

# International Intelligence

## ***Syria to open 'second front' against Iraq?***

Henry Kissinger's and George Shultz's cultivation of the "Syrian connection" could result in the opening of a "western front" by Syria against Iraq. Arab officials fear. With Iran having renewed its attacks on Iraq from the east, a Syrian assault from the west would be devastating for the beleaguered Iraqi state.

At the end of July, Iran began what soon became a two-pronged attack on northern and central Iraq, seizing Iraqi territory in both areas. Although information about the actual fighting is sketchy, it appears that Iraq is taking a beating. Baghdad reportedly fears that cut off from the United States and abandoned by the Soviet Union, whose leaders, like Kissinger, are busy playing the Iran and Syrian cards, Iraq could be crushed.

The same sources report that Pakistan, one of the countries "mediating" the Iran-Iraq war, is covertly assisting the Iranians.

Iraq's problems are compounded by Saudi Arabia's cutoff of aid to Baghdad, reportedly the result of a Saudi decision to play the Syria card.

## ***McFarlane in Mideast: 'open line' to Moscow***

Robert McFarlane, the Reagan administration's new special envoy to the Middle East and a long-time associate of Henry Kissinger, arrived in the Middle East on Aug. 1 on the first leg of what is expected to be an extended diplomatic shuttle. The nominal subject of his talks with Middle Eastern leaders is securing a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon. McFarlane, an arms control specialist who knows next to nothing about the Middle East, is in fact deepening back-channel negotiations with the Soviets through their Syrian allies.

McFarlane has been instructed to remain "open" to virtually anything the Syrians want vis-à-vis Lebanon. According to one Washington-based source close to Israeli intelligence, McFarlane's diplomacy is "going to drag on for years."

Intelligence sources concur that while in Washington in late July, Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens and Foreign Minister

Yitzhak Shamir "convinced" President Reagan that his Sept. 1 Mideast peace proposal was a "big mistake." The same sources report that, in the interest of not alienating the American Jewish vote in the critical pre-presidential election period, Reagan has decided to "play along" with the Israelis, despite his distaste for their plan to partition Lebanon. To allay the President's fears, Kissinger has reportedly assured Reagan that Israel's "partial pullback" to the Awali River in Lebanon does not constitute partition, but is step one of an eventual total withdrawal.

## ***Japan-Soviet trade talks to resume***

Japan and the U.S.S.R. are extending feelers toward improved trade relations, while political-military tensions remain higher than they have been in years.

Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe told reporters that Japan will hold governmental-level trade talks in Moscow this autumn at Soviet request. This will, says Jiji press service, virtually amount to resumption of the annual bilateral talks suspended in 1981 due to the Polish situation. Abe does not expect either rapid easing of economic relations or across-the-board improvement in ties, but, says Jiji, Tokyo's attitude is becoming more "flexible."

Japan's "flexibility" is, in part, a consequence of eased sanctions on the part of Europe and mixed signals from Washington, consisting of tough talk toward Moscow accompanied by the recent grain agreement and memos from Secretaries George Shultz and Malcolm Baldrige urging lifting of sanctions on oil and gas equipment. Japan's Komatsu is already one of the biggest exporters of pipelaying and related equipment to the Soviets.

Meanwhile, the Soviet news agency TASS condemned Abe for a recent speech accusing the Soviets of expansionism, of threatening to move SS-20s to Asia, and so forth.

Abe had also raised the possibility of controls on the export of high-technology products from Japan to the U.S.S.R. He told a lecture audience that Japan cannot deny allies' charges that high-technology exports from Japan, such as drydock equipment and

truck-making machinery, have directly or indirectly aided Soviet military efforts. However, it is significant that Abe did not propose any specific restrictions.

## ***Peres: 'Japanese' policy for Israel***

Against the backdrop of possible early elections later this year, prospective Israeli Labour Party prime ministerial candidate Shimon Peres has issued a policy program that includes an industrial policy modeled on the example of Japan.

Speaking to the *Jerusalem Post's* Mark Segal July 29, Peres put forward a five-point plank emphasizing a rejection of the "Greater Israel" conception, full withdrawal from Lebanon, and, on economic policy, "the change of economic priorities, to enable high-technology industrialization." Peres believes, according to Segal, "that it was no wild dream to contend that Israel could become another Japan" in respect to production, work, and industry.

Segal otherwise notes: "Since his first encounter with John F. Kennedy's America, Peres has been fascinated by that country's employment of technology to ameliorate man's condition."

Evidently, Peres's invocation of the Japanese model for Israel has touched a raw nerve among elements in the Labour Party. Soon after Peres's declaration, former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin announced that he would challenge Peres for the premier candidacy. Rabin was very close to Henry Kissinger during his late 1960s-early 1970s tenure as Israeli ambassador to the United States.

## ***Homosexual blackmail freed KGB colonel***

KGB colonel Victor Pronin, arrested in Italy at the beginning of the year, was suddenly freed in late July, though ordered not to leave the country. According to *Espresso* magazine, behind this decision there is a story of homosexuality involving Italian journalists in Moscow, the Italian foreign ministry, and Bettino Craxi's Italian Socialist Party (PSI).

