ministry "for an explanation," noting that "necessary action will be taken."

The Turkish daily *Cumhuriyet* denounced Dodson as "indecent." Columnist Ali Sirmen took the occasion to recall Britain's long-standing tradition of trampling on the sovereignty of other nations.

Britain: "sick man of Europe"

Last month, at a press conference in Sweden, Ecevit himself identified the British as the source of Turkey's economic and political difficulties. When asked by a reporter to name Turkey's enemies, Ecevit readily responded by pointing to "those whose policy is the well-known policy of divide-and-conquer."

This denunciation of the British role in the political and economic destabilization of their country came at the height of violent sectarian clashes in Turkey.

The dramatic escalation of violence last month was deliberately ignited by neo-Nazi thugs tied to former Colonel Alparslan Turkes, who is intent on a military takeover.

Despite the initial elation of the British Ambassador, Demirel, and Turkes over the parliamentary declaration of martial law, the sequence of events since then has been for them most disappointing.

Ecevit is using the two-month martial law period to give the military the latitude that it needs to round up the British-controlled and Turkes-linked terrorist networks, a precondition for Turkey's political and economic stability and eventual integration into the European Monetary System!

In an interview Jan. 9 with the West German daily *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*, Ecevit said that a clampdown on terrorism was his main purpose in signing the martial law decree. Warning those who want to see Turkey become another Iran, Ecevit said that, unlike Iran, in Turkey extremist rabble-rousers cannot count on bargaining with his government, which will not bow to blackmail and terror tactics.

According to the Turkish press, Demirel is now pushing for the military to take complete control over every aspect of governmental responsibility including the economy — all in the name of martial law.

This, of course, would provide the perfect conditions for the implementation by force of the International Monetary Fund's austerity "recommendations," which the Turkish government under Ecevit has refused to carry out. Both Demirel and Turkes are at the same time attacking Ecevit for working so closely with the martial law commanders. Turkes provided the clarification: "martial law will not serve anything unless the present government is brought down."

— Nancy Parsons