MIDDLE EAST

Israel to move into Saudi Arabia

Report U.S. trains terrorists to attack oil fields

An invasion of Saudi Arabia's oil-producing areas as Phase II of the Camp David war pact has been set into motion by NATO and Israeli intelligence, according to informed Arab sources.

Information on the plan, gleaned by these Arab sources on the scene, confirms published reports that Energy Secretary James Schlesinger had prepared contingency plans to "protect" U.S. oil supplies, and comes after Defense Secretary Harold Brown's publicized trip to the Middle East during which similar plans were discussed.

As described by our sources, the plan, a two-step process, would almost certainly result not in guaranteed U.S. oil supplies, but in a shortage that dwarfs the 1973-74 oil crisis.

Under step one of the plan, a team of highly trained commandos posing as Palestinian radicals would destroy Saudi oil installations - an action that would then be blamed on the Soviet Union and Iraq. In step two, joint NATO-Israeli units would invade Saudi Arabia and seize control of the shattered oil installations.

Implementation of this shocking scheme — directed against one of America's traditional allies in the Arab world — is likely to come in the very near future, to sidestep what NATO and Carter Administration planners allege is a Saudi drift toward the Soviet Union. In fact, the Carter Administration's trampling on Arab concerns in the Camp David separate peace between Israel and Egypt has forced the Saudis toward a rapprochement with more radical Arab states, notably Iraq and Syria. A corollary of this is a trend toward normal — but by no means "close" — Saudi relations with the USSR.

How it works

The commandos who will carry out the operation to blow up the oil fields in Saudi Arabia — for which a successful test run occurred at the Abgain fields in 1977 are Spanish-speaking Puerto Ricans and Mexicans who are presently being trained in Arabic language and Arab customs in order that they might impersonate Palestinian Arabs. Two training centers, one at the U.S. military foreign language center in Monterey, California and the other in Europe, have been jointly established by NATO Intelligence and the Mossad of Israel, using CIA channels.

Coordinating at least part of the operation, sources report, is an infamous Israeli hit man, Zwy Aldouby. Aldouby, a professional killer, was assigned in 1978 to the project to assassinate U.S. Labor Party Chairman Lyndon LaRouche in the United States.

Recent NATO naval maneuvers by the U.S. and British in the east Mediterranean, with Israeli logistical support, are in preparation for the Saudi invasion, according to Arab sources.

The Seven Sisters oil majors, particularly including Royal Dutch Shell and British Petroleum, are deeply involved in the planning and execution of this operation. According to sources, Mobil Oil is also running part of the operation, in conjunction with the Washingtonbased Middle East Educational Trust, led by Mobil's Jack Hayes, Joseph Malone, and Hugh Auchincloss.

Showdown over Saudis

With the decision of Saudi Arabia to support the Iraq-Syria bloc in the Arab world and condemn President Sadat of Egypt for his deal with Israel, NATO and related policy planners are openly out to crush Saudi Arabia. Most upsetting to the London-Tel Aviv axis is the rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and the

"The real threat facing the U.S. is the subtle shift wherein the Saudis recognize Moscow and move into a posture where American intervention in the Gulf area becomes unthinkable, largely for purely military considerations," says NATO strategist Frank Barnett.

In recent weeks, Saudi Arabia has developed an increasingly close relationship with Iraq on security issues, beginning with a meeting between Saddam Hussein of Iraq and the Saudi chief of intelligence. According to Arab sources, the Iraqi air force has already begun to patrol Saudi oil fields and to prepare to guarantee Saudi security in exchange for Saudi political support for the Iraq-Syria axis against Sadat. This arrangement has shifted the entire geometry of politics in the Middle East.

