

# War danger looms over Palestine talks

by Jeffrey Steinberg

As this issue of *EIR* goes to press, a showdown is nearing at the March 11 Israeli Inner Cabinet session over whether the Yitzhak Shamir-led coalition government will agree to participate in the tripartite Israel-Egypt-U.S. foreign ministers' meeting which has been proposed for months to work out ground rules for elections in the Israeli-occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza. If the Likud bloc refuses to accept the terms proposed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker III for a ministerial meeting, the Labor Party may bring down the government and seek to form a weak regime in partnership with leftist and religious parties.

If the Israeli government crisis plays out along those lines, a sharp polarization will result, vastly increasing the chance of a Middle East war in the short-term future. The hardline faction of the Likud, centered around recently resigned cabinet minister Ariel Sharon, will gain significant power and will press even more forcefully its demand that a Palestinian state be constituted on the east bank of the Jordan River, in what is now the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Such a "Jordan is Palestine" plan could only be imposed through a brutal mass expulsion of the Arab population of the West Bank and Gaza—i.e., a Fourth Arab-Israeli War.

While Prime Minister Shamir might back down under the combined pressures of the Bush administration, the Labor Party, and segments of the American Jewish community, a convening of the tripartite foreign ministers' session would in itself only buy a six-month delay in the crisis.

Other regional factors are also impelling the eastern Mediterranean in the direction of war.

- The United States is committed to the ouster of Gen. Michel Aoun as prime minister and the imposition of a Pax Syriana over Lebanon. By one version, the Bush administration believes that it can reach a modus vivendi with Syria's Assad regime under which the Soviet presence in Damascus will be greatly reduced and Syria will come under the American sphere of influence. The thrust of American and Saudi diplomacy in the Taif talks has focused on this effort.

- Jailed American statesman Lyndon LaRouche has warned of a Soviet-American agreement to push for a major rise in the price of oil during the next several years, to a level of perhaps \$35 a barrel in 1990 values. As in the 1973-74 juncture, such a new oil hoax would be triggered by an Arab-Israeli war, jeopardizing the flow of petroleum from the Per-

sian Gulf. City of London sources have hailed such a war-driven oil price hike as surefire way to kill Franco-German plans to massively industrialize Eastern Europe. The talk of a new oil hoax among London's petroleum dealers jibes with reports of a secret Anglo-Soviet-South African accord to create a gold and precious metals cartel. Such a move would also boost Moscow's ability to tap Western credit lines.

## The Kissinger factor

As LaRouche put it in a March 7 statement: "Coming out of circles close to the London petroleum cartel—sometimes known as the Petrol Six—the word is that we can expect oil prices to rise over the course of the 1990s to the equivalent of a current \$35 a barrel. That means, of course, that somebody is planning a new Middle East war.

"One should recall that back in the days when Henry Kissinger was younger, or a bit younger, that the way the oil price hoax was rigged in 1973-74 was the orchestration of an Israeli-Arab war, which was orchestrated by not only Henry Kissinger in his position in Washington, but by Kissinger's masters in London, specifically forces centered around the Royal Institute for International Affairs, otherwise known as Chatham House."

The impetus for war is also being fueled by such well-known Kissinger collaborators as whiskey baron Edgar Bronfman. The recipient of an East German medal of honor by communist boss Erich Honecker just before his ouster last October, Bronfman has been a major player in the back-channel deals for delivery of tens of thousands of Russian Jewish emigrés to Israel. If the Bronfman plan goes forward, several hundred thousand Russian Jews will flood into Israel in the next few years, creating a grave infrastructure crisis which the Sharon crowd will seek to resolve by building up Jewish colonies all over the occupied territories, and possibly in East Jerusalem.

President Bush fueled the hardliners' mobilization on March 2, when, in an impromptu press conference, he demanded that Israel cease all new settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. The reference to East Jerusalem drew howls of protest from American Jewish leaders, who saw a change in policy beyond the opposition to new settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, to an implicit denial of Israeli claims over the entire city of Jerusalem. After a meeting with B'nai B'rith International President Seymour Reich, the administration on March 4 issued a clarification, that there was no change in U.S. policy, and that the President had misspoken.

The Bush-Baker pressure on Israel seems coordinated with the Soviets. The White House props up the narco-terrorist Assad regime in Syria, while threatening, via Sen. Robert Dole, to reduce aid to Israel. No true peace in the region will be forthcoming except through an economic development plan beneficial to Arabs and Israel alike, as LaRouche has long proposed.