

## European-Arab diplomacy

*The following is a grid of diplomatic activity between continental Europe and the Arab world since the beginning of this year.*

**Jan. 6-9:** West German Economics Minister Lambsdorff is in Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. In Riyadh, he delivers a personal letter from Chancellor Schmidt to Crown Prince Fahd.

**Jan. 8-10:** Chancellor Schmidt is in Madrid for discussions with Prime Minister Suarez on the Middle East. Schmidt proposes to Carter that he listen to Suarez's views.

**Jan. 14:** West German Foreign Minister Genscher meets with the ambassadors of the Gulf States and Iraq in Bonn.

**Jan. 16:** Schmidt meets with his closest advisers, the "Clover Group," in Bonn to discuss the Middle East and Afghanistan.

**Jan. 17:** The Schmidt government issues a declaration on the crucial importance of reviving the Euro-Arab dialogue.

**Feb. 3-5:** Schmidt and French President Giscard meet in Paris.

**Feb. 4:** Schmidt tells *Der Spiegel*: "It is their [the Arabs'] oil—we have no right to raise a claim on that."

**Feb. 8:** West German Defense Minister Hans Apel, at a meeting of the Wehrkunde military group, warns against Western protectorates in the Persian Gulf, endorses economic aid instead.

**Feb. 9-11:** Iraqi Foreign Minister Hammadi is in Bonn, proposes a Mideast nonalignment charter and long-term oil contracts. Bonn ap-

proves Iraqi initiative for reviving Euro-Arab dialogue.

**Feb. 13:** Spain's Prime Minister Suarez is in Amman, Jordan where he calls for a rapprochement between the PLO and Israel.

**Feb. 14:** Saudi Oil Minister Yamani, in an interview with *Die Zeit*, calls for long-term oil for technology contracts and for an "in" for OPEC dollars on Western capital and investment markets. Apel, in an interview with *Quick* magazine, warns against any attempts to find a military solution for the Mideast.

**Feb. 22:** West German Finance Minister Matthöfer meets his Saudi counterpart in Geneva.

**Feb. 28:** Schmidt government declaration stresses urgency of a Mideast settlement. Cypriot President Kyprianou is in Paris.

**March 1:** Giscard travels to Kuwait for a two day visit, meets with Sheik Said, the Crown Prince, Prime Minister and Emir Sheik Jaber.

**March 3:** Saudi Foreign Minister Feisal is in Bonn. Giscard is in Bahrain where he meets with Prime Minister Sheik Kalifa and Emir.

**March 4-6:** Schmidt is in Washington for meetings with President Carter. Giscard travels to Qatar, meets with the Emir Sheik Khalifa, then to the United Arab Emirates, meets with the head of state Sheik Zayed and then to Jordan.

**March 6:** Egypt's Prime Minister Khalil is in Paris on a private visit. He meets with Prime Minister Barre and Foreign Minister François-Poncet.

**March 7:** Hans Apel, in Saar-

brücken for a military meeting, warns of "new tensions between Israel and some of its Arab neighbors.

**March 8:** Genscher is in Awan for a meeting with Egyptian President Sadat. He endorses Giscard's statement on the Palestinians.

**March 8-9:** Giscard meets with Jordan's King Hussein.

**March 10:** Giscard travels to Saudi Arabia to meet with King Khaled and Crown Prince Fahd.

**March 11:** Schmidt phones Giscard to arrange Hamburg summit for March 16. Giscard speaks of "new and highly interesting aspects."

**March 12:** At a Bonn press conference, Schmidt says that "for many Arab and Islamic countries, the problem of what they call Zionism is more urgent than Afghanistan."

**March 13:** Bundesbank lifts ban on foreign purchase of two to four year bonds; press speaks of role for OPEC dollars. Ireland's Prime Minister, on an official visit to Paris, meets with Giscard.

**March 14:** Soviet Ambassador to France Stepan Chervonenko meets with Barre. Pakistani diplomat Agha Shahi meets with François-Poncet in Paris.

**March 16:** Schmidt and Giscard meet in Hamburg and talk about a "new EEC initiative for the Middle East" and announce the "revival of the Euro-Arab dialogue." India's Foreign Minister P.V.M. Rao meets with François-Poncet on North-South dialogue and the Middle East.

**March 17:** King Hussein of Jordan calls on Europe to launch an initiative in the Mideast to prevent a new war.

**March 18:** Soviet Union and France sign a 535 million franc contract to build two factories for oil forage platforms. The two nations had just signed a new financial protocol.