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EXECUTIVE INTELLIGENCE REVIEW

Middle East 39

With the collapse of the Shah of Iran and his replacement by the fascist Khomeini regime, the state of Iran has begun to disintegrate according to the so-called "Bernard Lewis plan" for fragmentation along tribal and sectarian lines. The chaos emanating from Iran, fed by British and Zionist intelligence services, is meant now to spill over into neighboring Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

According to Bernard Lewis, in an interview yesterday, it is expected that Arab terrorists from the Arab provinceof Khuzestan in Iran will launch actions against Iraq and Saudi Arabia to "protest" the Camp David treaty. It is this threat which may serve as a cover for the NATO terror squads and Aldouby to launch airborne raids on Saudi oil wells, possibly from Iran, but more likely from bases in Cyprus and the sultanate of Oman, both of which are still virtual British colonies. The emirate of Dubai has also been mentioned as a source of such an attack.

Irresponsible threats to this effect were also issued just days ago by Hani al-Hassan of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), now the PLO ambassador in Teheran, Iran. Hassan threatened that the PLO would very soon initiate terrorist activity against "American interests," saying that "the coming days will be days of hellfire and brimstone." Together with the activities of the PFLP's George Habash — who is an Israeli agent, according to one Arab diplomat — Hassan's reckless bravado only serves to aid the NATO-Israel plot.

— Robert Dreyfuss

'Saudis must feel Israeli threat'

Frank Barnett of the National Strategy Information Center gave the following analysis of the situation facing NATO and U.S. policy-makers regarding Saudi Arabia to an interviewer this week.

The real threat facing the U.S. is the subtle shift wherein the Saudis recognize Moscow and move into a posture where American intervention into the Gulf area becomes unthinkable, largely for purely military considerations. The Saudis, in this way, are playing a subtle game whereby a kind of nonformal Soviet umbrella could protect them, in the same way that Teng calculates that a nonformal American umbrella protects him against the Soviets. This will amount, in fact, to a tacit Soviet umbrella being thrown up around Arab OPEC, which will give the OPEC producers more leverage to do as they feel.

The problem in that area is simple now, especially if the above considerations prevail. On any given day, the Soviet warships outnumber those of the U.S., and the Soviets have their superweapon Backfire bomber, which gives them air superiority. This can't change unless we establish an extensive permanent Indian Ocean force centered around a carrier. But more important is the question of who has the power and the will to use force. It is this that will determine how the Saudis act. If the Saudis see the Soviets as having greater will to use force, then they will bow to the natural pressures of their internal Palestinian constituency and to the power of the surprising Syria-Iraq alliance, and will make a deal, in effect, with Moscow.

Under current circumstances, it is infinitely difficult for us to use the Israelis as our main, or sole, force in the

Mideast, because of the Arab frame of mind. And we have to worry about Sadat staying in power. So we must move toward a larger alliance: the Saudis, the Turks, and Jordanians with the Israelis and Egyptians, so that we put a U.S. umbrella over the oil. The way this could be done is to promise the Saudis not just protection from Iraq but more importantly, from the Israelis. This is the way NATO was formed: France and Germany were mutually suspicious, and both were suspicious of the Soviets, so the U.S. promised them protection against each other, and protection against the Soviets. We should be thinking in the same terms now, since we are now repeating the post World War II NATO process in the Middle East.

We should explore actively the Israeli-threat-to-the-Saudis possibility. It may not seem very live to us, maybe a 5 percent type of thing. But given the military contingency thinking now being done by all elites, Israel must be thinking in terms of this, and the Saudis must know this. And the Saudis have the paranoia-of-Zionism legacy from King Faisal; the Zionist spectre still haunts them. So, whereas we may see a 5 percent possibility in an Israeli attack, the Saudis see a 65 percent probability of an Israeli attack, and that 65 percent could be made to weigh over the 59 percent possibility of the Saudis recognizing the Soviets. We can give them a guarantee, and then we'll bring the Turks in through American and Saudi money and European/Southern tier pressure, prevailing on the Turks to act as they historically have been developed to do — a Middle Eastern power. This could be called a new Middle East pact.