

Superpowers prepare Mideast war, 'final solution' to Arab 'problem'

by Joseph Brewda

The U.S., Soviet, and British governments are planning a new Arab-Israeli war in the Middle East. The Soviets and Anglo-Americans want to make a jointly sponsored Syrian-Israeli de facto military and political alliance into the unchallengeable power of the region. The current thinking among the Anglo-Americans and the Soviets is that the best way to establish that alliance as the dominant regional force is through war. Despite appearances to the contrary, it has been longstanding Anglo-American and Soviet policy to make a "Greater Israel" and a "Greater Syria" into the Middle East's regional superpowers.

That a Middle East war is on the agenda was indicated by the composition of the Israeli cabinet finally contrived by Israeli Prime Minister and Likud bloc leader Yitzhak Shamir on June 11. The new Israeli government coalition's cabinet is a war cabinet dominated by Gen. Ariel Sharon, the minister of housing; David Levy, the foreign minister; Yitzhak Modai, the finance minister; and Moshe Arens, the defense minister. All are Israeli expansionists who want to formally annex the occupied West Bank and drive out the Palestinian population into Jordan, as soon as they think it is possible.

Without a doubt, the new regime's strongman is Sharon, who, as defense minister in 1982, commanded the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon. Sharon's post as housing minister might seem unimportant; it is not. Sharon will oversee the settlement of hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews into Israel, which began earlier this year. At the same time, he is overseeing the coordination and arming of the "Jewish underground" settler movement among the fanatical settlers of the West Bank. They will have a specific task in driving out Palestinians from the West Bank.

Because the government Likud bloc-led coalition only has a one-seat majority, the defection of even one of its members would bring the government down. The only unifying feature of the new regime is their expansionist policy, and their willingness to go to war. If the government does fall, however, it could be replaced by a grand coalition also dedicated to war. Labor Party expansionist Yitzhak Rabin, who had been prime minister and defense minister in former governments, is now conspiring to replace Shimon Peres

as party leader. Under one scenario that is currently under discussion in Washington, Rabin would be brought into a key post in a grand coalition government, perhaps formally led by Shamir, in a few months.

A new oil crisis

While the primary intent of the planned war is to strengthen the Syrian-Israeli axis, the superpowers also want a new oil crisis, as in 1973. A rapid rise in the price of oil would greatly benefit the Soviets who depend on oil, among a few other products, for badly needed foreign exchange. A new price hike would also make Britain's North Sea oil development quite profitable, while simultaneously putting massive pressure on the oil-dependent Germans and Japanese.

Setting a precedent for the use of chemical and nuclear weapons may be another goal of the war. It should not be ignored, in this respect, that the racist establishments of Russia, Britain, and the United States view the growth of the Arab population with great alarm. The projected war is seen as a population war, whose effects, particularly those hitting the civilian population in the aftermath of the war, will be catastrophic. The manner in which the Anglo-Americans have guided the Lebanese civil war as a means of shattering that nation provides a partial model for their thinking regarding the use of war as a population reduction measure. The planned war can be termed a "North-South war" in this respect.

Regional terms of the war

The more limited objectives of the war, as defined by the agreement to strengthen the Syrian-Israeli axis, include the elimination of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as a force in the region; the overthrow of Jordan's King Hussein; and the humiliation and possible overthrow of Iraq's Saddam Hussein. Once those objectives are reached, Israel and Syria intend to make Jordan into the "homeland" for Palestinians driven out of the occupied West Bank and to complete the Syrian annexation of Lebanon. A jointly administered Syrian-Israeli puppet state of Jordan could then be used as a launching point for future military adventures.

The first act of the new Shamir government of Israel was to establish secret negotiations with the Syrians. The negotiations have been mediated by the U.S. Embassy in Damascus. One prime purpose for the Israeli initiation of the negotiations has been to ensure that Syria knew that it would not be a target in the upcoming Israeli-Arab war, and also to define mutual targets. The common ground of these negotiations is that Syria and Israel have the same enemies: the PLO and Iraq, and the same friends, the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

These common friends and enemies define military targets, and also the likely way the war will be triggered.

