

as a warning that the OPEC nations may begin to slowly delimit the amount of oil this country receives because of Washington's failure to support the dollar or a viable Middle East policy.

—Judith Wyer

## How the Arabs are guaranteeing security

In an interview with *Executive Intelligence Review* on Oct. 2, an Arab military strategist expressed the view that the oil-producers of the Arabian Gulf area are threatened by a "triangle" of Iran, Oman, and Israel which, backed by the United States and Britain, is targeting the oil-producers for destabilization. Iran's "expansionist designs," Oman's "negotiations to allow the United States base rights," and Israel's "open talk of military intervention into the Gulf" add up to a "significant challenge to the oil-producing countries," he said.

Since then, with Iraq in the lead, the Arab Gulf states have acted to defuse the dangers of crisis in the Gulf. The most comprehensive statement was a letter to the editor of West Germany's *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* by the Iraqi ambassador to Bonn in response to an article by *Zeitung* military correspondent and International Institute of Strategic Studies member Adalbert Weinstein which had called for NATO preparedness in the Gulf.

"What has NATO got to do with oil?" the ambassador wrote. "All responsible people should act with resolve against the danger which many—including Weinstein—cause for international relations when they want to launch military crises instead of solving economic problems. Strategic fire-brigades, Atlantic armies or marine forces deployed in the Indian Ocean—to protect the oil fields?"

"My country, for example, is working intensively to achieve a new world economic order in which all nations can use materials and products in a way that is just for all. I think that such concerns should be enriched by worldwide initiatives and discussions. Despicable sabre-rattling such as that coming from Adalbert Weinstein ought to be ruled out."

Iraq has also circulated an official government

Arab states harbor any notion, policy or practice of discrimination on the grounds of creed, color, or ethnic background. Discrimination does not only run against our policies, interests, and principles, but also against the ethical and moral values of Islam that lie at the roots of Arab civilization. Any attempt to project sanctions, as if intended against people of the Jewish faith or persuasion, is not only untrue but it insults the humanist content of Arab nationalism and the Arab national character.

I have dealt on some problematic aspects of our relations because we are eager to develop and nurture further the friendliness between our two peoples. Only when we are conscious of the problems are we able to realize the potential for achievements. Relations between our two peoples have been, in many instances, close and indeed intimate. The pioneering experience of building this great country has been a source of inspiration

to the various anticolonial struggles in the Arab nation. The thrust for an integrated society, irrespective of race, religion or color, has been an example of sociopolitical humanism worthy of study and emulation. That is why at times we are surprised that price is a collective decision by members of OPEC which include Arab oil-producing countries but which are not exclusively Arab. This fact is known but the way it is projected smacks of a deliberate attempt to deflect the objective study of energy problems into a condition where "the Arab is made the scapegoat" and the energy problem "becomes a crisis."

Why is this being done so systematically and deliberately where as you know that the economic opportunities provided to the United States in the field of trade, investment, commerce, telecommunications have been made available and many of our markets accessible. Why

is there this continued attempt to assume that we are in any way attempting to "blackmail" when in fact we seek to synchronize our economic and financial policies to the legitimate quest for stability and progress in economic relations?

### **UAE Oil Minister: we will produce oil, but peace must be achieved**

*Last week a meeting of representatives from Europe and the Arab world held a conference in Rimini, Italy, on "Europe and the Arab world." At that conference, the oil minister from the United Arab Emirates, Mana Saeed Oteiba, delivered a speech which was the high point of the meeting. Here are excerpts:*

Within a few weeks the Arab gulf states will meet to prepare for the  
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proposal to its Arab neighbors in the Gulf for the formation of a "joint Arab force" to neutralize the threats from Oman and Iran. According to a report in the Oct. 5 *Christian Science Monitor*, this proposal was behind the tour of the Gulf made by Iraqi Defense Minister Khairallah. A joint Arab force is only phase one for a "regional security pact" comprising Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Qatar.

Those European military strategists informed of the Iraqi Defense Ministry proposal estimate that the plan means a Soviet and/or Soviet-European "nuclear umbrella" over the Arab oil-producing states, given Iraq's close ties to both the Soviets and the French. Any NATO move into the Gulf would thus cross the threshold of a nuclear shoot-out between the superpowers.

### **Taking on the Muslim Brotherhood**

Since the end of September when Iran's rulers threatened to destabilize Gulf governments, the Arab regimes have for the first time exposed the threat that Khomeini represents and have taken effective security measures.

One newspaper in Bahrain has editorialized that Iran is "using a pro-Palestinian cover but is bent on destabilizing the regimes of the region, which will only

reinforce the Zionist forces." Official Iraqi government papers have called Khomeini "the new Shah." Kuwait's *Ar Rai Al Aam* last week attacked the Iranian government for trying to "establish an empire through Islam and to rob the Arabs of their religion."

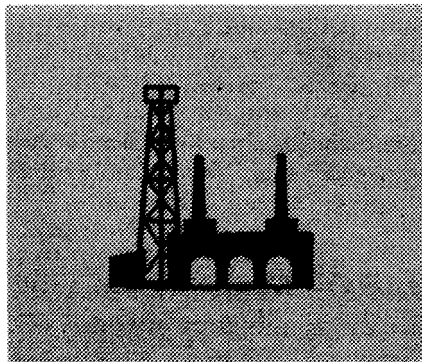
These comments converge on the evaluations of Khomeini made by this publication in reports throughout this year.

During the week of Sept. 24, the governments of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates expelled dozens of Khomeini agents from their countries, including family members of ayatollahs close to Khomeini.

When destabilization moves peaked against the nation of Bahrain, the entire Arabian peninsula rallied to its defense. In quick succession, the Iraqi defense minister, the foreign minister of Saudi Arabia, the commander of the Kuwaiti Navy, the chief of Kuwaiti security, and several other Arab delegations visited Bahrain to demonstrate their support against the Iranian threat.

During the same late-September period, almost every Arab Gulf country attacked Oman's proposals for Arab cooperation with NATO to "protect" the sea lanes in the Gulf.

—Mark Burdman



*Arab offers continued*

coming dialogue with the European Economic Community. I will just make clear some points on the main issues that will be discussed.

1. Trade: the Arabs need a liberalization of the trade with the EEC. We are not just producing oil, we also are producing petrochemicals and gas and this trade should be based on "laissez passer."

2. The Gulf states have industrial plans for many sectors; we need

markets. Europe has markets and probably similar production projects so we need to coordinate to avoid a common loss. Europe is now importing oil, in a few years it will import many other products. We have enormous common interests, industry, agriculture, communications, etc. We have deserts, Europe has agricultural lands. We need water. It can only come from desalination.

3. The oil aspect is the most important. We need someone that buys our oil. We cannot drink it. Our Western friends know that we want to produce at reasonable prices. Our present production is much higher than internal consumption, so we have the problem of having surplus money that we now put in banks with interest, but we want to invest. ... We do not want to negotiate prices and quantities for reasons of national sovereignty. The time when single industries were exploiting our resources is coming to an end. We want

relations among equals. Prices can be discussed only if the EEC wants to discuss its prices. ... We have to look for a plan for the future. A new world economic order is needed. The modern European technology is necessary to develop our countries, to increase the standard of living, to process raw materials.

There are very many problems that can be solved in any field. This effort occurs between two very old cultures. We are in a very important country, which produced an important culture for the whole world.

4. But there is the political aspect which is even more important. If there is no political agreement there can be no economic agreement. These are two aspects of the same problem. Europe has to understand our problem and consider our stand. We want a just solution to the Palestinian problem. We are asking the Europeans to participate in finding a solution with morality to the Mid-