

NATO to control Arab oil?

Judith Wyer reports on the connections between new pipeline routing, the Rapid Deployment Force buildup, and insurgent activity in the Gulf.

London, together with the multinational oil cartels and allied intelligence factions, is currently maneuvering to reroute Persian Gulf oil flows away from the Gulf into sea lanes that would be controlled by the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force (RDF). The most important new sea lane for crude flows is the Red Sea.

The RDF's role in the Middle East and Indian Ocean is not primarily to counter the Soviet Union, but to establish direct NATO control over the flow of vital raw materials. The idea is based on 20-year-old British intelligence plan for setting up a mobile strike force to police the region.

The command centers in the United States for NATO's bid for control of world raw material supplies are Mobil Oil Company and the Mobil-funded Georgetown University.

Mobil Oil is officially involved in every major project in Saudi Arabia to pipe Saudi oil across the Arabian peninsula, including the construction of a refinery which, sources say, will provide fuel for the future RDF troops slated to be stationed at the Ras Banas base across the Red Sea in Egypt.

As the accompanying map shows, the projected sites for U.S. or NATO-allied troops center on choke points for oil flows, with special emphasis on the Red Sea.

This scenario of bypassing the Gulf as a crude oil export route is premised on a dangerous strategic doctrine known among specialists as a Middle East "Yalta agreement" under which the superpowers would carve up the area into spheres of influence, and write off Iran as a Western ally. Such a plan is calculated to end direct access for continental Europe and Japan to Middle East crude, the lifeline of their economies.

Through the construction of a series of new pipelines, including the Mobil-built Yanbu pipeline, Gulf oil will be routed through Oman and Egypt, designated as sites for RDF bases. Jack Hayes, the director of cultural affairs for Mobil, boasted this week that Mobil "is the brains behind the construction of a new oil terminal and processing center. . . . I guess you could say that Mobil is bullish on the Red Sea."

All crude oil exported from Yanbu would exit the Red Sea, going either through the Egyptian-controlled

Suez Canal by tanker, or through the newly built Samed pipeline that runs through Egypt to the Mediterranean. Egyptian President Anwar Sadat announced last month that he would soon begin a second widening of the canal to allow fully loaded supertankers' transit.

Hayes indicated that the Saudis are presently studying enlargement of the pipeline to carry 3.5 million barrels a day, double its current capacity, to make it the largest and most expensive pipeline in the world—and Mobil is the prime contractor.

The British have urged the Saudis to build a second pipeline through Iraq, terminating in Oman. Following meetings last month between Saudi Defense Minister Sultan and his British counterpart, Lord Carrington, the Saudis proposed this project during a meeting last week of six Gulf states in Oman.

Threatening the Saudis

At the same time, London and its allies in the United States have run a systematic campaign against Saudi Arabia to force Riyadh to accept U.S. military "protection." Middle East scenarist Paul Erdman, author of the novel *The Crash of '79*, in which he promotes the idea of a shutdown of Gulf oil exports, has characterized the Saudi move to pipe oil to the Red Sea as "the result of the Khomeini revolution in Iran. That revolution has forced Saudi Arabia to accept U.S. military protection whether they want it or not."

Arab intelligence sources report that Mobil and its associates are aiming to install U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia, despite the vocal opposition of the current Riyadh regime. The source observed, "In the long term, Mobil and its friend [Secretary of State] Alexander Haig know that they have to shock the Saudis into submission with some violence like what happened at Mecca when the terrorists seized the [Grand] Mosque" during the Muslim pilgrimages in 1979.

As the Saudis and their Arab allies know, even the talk of a U.S. military presence on the Arabian peninsula is enough to invite a violent reaction from radical Arab groups.

Predictably, the public plans of Haig and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for militarizing the

Middle East have triggered Arab extremists against the Saudis and their oil-producing neighbors. During Thatcher's visit to the United States last month, she called for Britain and the U.S. to work together to create a Gulf strike force.

