

## Drift toward 'October War'?

*Israel maps military action against European cooperation with Arabs, Iran*

The Israeli military command, the U.S. State Department, and the London-NATO apparatus behind the 1980 Presidential campaign of General Alexander Haig have set into motion a scenario for another "October war" in the Middle East, according to information from highly placed Arab and European sources.

Camp David is dead, say these analysts. Instead, what the Israelis are planning is a lightning war against Syria and Iraq, possibly extending into the Arab oil-producing countries of the Persian Gulf, on a timetable of approximately ten to fourteen weeks.

The target of the U.S.-British-Israeli war preparations is the growing possibility of a firm alliance between the states of the European Community, led by aggressive French diplomacy and commercial and military policy, with the Arab League nations, especially Iraq and Saudi Arabia. President Giscard d'Estaing of France is planning yet another visit to the Persian Gulf sometime later this fall to consolidate the pact. Its elements are as follows:

- Sweeping French military arrangements with Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and other Arab oil-producing countries, including as much as \$5 billion in weapons, the deployment of French naval forces in the area, and a reported French nuclear umbrella over Saudi Arabia.
- Stepped-up state-to-state oil sales from the Arabs to France, bypassing the multinational oil companies, broadening into comprehensive oil-for-technology arrangements in which, among other things, France would ship nuclear technology into the Middle East.
- Close collaboration between French intelligence and key Arab counterintelligence agencies to root out Israeli, British, and American subversive networks in the Arab world, particularly in Iraq and Syria, in order to facilitate the planned union of those two countries.
- Finally, the French strategy includes official government support for the overthrow of the fascist regime of the Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran and the installation of the republican forces there led by Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar, who surfaced in exile last week in

Paris. Iraq, sources say, will cooperate with France to install the Bakhtiar forces in power in Iran.

### **Fundamental shift**

The French efforts—which, Paris sources report, have had the discreet backing of the Soviet Union ever since the Moscow visit earlier this year of President Giscard—are part of a strategy by the Paris leadership to challenge across the board the Middle East policy of the Carter Administration. France has decided to officially oppose the Camp David war pact between Egypt and the Israelis; and in addition, as it advocated at the recent Tokyo economic summit, to construct a new North-South Dialogue on energy and Third World development policy over the objections of Cyrus Vance's State Department and Zbigniew Brzezinski's National Security Council.

If successful, the French-led efforts will represent a fundamental shift in the balance of power in the Middle East. In effect, France will displace the United States as the basic guarantor of security for Saudi Arabia and the other small Arabian peninsula countries. The new Syria-Iraq union will, in French eyes, be a pillar of support for the security of the Gulf. And a republican regime in Iran, led by Bakhtiar, will put France in the position of premier power throughout the entire Persian Gulf.

This is unacceptable to London.

The initial London-Zionist design for the Middle East, the so-called Middle East Treaty Organization (METO) first proposed by Canadian Zionist Edgar Bronfman in 1978, has virtually broken down. It is no longer viable as a counterstrategy to the Arab and French position, and even Egypt's President Anwar Sadat must be seen as a liability, since he no longer has the credibility in the Arab world to make the METO design work.

So the Israelis, as the following report details, have launched their October War II scenario.

—Robert Dreyfuss