

White House Unprepared For Camp David Showdown

The Carter Administration is completely unprepared for the diplomatic explosion Israel is planning to unleash at the Sept. 5 Middle East summit at Camp David.

Reports from Washington last week indicate that the Administration expects the Israelis, and Prime Minister Begin, to negotiate seriously on a peace settlement with the Arab states, and to acknowledge the principle that the Sinai and the West Bank are Arab territory.

But the Israelis are giving every signal that they intend to use Camp David for a head-on confrontation with President Sadat and the Arabs, especially Saudi Arabia — and no one in the Administration has a plan for dealing with Israel if, in fact, it adopts a confrontational stand.

The unspoken agenda at Camp David will be the string of Israeli provocations, terrorism, war threats, and U.S. Zionist political blackmail that has erupted in the past three weeks.

The Begin government is stepping up its policy of establishing illegal Jewish settlements on the West Bank, despite unanimous international condemnation. The covert arm of Israeli intelligence, in coordination with the Jerusalem Foundation, the British secret services, and the paramilitary organizations controlled by the so-called Sovereign Order of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem at Malta, has unleashed a wave of terrorism against the Palestinian movement and throughout Western Europe. And in Lebanon the Israelis are maintaining their refusal to permit the reintroduction of Lebanese Army forces into the south, and are thereby keeping the crisis in Lebanon hot enough to provide the pretext for another Middle East war.

Anti-Bremen Warfare

Israel's motivation stems from its intention to prevent the implementation of the Bremen European Community summit accords by blocking a peace settlement in the Middle East, which is a prime condition for long-term economic and industrial planning. The Israelis are seeking a pretext to strike out at Arab oil fields — in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, or Libya — to force a new energy crisis, jack up prices, and wreck the Bremen agreement before it is even established.

Carter, despite the serious preparatory work for the Camp David meeting underway in the State Department, is not prepared to buck Walter Mondale, James Schlesinger, and the Kennedy-Javits pro-Zionist

machine in Congress, and is afraid of the political consequences of clobbering the Israelis for their outlaw-state behavior. The British-Zionist machine is already mobilizing to ensure that no U.S. "plan" emerges at Camp David that, with U.S. muscle behind it, might force the Israelis to capitulate.

Behind Administration disclaimers, some signs have recently emerged that indicate the "fire-fighting" stance of the United States. A telegram to Begin from Secretary of State Vance forced Israel to announce a postponement of its settlements early last week, while according to *Newsweek* direct U.S. pressure compelled Israel to halt its shipments of illegal U.S. weapons to the Nazi Falangists in Beirut and north Lebanon.

But overall the Administration is clearly not ready to challenge the Zionist Lobby.

Separate Peace?

The Israeli position is to demand that Egypt agree to a "separate peace" — leaving out Syria, Jordan, and the PLO from the talks. Although Sadat has consistently refused even to consider that option, rejecting it again publicly last week, the Israelis plan to offer Sadat a choice between a separate deal and rapidly increasing momentum toward war.

For instance, the London *Financial Times* reported that Israel intends to go ahead and implement its own discredited "autonomy" plan for the West Bank if the Camp David talks fail, which will be taken by the Arabs as a virtual declaration of war, since it means that Israel has abandoned the negotiations entirely. Begin himself said this when he told reporters, "The role of the government is to undertake negotiations, and the role of the armed forces is to prepare for war."

That is also the meaning of Dayan's threat to Lebanon. He told a Jerusalem audience that the fascist Falangist stronghold in south Lebanon "is in danger," and that Israel would not "allow it to fall."

Meanwhile, as the Administration dithers about Camp David, the British press and the Zionists are putting out scare reports that an oil embargo will immediately follow the breakdown of Camp David, and that the Arabs are prepared to use the "oil weapon" to blackmail the West! Although Arab sources have repeatedly denied such allegations, the reports have already made foreign exchange markets and investors nervous.

—Robert Dreyfuss