Shortly afterward, the Libyan-funded Beirut newspaper *As Safir* ran an exposé citing an "informed British source" reporting that the Reagan administration had asked the British government to allow American troops to use facilities on Cyprus to back up the RDF. At the same time, Libya's Muammar Qaddafi railed that the U.S. Sixth Fleet was preparing an operation against his regime.

Qaddafi also recently concluded a series of meetings with the president of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen for a joint backing of the proliferation of "liberation movements" that would challenge the region's pro-American regimes. A key asset in this endeavor is a Yemen-based terrorist group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman (PFLO).

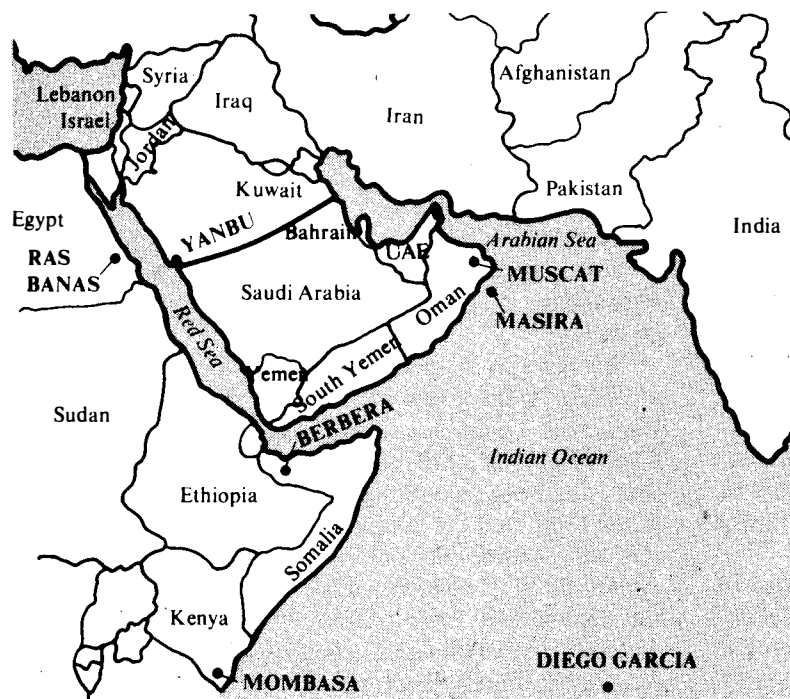
PFLO radio broadcasts have repeatedly linked the recently established Gulf Security Pact, headed by Saudi Arabia, with the just-completed military exercises between the RDF and British-controlled Oman, which is a member of the pact.

The six-member pact was designed to be nonaligned, but Oman's participation in the RDF maneuvers has given the Arab radicals a new pretext for insurgency. A broadcast monitored recently threatened the unleashing of "internal movements" against Gulf states that will "threaten the oil resources" of the Gulf.

Last month, the PFLO, with Libyan and Yemeni backing, set up a "freedom front" for the Gulf to consolidate Jacobin destabilizations. The Islamic dictatorship of Ayatollah Khomeini is known to be working on a parallel course with the Arab liberationists, with repeated threats to shut down the flow of oil through the Straits of Hormuz at the Gulf mouth.

London journalist Robert Moss, a mouthpiece for British intelligence, last week charged that the Soviets are behind the growing threat to stability in the Gulf. Writing in the London *Daily Telegraph*, Moss reported that the Saudis recently discovered three plots linked to the Soviet KGB to overthrow the Saudi royal family.

Moss's propaganda line is typical of current moves to promote left-right polarization of the Arab world, which moves London reckons will force the Saudis to accept a British-American military umbrella. To do this presupposes that internal destabilization will paralyze or destroy that faction of the Saudi leadership allied to



The U.S. Rapid Deployment Force to be based at Ras Banas, Egypt—just across the Red Sea from the new Saudi oil complex at Yanbu—is part of the plan to put Mideast oil flows under NATO control.



First Crown Prince Fahd, a faction informally allied with continental Europe in a comprehensive plan for petrodollar financing of oil-for-technology industrialization deals.

