

Lebanon Flare-Up Threatens Mideast Peace Process

The most serious fighting since the 1976 ceasefire broke out in Lebanon last week, with Syrian troops battling Lebanese Army troops and right-wing militia linked to the fascist National Liberal Party of Camille Chamoun.

The escalation in fighting, according to a prominent Arab spokesman, is a result of the dangerously stalled Mideast peace negotiations. As long as the peace process remains deadlocked, stated the official, Lebanon's unstable, polarized internal situation will only worsen, increasing the chances of an Arab-Israeli clash. He predicted that the Israeli military would openly join ranks with the Lebanese rightists against the Syrian Army and the Palestinian Liberation Army.

Panic reminiscent of the 1975-76 civil war has reportedly spread throughout Lebanon. Barricades have been erected in Beirut, and there is a run on canned goods as the population, fearing that the fighting will expand, prepare for a long siege. According to *Prensa Latina*, hundreds of people were found mutilated and butchered last week in Ain al-Rummaneh, a quarter of Beirut.

The deteriorating situation in Lebanon coincides with the intensified efforts of Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan to destroy Egyptian President Sadat's peace initiatives. Dayan, on behalf of British intelligence, arrived in the U.S. last week on a week-long speaking tour of the country to undercut Sadat's efforts to win support from the Carter Administration. Upon his arrival in New York, Dayan attacked Sadat personally in a speech to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, whose chairman, Rabbi Alexander Schindler, refused to meet with Sadat last week and is coordinating U.S. Jewish opposition to Sadat's peace plans. "Will the gentleman sign a peace treaty with us? The answer is 'no.'" raved Dayan, who favors a separate — and dangerous — Israel-Egypt treaty.

Dayan also issued provocative public support of continued Israeli settlement of the occupied West Bank, and attacked U.S. Jewish leaders such as Philip Klutznik, a prominent Chicago lawyer and businessman, for meeting with Sadat despite Schindler directives not to.

In contrast, Prime Minister Begin has adopted a more

moderate stance than his renegade Foreign Minister. Although he attacked the idea of U.S. arms sales to Egypt, Begin has been careful not to attack Sadat personally, saying instead, "We do understand his problems," referring implicitly to Sadat's isolation in the Arab world and his vulnerability vis-a-vis his restive military.

Backing up the Dayan-Israel Lobby wrecking operation is Sen. Jacob Javits (R-NY), an integral part of the Israel Lobby and a staunch opponent, like Dayan, of a permanent settlement of the Middle East crisis. Things will work out, said Javits in a statement in the Feb. 4 *New York Times*. "if Sadat is willing to negotiate and he'll get a lot of help from us. But it won't work on the basis of his saying, 'Look I went to Jerusalem, now roll over and play dead.' We're in for a tough period and I hope the President disabuses him of this."

While the Sadat trip to the U.S. failed to achieve the breakthrough that Sadat needs — namely, U.S. commitment to pressure Israel to compromise on the Palestinian issue and on the matter of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories — Sadat did win an important propaganda victory while here. On his departure for Europe, where he will conduct a parallel organizing tour, Sadat stated that he had been encouraged by his talks with Carter and will "persevere" in his peace drive.

Evidence of the limited accord between Carter and Sadat was reflected in the communique issued after the talks. Included was a U.S. commitment to the Aswan formula, recognizing the "legitimate rights of the Palestinian people," and affirming that any settlement must "enable the Palestinians to participate in the determination of their own future," are all formulations rejected by Israel. In a separate statement, Carter repeatedly stressed the need for an overall settlement and a "withdrawal from all fronts," and refrained from issuing any Cold War-style provocations on the situation in the Horn of Africa.

However, unless the U.S. makes a bold move to break through Israel's intransigence and give the peace talks the momentum that is needed to clear the way for Geneva, then the Mideast remains a dangerous tinderbox, with Lebanon the flashpoint.

Sadat on Arab British Agents

Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, in an interview published Dec. 11, 1977 in the Egyptian magazine October, made clear that he has long been aware of British intelligence activity to prevent successful conclusion of a Middle East peace. Sadat declared that he was not concerned about achieving unanimity among the Arabs on his peace initiatives. He then made an analogy between the Arab opposition to his policies and the Arab opposition to the late Egyptian president Nasser in 1956 when he nationalized the Suez canal. Sadat continued:

Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal on July 26, 1956....At that time, Anthony Eden (Britain's Foreign Secretary) was dining with King Faisal of Iraq and his prime minister, Nuri as-Sa'id. Eden received a small slip of paper and, after reading it, his color changed to that of wax and the cup fell out of his hand. The king and his Prime Minister could not find any reason to stay and

all left without eating.

The slip of paper said that Nasser had nationalized the canal. Then Nuri as-Sa'id requested Eden to save the Arab world from this man....Eden assured Nuri as-Sa'id that what Nasser had done would destroy him for good....On Oct. 31, Israel launched its attack in agreement with Britain and France....

On Nov. 2 and 3, 1956, an Arab summit conference was held in Beirut. This conference was chaired by *President Camille Chamoun, who has been a British agent all his life and who has now become an Israeli agent and an agent of anyone who will pay.* (Emphasis added)

The Arab summit conference sat in complete silence waiting for Nasser's downfall and Egypt's ruin....

I too will say: I am very sorry. I will not allow anyone to interfere with my decision....