

The final doublecross: has the U.S. lost the Middle East?

by Criton Zoakos, Editor-in-Chief

Secretary of State George Shultz's acts of omission since he assumed office carry certain sinister implications for the future of the United States as a major power. His studied "low profile," especially in the context of the unraveling Middle East disaster, might prove the discreet Secretary of State a most calamitous public servant. If the Secretary continues to subscribe to the wisdom of "low profile" until the November election, he will have de facto and by default surrendered U.S. foreign policy for the critical period ahead to self-confessed British agent Henry A. Kissinger.

As of Wednesday, Aug. 4, the United States lost, and lost dramatically, every last remnant of influence over the Israeli government. With each day's new failures in the Habib mission, U.S. influence among Arabs has been collapsing in an equally dramatic way. That influence is disappearing faster under George Shultz than U.S. influence in Latin America under Alexander Haig. Before the new Secretary reconsiders the wisdom of his adopted modesty behind his discreet "low profile," he must review the following facts and their implications.

After Beirut's massacre

If the Israeli government, under Sharon's and Neeman's influence, goes ahead with the projected spectacular massacre of PLO combatants in western Beirut, a new, hideous genie will be unleashed in the Arab Middle East, a wave of racist, violent irrationalism which will take decades, perhaps more, to abate, a monstrosity analogous to what Khomeini unleashed in Iran. Arab governments, aware of this imminent eruption, have been signaling Washington that they will be unable to resist this development, and therefore they do not plan to resist it. If Israel does what Neeman and Sharon tell it to do, it is likely that the nationalist political anti-Israeli sentiments in the Arab world will be transformed into hideous racist anti-Semitic passion which will open a shameful new era in Middle East politics. "You get the feeling that after 6,000 years of relative civiliza-

tion, men are about to descend to the animal level," as one senior Arab diplomat put it.

The master over this situation appears to be British diplomacy around Lord Carrington's pet "European Third Force" project, on whose behalf Henry Kissinger is deployed. Saudi, Kuwaiti, and other Arab investors are now prepared to withdraw financial assets (of which there are an estimated \$100 billion) out of the United States and into London, a move which would throw the United States into the worst economic crisis in history.

Thus, within days, the United States may be looking into the bowels of the following Hell: The entire Arab world from Morocco to the Straits of Hormuz denouncing and condemning the United States as responsible for Beirut's massacre by Israel; an embattled and defiant Israel emerging from Beirut's bloodbath with the realization that it destroyed forever its last chance to win the right to exist peacefully in the Middle East, betrayed by the United States; and a United States crushed by the worst financial and economic collapse since 1929, lying paralyzed and impotent.

From their respective corners of the globe, London and Moscow will be looking on with satisfaction, planning their next moves. When the stupid Lord Carrington finally realizes that only Moscow has the means to make the next move, will he then instruct Henry Kissinger to go for a showdown? And how close will Kissinger be allowed to the nuclear button?

The invariant pattern: doublecross

We are reaching this point of crisis after an unbroken string of miscalculations and doublecrosses which go back to the beginning of June. The analyst who has closely watched the evolution of this crisis from then to now, will confirm that the single invariant feature which determined the whole affair so far has been *doublecross/miscalculation/carnage*. Back in May, the United States was making secret arrangements with the PLO whereby the PLO would recognize "Israel's right to exist" and

the United States would extend diplomatic recognition to the PLO. Then Alexander Haig doublecrossed the Arabs and informed Sharon of the proceedings. Israel proceeded to make a deal with the Syrians to go after the PLO and divide Lebanon between themselves. Next, Israel received prior approval from the United States to invade Lebanese territory up to 25 miles in order to secure its border area. Then Israel moved into Lebanon, doublecrossed its Syrian partners by crippling their military force in Lebanon and doublecrossed the United States by going all the way up to Beirut. Now came the turn of the Soviet Union to doublecross the Syrians, who hurried to Moscow to seek new military assistance which was not forthcoming.

Then came the turn of the moderate Arabs to doublecross the Palestinians: Haig had disseminated the line throughout the Gulf governments that their fears of radical upheavals should now be laid to rest: there is, he said, a plan to dismantle the military organization of the PLO; after its elimination Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan will join a new phase of the Camp David agreements in conformity with the Fahd Plan, and a great anti-Soviet "strategic consensus" of Arabs and Jews will be achieved in the Middle East (which will also take care of the Gulf states' problem with Khomeini). After two weeks of vicarious sarcasm against the PLO, the Arab leaderships of the Gulf woke up to the fact that they too had just been doublecrossed: Haig was gone, and Habib, whose mission was supposed to accomplish all these wonderful things, had totally failed.

Then comes the turn of the Israeli government to be doublecrossed: after two months of brutality, heavy casualties and escalating domestic opposition, Washington tells Begin and Sharon that they are not allowed to finish off the PLO—the only result which would have justified the brutal campaign in the eyes of Israeli citizens. Upon receiving the U.S. ultimatum, the Israeli cabinet met for five hours on Aug. 6, and voted to reject every point made by the White House as well as the United Nations. Subsequently, a few hours before this writing, a large-scale new military assault was mounted against Palestinian positions in western Beirut.

Now Alexander Haig, who lost his job for telling lies to President Reagan (see *EIR*, July 20) has drafted a document in which he claims that President Reagan, before the Israeli invasion, had agreed that its military purpose should be to wipe out the terrorist organizations in Lebanon. The more the Israeli government is pressured by Washington, the more it is tempted to take advantage of Haig's habitual lies and make President Reagan appear co-responsible in Arab eyes for the impending western Beirut massacre.

On the larger canvas of grand strategy, it is Great Britain which is doublecrossing the United States, hav-



Israel, too, has outsmarted itself: Kissinger with Begin in 1978.

ing maneuvered the entire situation into its present course. With the demise of U.S. influence, Britain will pretend to be the protector of the security for those Arab oil producers who need outside patrons to remain in power; and thus Britain will attempt to pretend to be the guarantor of Western European oil supplies. Britain has been able to doublecross the United States only because the Soviet Union has agreed to maintain a discreet distance while Lord Carrington is emasculating the United States. Once Carrington's surgical operation is completed, it will finally be the Soviet Union's turn to doublecross Her Majesty's very clever diplomat. When the Soviets move, the United States will be bandaged in its sickbed, while Lord Carrington begins to realize that he has bitten off more than he can chew.

The patient will either watch the final act of the drama with pathetic resignation, or, the last doublecross will, according to all the precedents of this crisis, lead to one final global carnage. Secretary Shultz should consider these implications before his studied "low profile" allows Henry Kissinger a magnified field of action.