In return, the KGB prepared a dossier on the correspondent of *Il Giorno* in Mos-

cow, one Luigi Vismara, who formerly wrote for the PSI's *Avanti*. It seems that the journalist used to sleep with a Russian worker.

Vismara found a sympathetic ear at the Italian foreign ministry, led by Emilio Colombo. A message was communicated to the Russians, who communicated to a visiting delegation of Italian industrialists that their price for leaving Vismara alone was the freeing of Pronin. The correspondent of *Corriere della Sera* in Moscow, Piero Ostellino, ran to Rome to ask President Pertini to do something for his poor friend, and Pronin was released.

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### ***Libyan arrested; aided Sardinian separatists***

Judge Mario Marchetti of Cagliari, Sardinia has issued 13 more arrest warrants following his investigations into the separatist plan financed by Libya's Muammar Qaddafi to split Sardinia from Italy. One of the terrorists now wanted is the Libyan agent Ageli Tabet.

Marchetti has also interrogated Michele Papa (the link between Qaddafi and Billy Carter) of Catania, Sicily. This friend of Qaddafi and the Mafia had held a big Italo-Libyan friendship session on Oct. 24, 1981, where the separatists and the Libyans agreed on plans for destabilization in Sicily and Sardinia. The Libyans agreed to supply weapons and money.

Separatists are also reported involved in the fires that have destroyed large parts of Sardinia. The president of the Sardinian region, Angelo Roich declared, "This never happened before. The fires all started June 21 as if they were the product of the same mind, of a destabilizing design realized with managerial science."

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### ***U.S. backing for IMF genocide against Guyana***

The Guyanese government has charged the Reagan administration with planning to veto a \$52 million loan from the Interamerican Development Bank for water control of rice cultivation because, say the Guyanese, the United States wants them to put nationalized rice production back in private hands. Although the U.S. government is denying the

charge, a Treasury spokesman did admit that the United States was upset with "inefficiency" in Guyana's rice industry and with government subsidies which allegedly give the farmers no incentive to produce. The Guyanese ambassador to the OAS said that U.S. embassy officials in Guyana had informed them of the planned veto.

The U.S. government has just cancelled two planned loans to Guyana, one for the vital rice industry and one for development aid to small farms. The U.S. embassy in Guyana has confirmed the loan cancellations without giving a public reason. The explanation, however, can be found in the fact that in April the Guyanese government told the IMF that it would not go along with conditions which included, among others, a 60-100 percent devaluation of the Guyanese currency.

The effect of the IDB loan veto and the U.S. government loan cancellations is simple: genocide. Already the government has been forced to ban all bread made by wheat flour.

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### ***De la Madrid intervenes against PAN***

Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid led a high-profile political offensive by Mexico's ruling party, the PRI, in the state of Baja California Norte Aug. 4 against the neo-fascist, separatist PAN party to prevent a duplication of recent PAN electoral victories in the northern states of Chihuahua and Durango.

Finishing a two-day tour of the principal cities, Tijuana and Mexicali, the president announced that the government was giving special concessions to border businessmen who need to use dollars in checking accounts, and was also improving the availability of basic goods in the stores along the border. The agriculture ministry also announced a special loan program for farmers in the Mexicali Valley.

The PRI is attempting to use the July 30 jailing of former Pemex director Diaz Serrano on corruption charges as the way to deflect the PAN's attacks on "official corruption." Just three days after Diaz Serrano was arrested, de la Madrid attacked those "corrupt reactionary thieves" who had abused the public trust while in office.

## ***Briefly***

● **'PIMPLE DIPLOMACY'** is the term Flora Lewis of the *New York Times* has given to Henry Kissinger's method of crisis-management: that is, letting a situation come to a head, and mopping up after it ruptures.

● **JORGE DIAZ SERRANO**, presently a senator, was stripped of congressional immunity by the Mexican Chamber of Deputies July 30. As he left the session, where the former head of Pemex had presented his own defense against corruption charges from the attorney general, he was placed under arrest and conducted to jail, in the beginning of what will be a series of political investigations which will shake Mexican political life.

● **CODECO** (Commandos for the Defense of Western Civilization), an extreme right-wing Portuguese group created in 1974 as a front for the dissolved political police, PIDE, issued a communiqué Aug. 1 which said that they would use dioxin in Lisbon to poison the population if the Portuguese police went on searching for other members of the Armenian Liberation Army (ARA) who are said to have reached Lisbon on Friday. The new team of ARA is reported planning a hit against Prime Minister Soares or one of his close collaborators.

● **TUDEH** (Iranian communist party) secretary general Kianouri is alive and well (in government custody) in Iran, according to exile sources. They say his faked execution is part of a deal between Teheran and Moscow which involved an apparent purge of the Iranian communists.

● **LICIO GELLI**, grandmaster of the P-2 masons under investigation for everything from drugs to terrorism to coup-plotting, and currently under arrest in Switzerland, will reportedly be let back into Italy under Socialist Prime Minister Bettino Craxi's new regime.