1) The PLO: Neither the United States or Russia, nor Syria or Israel, wants the PLO to exist any longer. A limited Israeli operation in southern Lebanon in the first stages of the war, or even preceding the war, would finish off the 12,000-man PLO army based in the area east of Sidon. Syrian-controlled Druze units in southern Lebanon may help Israeli forces in wiping out the PLO. If, however, war does not ultimately occur, these same Israeli and Syrian "cleansing operations" in Lebanon will better allow for a formal Syrian-Israeli separate peace, including the demilitarization of the presently Israeli-controlled Golan Heights.

2) Iraq: Iraq is the one country in the region which does not fit into the regional condominium policy, and is an enemy of Syria and Israeli alike. Iraq is the most likely point for a full scale war, many say.

Despite much ranting in the Western media about Iraq's military prowess, the eastern front, made up of the combined forces of Iraq and Jordan, is not what it is asserted to be. Israeli forces would break through Arab lines in two to three hours, compared to the six hours it took Israeli forces to crack Egyptian lines in 1967. The rest will be mopping-up operations on Jordanian territory.

It is unlikely that Israeli forces will penetrate very far into Iraq, if at all, since their supply lines could be cut in Jordan. Israel has no capacity to deal with Iraq's populated areas. On the other hand, an Israeli force may choose to strike the Kirkuk oil fields in northern Iraq, possibly simultaneous with a Kurdish uprising in that region. This would provide the pretext for a new increase in the price of oil, one of the included objectives for Bush's support of the war plan. The insurgent Kurds are British controlled, and Britain would also like an oil price hike.

To add to the pressure on Iraq, British intelligence has been attempting to worsen relations between Turkey and Iraq.

3) Jordan: George Bush has let it be known to King Hussein that he is not wanted. Jordanian relations with the United States are at their lowest point ever. The pretext for Bush's harsh attitude toward King Hussein is Hussein's close relationship with Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The actual reason is to settle the "Palestinian problem" once and for all.

Once Jordan is crushed by the war, it is a relatively simple

matter for Sharon's armed Jewish settler militias to drive 100,000 or more West Bank Arabs over the Jordanian river through conducting "justified massacres."

A pretext for war must always be found. It is most likely that Israel, with the cooperation of Syria, will manufacture some dramatic terrorist atrocity against the Israeli population sufficient to justify war in response. The Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982 was justified on a similar pretext: An assassination attempt against an Israeli diplomat in London by the Israeli intelligence-funded Palestinian terrorist organization of Abu Nidal. It is a very easy matter for Israel to set up such a bloody atrocity against its own population.

Another possible pretext could be the creation of a border incident with Jordan. For example, the ongoing political crisis in Jordan could be exacerbated. Crowds of Jordanian demonstrators could be induced to attack Israeli positions on the Jordan river. Such attacks have occurred several times over the last year. A particularly bloody attack could be used to justify an Israeli strike over the Jordanian river.

A scan of relevant U.S. and British press shows that the propaganda basis for a war is being systematically built through portraying Saddam Hussein as the region's bogeyman. Anglo-American media outlets have been harping on Saddam Hussein's threats to Israel, while systematically censoring Israel's threats to various Arab states. This press barrage began in March, following the Iraqi execution of an Israeli-British spy, Farzad Barzoff.

The secret Israeli-Soviet deal

In wars, and preparations for wars, there are always games within games. The most striking example of this phenomenon in current developments is the secret negotiations now ongoing between the Israelis and the Soviets.

The ongoing negotiations between the Shamir government and the Soviet government take much more precise form than negotiations between Israel and the United States. The main topic of negotiations are:

- a) the uninterrupted flow of Soviet Jews to Israel;
- b) intelligence cooperation between Israel and the Soviets in Eastern Europe and South America;
- c) the downgrading of, or end of, Israel's secret commitments to the southern flank of NATO.

The Soviets have now agreed to make Israel the dominant military and intelligence power in the region. They have agreed to Israel's military role, contingent on its termination of its NATO affiliation. It has made Israel the dominant intelligence power because Moscow has much to gain from Israeli intelligence in Eastern Europe and South America in particular. One figure who will play a key role in this intelligence coordination will be Markus Wolf, the former head of foreign operations for East German intelligence. Joint operations will be coordinated out of Finland and Hungary, based on arrangements made by Seagram's liquor baron and World Jewish Congress president Edgar Bronfman.