

Editorial

In the footsteps of Kissinger

The just concluded visit of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir with President Reagan was predictably without resolution. The U.S. proposal for a Mideast conference is predictably finding few takers. But was it ever intended to?

The United States is making none of the kind of offers to Israel which would sweeten the package. The same is true of Secretary of State Shultz's shuttle diplomacy. So far the only effect of his tactics has been to strengthen the position of the Sharon faction inside Israel. And kicking the PLO's U.N. delegation out isn't designed to win Palestinian support either. Nor is insulting Jordan's King Hussein, and omitting a role for Egypt altogether.

From the standpoint of any rational policy considerations, the American stand is just as suicidal as that being pursued by the Israelis. Israel is mobilizing itself for a final solution to the Palestinian question, by summarily expelling its Palestinian population; the United States is positioning itself to be an impotent onlooker. In the meantime, the war-fighting capability of the Israeli army is being destroyed.

The atrocities being reported against the Palestinians, must awaken an awful resonance in the average Israeli citizen, who is after all extremely well versed in the horrors of the Holocaust. This is the Bettelheim Syndrome (the mentality of the prisoner who identifies with his guard) run wild. It is even worse for army morale.

The situation in Israel must be looked at against a backdrop of the increased potential for destabilizations in the Mideast and in central Asia. The Sharon policy is to deliberately foster an Islamic fundamentalist backlash among the Arabs, as a way to bring his own Jewish fundamentalist bloc into power in Israel.

There is a Soviet element in all of this. With regard to Israel per se, the Soviets have a supply of Russian Jews whom they can release to the Israelis to replace much needed Palestinian manpower. There is no doubt that Sharon is working hand-in-glove with them.

Soviet withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan is likely to result in the succession to power in that country

of KGB-controlled Muslim fundamentalists. Even without the extension of hostilities to Pakistan, as the Najibullah clique now threatens if the Pakistanis do not accept their government, that nation will be threatened with civil war if the fundamentalists become hegemonic in the area. This will then play back to moderate Arab states such as Pakistan's ally, Saudi Arabia, and the whole package will tend to weaken the Egyptian government.

The analysis circulating in intelligence circles is that Israel will be given a free hand in "solving" its Palestine problem, and that the Soviets will not back an Arab war against them. A more likely scenario is that the Israelis carry out this ugly act of genocide upon the Palestinian people to the outrage of the world. A well-armed Arab force then launches a war against them. In this scenario the Israeli army would be riven with internal dissension, over the slaughter of innocent civilians, in which they have been forced to participate. Its vaunted war-fighting capabilities would have been sapped by low morale.

The United States would not come to Israel's defense, nor would any other nation, because Israel would have been branded an outlaw nation. And the final solution for the Palestinians would turn out to be a final solution to the Israeli problem as well.

Should this be the scenario which plays out, the question "who benefits?" is easily answered. America, which is cavalierly disarming its allies in Europe, and threatening to invade the friendly nation of Panama, will have presided over the destruction of two other mainstays of American foreign policy, Pakistan and Israel.

In this, George Bush is a worthy successor to Henry Kissinger and Zbigniew Brzezinski. It's about time we had someone in the State Department who places American foreign policy interests first, rather than subjugating these to the purpose of appeasing the Soviets. The United States can avert a bloodbath by accepting the proposal for a "Marshall Plan" for the Mideast made by ex-Israeli Premier Peres. There is still time, but not much.