

these, including an amplified Mediterranean-Dead Sea canal-project, are within Israel's physical means. For other cases, Israel's potential role is that of a participating vendor. In both kinds of instances, this sort of development is the world-market setting for Israel's foreseeable potentials—on condition that the world comes back to its senses on monetary and economic policy-issues. . . .

The cultural impact of economic policy

The general threats to Israel's existence are the same as the imminent peril to civilization entirely. These threats include the Soviet government's continuing escalation in the direction of an early thermonuclear confrontation with the United States. . . .

More immediately, in the Middle East, including Egypt and Sudan, global currents take the form of an accelerating, deadly spread of an insurgency of lunatic *Sufism*, merely typified by what is loosely named "Islamic Fundamentalism." This Sufi movement appears to be dominated today by Nazi financial interests of Switzerland. . . . This is not a matter of quaint old SS men hiding under burnouses in Aleppo or Damascus, and calling themselves some silly name such as "Sheikh Ahmed von Schicklgruber"—like Switzerland's Ahmed Huber. . . . The Islamic-Nazi-centered network is a semi-autonomous force of increasing strategic significance in the world today. Worse, massive collaboration between this network and such Soviet agencies as the KGB and Oriental Institute tilts the strategic balance of forces in regions of the world. . . .

Israel is confronted by the need for short-term fire-fighting measures to contain the rising danger accumulating at its borders. This is perhaps generally agreed upon in Israel. . . . Short-term military solutions, supplemented by paramilitary intelligence operations are not to be discarded categorically, of course. The medium-term, to long-term solutions must be predominantly cultural-political. The task is that of shaping military and related policies in such a way that these do not negate the medium-term to long-term measures required. . . .

Rather than proposing something so neat, but also so simplistic as the "westernization" of Islamic nations, I would propose that the rise of the Arab renaissance is a precedent to be studied. The task is that of stimulating among Arabic-speaking populations a humanist culture, a republican culture. The key to this is to make the fact that the divine potential of the individual, expressed by creative-mental powers, is the valuable and real aspect of the new-born child. Let that single principle do the work. Set that principle into efficient action with aid of technological progress. Defend technological progress, and aid selectively if indirectly those forces which reflect the desired process. Shape the promotion of technological progress to serve this spiritual purpose. . . .

Let us take out the maps of the world, the maps of the region most emphatically. Let us proceed to plan the blossoming of the region, economically and culturally, over the coming two generations. Let us be master statesmen. Let us be philosopher-kings.

The disappearance What role did the

by Judith Wyer

Since Secretary of State George Shultz conferred with Syrian President Hafez Assad in early July, Syria has come increasingly under Soviet military control, and there are signs that a group of Syrian hardliners within Assad's inner circle has usurped much of the Syrian strongman's power. And yet the State Department still insists that Assad can be pressured to the negotiating table.

The turn came on Nov. 12 when Assad disappeared from public sight. Since then rumors have abounded about his multiple ailments; there were also reports that a bodyguard acting as a Soviet agent attempted an assassination which left Assad seriously wounded.

Assad's disappearance was timed with Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Khalim Khaddam's visit to Moscow, where differences were aired over a number of subjects, including Syria's military drive against Arafat. Moscow displeasure at the Assad regime is said to have touched on Assad's proclivity toward "keeping the door" open with the United States, and his even leaning towards President Reagan's Mideast peace policy if it included returning the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights to Syria.

Satrapy of Moscow

Moscow is quickly transforming Syria into a powerful satrapy in Moscow's global war buildup against the United States. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger warned on Dec. 14 that the U.S.S.R. had increased its number of "advisers" in Syria by 1,000 in recent weeks to a total of 8,000. Soviet personnel exclusively man the SS-21 and SAM-5 missile systems on Syrian territory; Syrian forces are reported to be prevented from entering these missile sites. Late last month Syrian Defense Minister Mustaffa Tlas boasted that these missiles are capable of hitting both the U.S. fleet off the Lebanese coast and major population centers in Israel, including the Negev, the suspected site of Israel's nuclear arsenal.

