

Peace in our time?

Carter's pact lays basis for new Mideast military machine

Six months ago the *Executive Intelligence Review* likened the Carter Administration's Camp David quest for a separate peace between Egypt and Israel to Neville Chamberlain's 1939 Munich pact with Adolf Hitler. Events surrounding Carter's surprising, final securing of that peace on his Middle East trip last week are proving that prediction frighteningly true.

While publicity has centered on the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, the fact is, just as Chamberlain's goal at Munich was securing not peace but the possibility for Hitler to wage war against Soviet Russia, so the strategy underlying the Carter Administration's peace pact is the creation of a new Middle East military alliance, whose goal is muscling Soviet influence and friends out of the Middle East.

This publication warned of the Carter Middle East strategy two weeks ago, in highlighting threats by Energy Secretary James Schlesinger and others to invade Saudi Arabia if necessary to protect oil supplies. In a March 14 column entitled "U.S. to Soviet: We'll Fight for Arab Oil," New York Daily News columnist James Wieghart quotes a high U.S. official as gloating in the wake of the signing that "together, the battle-hardened, well-trained and well-equipped forces of Egypt and Israel could stand off any combination of opponents that can be arrayed against them in the Middle East. And with the support of the United States, the two are protected from any direct attack by the Soviets."

Already, Sadat's abandonment of the West Bank Palestinians is giving added maneuvering room to the expansionists within Israel, a development underscored by the Israeli incursions into Lebanon which continued throughout the final negotiations, as well as by Israeli military moves on the West Bank itself.

Moreover, the peace pact is being accompanied by renewed predictions of terrorism against Arab oil production facilities, which could provide the pretext for Energy Secretary Schlesinger's predicted U.S. military move into the Gulf region.

One variant of this scenario appeared March 14, when New York Times columnist Leonard Silk predicted a drastic energy crisis in the United States stemming from Arab opposition to the Egypt-Israeli pact.

It is the indications that Washington hopes to use the

peace treaty as the lever for a showdown with the Soviets that are the most ominous, however. Wieghart quotes one high-level official as saying that "there is no question about it, the President has made a decision to protect Saudi Arabian and Persian Gulf oil supplies at whatever cost.

Indeed, the true intent of Carter's peace mission was made clear the night he departed. The President at that time decided to flood unwilling North Yemen and Saudi Arabia with arms and sophisticated military hardware to "prevent" the border war between the two Yemens from burgeoning into full-blown crisis. Significantly, the Saudis feel that the U.S. jumped the gun, and have informed the U.S. that they favored a more cautious approach to resolving the situation, according to statements reported in the French press last week. The North Yemenis were much more outspoken, accusing the U.S. of warmongering (see grid, p. 30).

In contrast to the U.S. attitude toward the Yemen conflict, the Arab League quickly moved to mediate the situation. As a result, the quarreling North and South Yemenis have agreed to reopen telephone communication and air traffic between the two countries, as well as to reopen the borders by March 26. In commenting on the situation, Arab League General Secretary Mahmoud Riad said: "We have achieved good results in efforts to end the fighting."

But the Carter Administration has not been deterred from continuing to aggravate the crisis. Three hundred military advisors have been dispatched to North Yemen, while Pentagon plans to establish a "fifth fleet" in the Indian Ocean are becoming a topic of international debate. Soviet Foreign Minister Kosygin, has criticized the scheme as well as the presence of the U.S. aircraft carrier Constellation in the area.

Peace talks fuel Lebanon crisis

While Israeli Prime Minister Begin was hosting an official dinner for the visiting Carter entourage, the Israeli military moved into Lebanon and began preemptive crackdowns on the West Bank. During the final round of the ritual peace negotiations, jets buzzed over North Lebanon shelling cities in the south. Fanatical Israeli

West Bank settlers fired warning shots at groups protesting the Carter visit.

The increased Israeli activity in Lebanon could indicate an imminent Israeli move to annex the area, some analysts have said, as the first phase of their new U.S.-backed policeman's role. Qatar's news agency reports substantial Israeli troop build-up in the southeastern sector and upgraded coordination with the militias of right-wing extremist Major Haddad in the area. The Israeli press has gone so far as to announce that the Israeli government has offered to pay the salaries of Haddad's soldiers since they have begun to be cut off by the Lebanese government. The Iraqi news agency predicts a major confrontation between rightist forces in the north and the United Nations and Syrian peacekeeping troops before April.

Israel's escalations appears to have been timed to coincide with the heating up of the Yemen crisis. The Syrians have charged that the United States, "resorting to the experience of Britain," has been ultimately responsible for the actions in an effort to revive the Lebanon partition scenario, the same scheme that was neatly defused by Saudi, French, and Soviet diplomacy last year. This indicates intensified blackmail pressure on, especially, the Jordanians and Saudis as the Zionists move to extend the U.S. and British umbrella of protection.

These recent military actions gain fresh significance

from the fact of a direct U.S. military cover for Israel and the current position in which Egypt's Anwar Sadat finds himself. In view of Carter Administration threats to "fight the Soviets" for Mideast oil, a move by the Egyptian army into Libya is by no means far-fetched.

The British planners know that Libya is the weak link in the otherwise solid axis between the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and the European Monetary System and will undoubtedly seek to take advantage of this. The architect of the Egyptian end of the Camp David agreements from the military side has been Sadat's special advisor Tuhami. Tuhami was the military command officer who ran the 1977 Egyptian "punitive" invasion of Libya.

Domestic analysts say that the British strategy is to bring the entire region to flames. Last week Khomeini-supported insurgents attacked cities in Afghanistan with tacit Pakistani support; the Yemen crisis remains a focal point for manipulation in the Gulf; an Egyptian move into Libya would bring Sudan and Morocco into line behind Sadat, while Israeli intelligence continues to beef up its activities in the Horn of Africa, Nigeria and throughout the African continent. Myopic U.S. puppets may think they are getting "American presence" in Africa and the Mideast. What they are really getting, however, is a new 30 years war.

— Henry Moss and Nancy Parsons

Do the Arabs really want U.S. troops?

The answers to that question differ widely. Here are some of the responses:

New York Daily News, "U.S. to Soviet: We'll fight to save Arab oil link," by James Wieghart, March 14 (quoting a U.S. official):

The line was drawn at Yemen because that's where the Saudis felt it must be drawn. The naval task force, the arms shipments and the military advisers to North Yemen were all decisions that were made at the request of Saudi Arabia....

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, on NBC television March 13:

It has to be demonstrated that friendship with the U.S. confers security.... (After an Egyptian-Israeli treaty is signed) there is no doubt we will be heavily engaged in the Middle East.... Saudi Arabia will be relieved, but probably will not say so, and the same is true probably of Jordan....

Muhammad Salem Basendewa, Information Minister of North Yemen, in an interview with the Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) March 1:

His country is not seeking protection in the arms of either East or West.... His country, he added, will not allow the U.S. or other countries to intervene.... He explained that if America has announced the sale of arms to North Yemen then the agreement on these arms is an old one. He added that the U.S. statements at this time are but another attempt to escalate the situation.... He said that Samaa still regarded the USSR as a friendly state and is anxious to maintain friendship with it.... He denied that there were any U.S. military experts in the northern part (i.e. in North Yemen — ed.) and he confirmed the presence of Soviet military experts."