

tive in Europe for Israel among right-wing, Rockefeller-controlled "Die Spinne" intelligence circles, building intimate relations with French rightists around Jacques Soustelle and with West German neo-Nazis around Franz-Josef Strauss. Through these connections, helped to obtain Israel's atomic weapon capability at Dimona. Was also Israel's leading arms procurer from European right-wing circles... Described recently by a leading Israeli expert as "the most pliable pigeon-servant of the U.S. ever . He's a Big Zero, an opportunist, with platitudes that appeal to the semi-literate."

General Yigal Yadin

Chief of Democratic Movement of Change... Israel's Chief of Staff during the 1948-49 "War of Independen-

dence"... The archaeologist who discovered the Masada findings, thereby resurrecting the tale of national suicide at the hands of the invading Romans. Uses archaeology to "prove" that Jews have always been a separate and apart nation, giving religious-ideological underpinning for Zionist myths. Works with American Schools of Oriental Research, an archaeological center originally established by John D. Rockefeller, now with extensive State Department connections. One leading U.S. archaeologist, listening to Yadin speak, judged that Yadin "is not a man of peace"... Yadin spent several months recently in the U.S., then returned to Israel to set up "Democratic Movement for Change"... Described by a close relation teaching at a U.S. university as "close to the U.S. National Security Council."

Tunisia On Center Stage In The Mahgreb

TUNISIA

Tunisia, long an Atlanticist satrapy and a source of problems for its progressive neighbors in north Africa in consequence, has recently emerged at the center of a flurry of Euro-Arab-Soviet diplomatic activity which can change the political geometry of the Mediterranean basin. Under pressure from its Mahgreb neighbors on one side and the Soviet and Italian governments on the other, Tunisia is breaking with its "sore thumb" profile, and has begun to settle petty disputes with Algeria and Libya and undertake major trade and defense agreements with the USSR and Italy.

Soviet-Italian Offensive

On March 21, the arrival in Tunisia of Vito Lattanzio, Italian defense minister, coincided with the visit of Admiral Sergei Gorshkov, Soviet deputy defense minister and commander-in-chief of the Soviet Navy. In separate communiques, the Italian and Soviet governments, called for a swift Middle East peace and expanded economic ties. Upon his departure from Tunisia, Lattanzio said, "The Mediterranean is not a barrier between the two countries but a link, a port of peace and a bridge between Italy and the Arab countries."

The Gorshkov visit addressed primarily the importance of strengthening economic relations between Tunisia and the USSR and paved the way for Prime Minister Hedi Nouria's trip to the Soviet Union. Nouria's one week stay in the USSR has swung Tunisian-Soviet relations into high gear. A joint communique, issued April 12, stressed the necessity for reconvening a Geneva Peace Conference, and proclaimed that the Middle East crisis remains "the gravest threat to world peace." Nouria was also successful in signing economic, political, scientific

and technical accords with his hosts. An article in *L'Action*, the French-language Tunisian daily, praised relations between the two countries on the eve of Nouria's trip. Mention was made of the Kasseb dam, and the National School for Engineers which Soviet capital and technical assistance helped to construct. The bilateral nature of the "Soviet-Arab" and "Euro-Arab" statements does not becloud the surfacing Euro-Arab-Soviet demand for peace and development in the region.

Intra-Mahgreb Relations

Interfacing this diplomacy are Algerian-Libyan efforts to "box in" their recalcitrant neighbor. The bogus issue of "water rights" has tended to destabilize intra-Mahgreb cooperation. Sonatrach, Algeria's state-owned hydrocarbon sector and ENI, its Italian counterpart, had signed an agreement for a gas pipeline to be built across the Mediterranean waters into Sicily in order to supply both Italy and other European countries with natural gas, but the business arrangement has been at a stalemate because of Tunisia's refusal to allow the pipeline to cross its waters. Recent reports say that a solution has been reached between Algeria and Tunisia.

The Libyan-Tunisian dispute has a bitter history. The difficulty centers around the oil drilling rights in the Gulf of Gabès region, which demands a mutual agreement on the delimitation of the continental plateau. The Libyans, in calling for an immediate solution to this troublesome affair, appear ready to negotiate a settlement.

These quarrels are soluble within the broader context of expanded economic relations between the Mahgreb and its pro-development European allies. The Italians are anxious to settle both disputes because their state-owned enterprise ENI is involved in both cases. No doubt Tunisia has felt strong pressure to terminate its intransigence. The primary condition for a viable Euro-Soviet peace offensive is peace "within" the Mahgreb.