Since the Tlas statement both Israel and the United States

of Syria's Assad: Soviets play?

have stepped up air reconnaissance over Syrian missile sites. Israel has deployed unmanned drones over Syrian territory to activate these systems and survey their capabilities and exact locations, in preparation for possible air strikes inside Syria which Washington analysts say will be triggered should Tlas's late-November warning of eventual Syrian air kamikaze strikes on the U.S. flotilla be borne out.

Two days before Assad's disappearance, Syrian Culture Minister Najah al-Attar circulated a secret document to the leaders of the ruling Ba'ath Party calling for a Syrian-centered nationwide front to challenge the United States and Israel. The document states: "Our front against American aggression now consists of Syria, the Palestinian units, the National Lebanese front, Libya, South Yemen, Iran, and Algeria. This front is capable of powerful blows that will make the United States suffer very heavy losses and sustain attrition, week after week, and month after month, as in Vietnam. This conflict will not remain either local or limited. We can marshal enough regional and above all international forces to stand up to the United States and Israel."

Both Tlas and Al-Attar, a member of the leading Syrian Muslim Brotherhood family, are considered to be rising stars within the secretive Ba'ath ranks. They have been the most outspoken in defending the Syrian-Soviet military axis. With Assad's future in question, these hardliners are thought to be Moscow's choice.

Assad's brother Rifaat, the head of Syrian intelligence and security, is seen as the most likely replacement, but there are questions as to how long he could maintain power. There have already been some personnel changes within Syrian intelligence which reflect Soviet pressure on Damascus to toe its line. A few months ago one General Ghanem, a leading official in Syrian intelligence, was sacked over the issue of Syria's bid to take over the PLO.

Soviet deployments

On Sept. 26, not long after the first reports that the

U.S.S.R. was deploying SS-21 missiles to Syria, Al-Attar told a Kuwaiti newspaper that the Soviets had formulated an emergency plan to transport 25,000 Soviet troops to the region in the event of an all-out war with Israel and the United States.

The same day Hafez al Assad disappeared, the London-based weekly *Al Majallah* quoted Arab diplomats that a Soviet military delegation had just visited Damascus to request the construction of a Soviet naval base at Tartus.

Less than a month later, Soviet Marshal Ogarkov, the chief of staff of the Soviet Armed Forces, made his first trip outside the Warsaw Pact this year, visiting Algeria at the invitation of the Algerian defense ministry. Ogarkov reportedly requested increased Soviet-Algerian military cooperation, including Algerian military support for Syria in the event of war, and increased Algerian naval cooperation in the eastern Mediterranean.

Days before Ogarkov arrived in Algeria, European sources reported that Libya had deployed a submarine into the Eastern Mediterranean to "observe" the U.S. fleet off the Lebanese coast. Libya is said to have built up an impressive fleet of mini subs and gunboats equipped with fast missiles.

Since early November Damascus has been the center of intensive diplomacy involving the Warsaw Pact countries, Libya and South Yemen, the radical Arab allies of Iran and Syria, and Palestinian extremists out to eliminate Yasser Arafat. Damascus has been the planning center of a two part anti-U.S. strategy; first drawing the United States and Israel into direct military confrontation, and second intensifying global terrorism utilizing Muslim suicide squads trained in Iran by North Koreans and Bulgarians.

Iranian terrorists in Syria

Syria has increasingly become a transit point for Iranian terrorists to enter Lebanon and beyond. On Nov. 30, Mostafa Mirsalim, the chief adviser to Iranian President Ali Khomeini, conferred with Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam in Damascus. Also at the meeting was director general of the Afro-Asian affairs of the Iranian foreign ministry Hossein Lavasani, who had just visited the northern Lebanese town of Tripoli. The same day the Lebanese press reported that Iranian revolutionary guards armed with surface-to-surface missiles were brought to Beirut's southern suburbs near the U.S. Marine outpost and within shooting range of the U.S. fleet. Iran reported about the same time that it was deploying 4,000 martyrs to Syria, code words for yet another terrorist deployment.

White House Special Envoy to the Middle East Donald Rumsfeld began talks on the Lebanese crisis Dec. 14 in Damascus only hours after the U.S. warship *New Jersey* delivered the most powerful attacks to date from the U.S. fleet against Syrian positions in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

The day before Rumsfeld arrived in Damascus, the Syrian Ba'ath regime called nationwide mass demonstrations against the United States and Israel.