

MIDDLE EAST: THE PUSH FOR WAR CONTINUES

SIMON: SAUDI ARABIA, LAST "WILLING AND ABLE" ALLY OF U.S. IN OPEC

March 11 (IPS)--U.S. Treasury Secretary William Simon admitted yesterday in an interview printed in today's New York Times that the recently announced oil production cutbacks in Saudi Arabia represent an attempt to maintain oil prices and hold off the collapse of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

PETERSON: USSR WON'T RISK NUCLEAR WAR IN MIDDLE EAST

March 11 (IPS)--Underlining the desperation now rampant in the Rockefeller financier faction as OPEC and the U.S. dollar dis-integrate, Peter G. Peterson, former Secretary of Commerce and an investment banker at Lehman Bros., has explicitly threatened nuclear blackmail against the Soviet Union in the Middle East. According to today's reports in the Baltimore Sun, Peterson "doubts that Moscow will risk nuclear war in the Middle East to bring down capitalism," adding, "Pragmatism will triumph over ideology."

IRAQI LONDON AMBASSADOR CALLS ON KURDISH "REFUGEES" TO PARTICIPATE IN IRAQ'S DEVELOPMENT

March 12 (IPS)--Next to an editorial "obituary" for the Kurdish movement that also calls upon the Iraqis to ease up their action against the Kurds or face extensive guerrilla war and further hijacking-type provocations, yesterday's London Times printed a letter from the Iraqi Ambassador to Britain, Abdul-Malik-Al-Yasin. Yasin states that press reportage of the so-called "Kurdish problem" focuses on a handful of recalcitrant individuals who reject all Iraqi offers for autonomy within the Republic of Iraq and he calls on all Iraqi Kurdish nationals, described as "refugees" to return to their country in order to participate in the striving after a better future.

TIMES, POST KEEP UP PROPAGANDA FOR KURDS AGAINST IRAQ

March 12 (IPS)--While today's Washington Post gives front page coverage to Jim Hoagland's report from Beirut that the "Kurds vow to fight on in Iraq," the New York Times carries three articles heralding the CIA's Kurdistan battles.

In "straight" news coverage, both the Times and Post give

prominent coverage to new "guerrilla tactics" by the Barzani forces. While Hoagland warns of "a collapse of the Kurds as a significant military force within weeks," he quotes "one intelligence source" that "Barzani is toughest when cornered."

MOSLEMS VS. CHRISTIANS IN LEBANON: SOCIAL CRISIS WORSENS

March 12 (IPS)--Today's New York Times reports that Moslem leaders in half Moslem, half Christian Lebanon are demanding that the Lebanese Army Command be reorganized in order to give Moslems a greater voice in controlling army policy. Seventy-five per cent of the officer class of the army is now Christian.

WASHINGTON POST SAYS "ISRAELIS GROW SUSPICIOUS OF KISSINGER

March 13 (IPS)--According to a news analysis in today's Washington Post, there is "growing doubt" in the Israeli public about Henry Kissinger's "peace-making ability." Referring to widespread resentment against "his fetish for secrecy, his reputation for having a high ego quotient and his apparent tactic...of saying different things to the opposing sides in a negotiation," the Post adds that such feelings are intensifying as the "Kissinger-inspired agreements and policies relating to Vietnam and Cambodia now appear to be coming apart."

PLO MILITARY COMMANDER VOWS TO STRIKE AGAINST ISRAELI INTERESTS IN U.S.

March 13 (IPS)--According to an Associated Press dispatch from Damascus, Syria, the head of the military section of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Zouheir Mohsen, blasted yesterday that "we will strike at any Israeli strategic target wherever we can reach it, in Israel or in Japan or in the United States.

Significantly, Mohsen is simultaneously head of the Syrian backed Saiqa terrorist unit. Syria and the PLO are moving toward consolidating a joint military command, in accordance with the Rockefeller strategy to provoke a new war on Israel's northern flank through an occupation of southern Lebanon.

IRAQ CP: "NO HOSTILITY TOWARD JEWISH WORKING CLASS"

March 14 (IPS)--In a powerful move to break the Rockefeller-manipulated "Zionist-Arab" tension in the Middle East, a representative of the Iraqi Communist Party (ICP) has stated that "the Arabs have no hostile feelings toward the Jewish working class at all."

The ICP representative, Abdel Hassan, interviewed in the West German Communist daily *Unsere Zeit* yesterday, further counterposed Iraq's use of its oil revenues for development to the manner in which the Rockefeller-controlled regimes in Iran, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia "use their income for militarization and armaments" and "invest their capital in Great Britain, West Germany and the United States."

SOVIETS CALL FOR MIDDLE EAST "SYSTEM OF RELATIONS"--INCLUDING ISRAEL

March 14 (IPS)--According to UPI, the Soviet Union has denounced Secretary of State Kissinger's manipulations of Arab-Israeli tension "step by step", called for the convening of the Geneva Peace Conference, and stated its willingness to support a "system of relations in the Middle East among all the people in the region without exception" --i.e. including Israel-- to best aid the long-term interests of the area.

ISRAELI OFFICIAL RESPONDS TO ICP STATEMENT

March 14 (IPS)--An Israeli official in New York contacted today by IPS about the statement by Abdel Hassan of the Iraqi Communist Party responded, "If it is true, I will bless them. Absolutely." The official added, "We have always said that the Soviets and the U.S. should produce tractors, not tanks." "Tractors, not tanks" is the slogan of the International Caucus of Labor Committees and the US Labor Party.

SHAH TO BREAK ACCORD WITH IRAQ?

March 14 (IPS)--Yesterday's *Daily Telegraph*, a British right-wing daily, claims that "there are strong indications" that the Shah of Iran will soon consider the Iran-Iraq accord to be "abrogated."

Reacting to psywar editorials in the Rockefeller press that he has "betrayed" the Kurds and that Iraq is committing a "war of genocide" --in the words of the *Telegraph* reporter Richard Beeston-- the Shah will likely "reverse" himself, according to a reliable source in touch with developments in Iran, in an interview with IPS yesterday.

ISRAELI CHIEF OF STAFF PREPARES FOR WAR AT LEBANESE BORDER

March 15 (IPS)--Heightening the war scare on the northern front, yesterday's *Jerusalem Post* ran front-page headlines, "Gur Warns of War in the North." Israel's chief of staff, General Mordecai

Gur, touring the Northern border, warned that war could break out on the Lebanese border in view of increasing concentrations of terrorists and Palestine Liberation Units in that area.

ISRAEL REPORTED ON FULL ALERT

March 16 (IPS)--As the option for war between Israel and her northern neighbors heats up, the German magazine Bild Am Sonntag yesterday reported that the Israeli army is on full alert in major parts of the country, citing the reason as Syria's and Egypt's preparations for war.

Meanwhile, the Financial Times quotes the Palestinian News Agency Wafa as saying that Israeli troops are massing on the Syrian and Lebanese border "in preparation for a wide scale offensive."

LONDON TIMES FEARS GROWING INFLUENCE OF "RADICAL" IRAQ

MARCH 16 (IPS)--In a strongly worded editorial yesterday's London Times fearfully cites Iraq's growing influence on the course of Middle East and World Affairs, reflecting terror of the Rockefeller cabal in the face of Iraq's organizing initiatives.