Resource war

Dr. Alvin Cottrell, director of the Georgetown University Center for Strategic and International Studies and an adviser to the Reagan administration, this week indirectly confirmed that the Saudis are not interested in having an American military presence on their soil. Cottrell stated bluntly that the United States "is aiming to project its power both from Oman and Saudi Arabia . . . but we have to go slow with the Saudis. We have to back in there in such a way that it won't rock the boat."

Beyond the official requests for U.S. military rights at the designated bases, Israel's former Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, a proponent of extending NATO's forces into the region, has advocated installing American troops on the Sinai at bases Israel is slated to evacuate in 1982 as part of the Camp David accords between Israel and Egypt.

The originators of this policy are centered around intelligence fronts in London including a group that calls itself Aims for Industry. In 1978, Aims for Industry held an international symposium that called for broader cooperation between the private industrial sector and the military to prepare for a resource war—a theme that has gained currency within Anglo-American oligarchical circles as the basis for militarizing parts of the developing sector rich in vital raw materials like petroleum.

The London-based Foreign Affairs Research Institute has also recently released studies on the coming conflict between the superpowers over dwindling resources in order to justify a military buildup in width around the southern hemisphere.

This policy was the topic of a June 1980 conference in Pittsburgh sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh entitled "The Resources War in 3-D—Dependency, Diplomacy, and Defense." At that conference, special attention was given to Saudi Arabia, which, because of its vast oil wealth, was designated as a country that must maintain a "special" military alliance with the United States.

A conduit for this policy in the United States is Frank Barnett, president of the National Strategy Information Center in New York. His call for a tri-oceanic alliance of Europe, Japan, and the U.S. to engage in resource warfare was accepted by the Pittsburgh conference.

This circle extends to the Institute for the Study of Conflict in London, which is associated with Robert Moss, and whose specialty is simulated "conflict stud-

ies" for the developing sector. Former Kennedy administration official George Ball helped to set up the institute's Washington office. According to Arab sources, Ball maintains his own connections to Middle East radical circles.

The proposed tradeoff

Policy-making circles associated with the London-based Royal Institute for International Affairs and the New York Council on Foreign Relations have circulated a scenario allowing Iran to be incorporated into the Soviet sphere of influence, in exchange for Soviet acquiescence of a NATO occupation of the Arabian peninsula and the Red Sea.

As an inducement, the Soviets are being offered Iranian natural gas. Under the Pahlavi regime, Moscow and Teheran had reached an agreement to provide the U.S.S.R. with Iranian gas as part of a swap whereby the Soviets in their turn would pipe Siberian natural gas to Europe. Moscow is still pursuing the gigantic gas-export deal with Europe, although parts of the southern U.S.S.R. have been hurt by the loss of Iranian gas imports.

A Washington source notes that "renewed Iranian gas exports to the Soviet Union could make it a lot easier for Siberian gas exports, which Moscow really needs for foreign exchange."

As Dr. Cottrell observed, there is a "stick" in this plan as well. "Even if the Soviets get in there, they might find that they cannot calm things down as easily as they thought. . . . The very fabric of Iran's society, the military, has been torn apart, and now there's nothing to hold the place together."

Reports are mounting in the American press that the dominant party in Iran, the Islamic Republican Party (IRP) is closely coordinating with the Tudeh [communist] party there to assist in the IRP's bid to consolidate its power and oust President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr.

Within this so-called Yalta framework, London is counting on the "class war" foreign policy apparatus in the Soviet Union associated with British triple agent Kim Philby, a KGB general. It is this Soviet faction that is actively promoting Arab extremism on one side of the Gulf, and the fanatical mullahs on the other. It is also this faction that shares the outlook of the Anglo-American elite, exemplified by Mobil, in its plan to use the deployment force to end Arab and Third World national sovereignty and establish still-greater levels of resource control in the area.

Thus far, the Soviet faction associated with Leonid Brezhnev has resisted the Philby policy, but each new move to militarize the Persian Gulf is calculated to increase to pressure on Moscow to agree to "divide up" the region.