

International Intelligence

Will Washington back Mubarak's peace bid?

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak met with President Reagan in Washington, D.C. on March 12, to try to secure U.S. backing for his plan for direct U.S. talks with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, as a first major step in launching a Mideast peace process that would bring Israel to the bargaining table.

The initiative Mubarak brought to Washington is based on the Feb. 9 Amman agreement between King Hussein of Jordan and PLO leader Yasser Arafat, and is backed by Saudi Arabia, Algeria, and Iraq. It is opposed by the Soviet-backed terror axis of Syria, Libya, and Iran—and by Israeli strongman Ariel Sharon. The U.S. State Department, which prefers a deal with Syria, is also opposing the Mubarak proposal, and insisting that Washington will never deal directly with the PLO.

The Amman accord, Mubarak told President Reagan, is a "golden opportunity for peace. It is a major development that cannot be discounted. We cannot afford another missed opportunity for peace." A U.S. role in aiding the Palestinian people to find a homeland, he said, "is a stand consistent with the American heritage."

For his part, President Reagan called the Amman accord "a promising beginning" which he hopes will "open the path to direct negotiations with Israel."

Any loss of momentum in the peace effort now, however, will give the State Department, the Arab radicals, and the Israeli faction of Henry Kissinger's friend Ariel Sharon, the time and maneuvering room to dynamite the negotiations. The recent outbreaks of terror in Lebanon demonstrate the lengths to which Mubarak's enemies are prepared to go.

The State Department and the International Monetary Fund have joined forces to squeeze both Israel and Egypt economically, sabotaging the efforts of Mubarak, Saudi King Fahd, et al. to shape an economic

package that could underwrite a peace settlement. Mubarak came to Washington with a request for \$850 million in additional U.S. aid, which has so far not been decided upon.

Pope hits drug pushers and anthropologists

Speaking to an audience of Colombian bishops at the Vatican on March 9, Pope John Paul II condemned the drug-traffickers and anthropologists who are sabotaging the Church's mission in Colombia. He denounced "the narcotics traffickers in Indian regions, who disturb the life of the communities which they want to drag into the immoral drug trade."

He also criticized "those individuals and groups who from false anthropological positions pretend to deny the Gospel its right to penetrate into all cultures in order to uplift them," and said that "they forget that missionary activity also has an intimate connection with human nature itself and with its aspirations."

Soviet testing of laser weapons revealed

According to evidence gathered by U.S. intelligence services, reported on March 11 in the London *Daily Express* and the Italian *Il Giornale*, the Soviet Union has begun testing lasers in space, through the Salyut 7 manned space flight, and has been systematically engaged in a buildup of a massive space- and ground-based ABM system.

The *Daily Express* writes, "The latest close-up photos by U.S. spy satellites over the Soviet Union will play an intriguing and significant role in the Geneva arms-control talks."

The intelligence picture presented includes the following details:

- Soviet cosmonauts on board the Salyut 7 space station have been engaged in a

laser program, similar to one planned by the Americans, to knock satellites out of the sky.

- A huge "phase-array" radar system has been built at Krasnoyarsk in central Siberia as part of a ground-based anti-ballistic missile system.

- A mobile, high-altitude surface-to-air SA X-12 missile is being developed for deployment throughout the Soviet Union. It has already been successfully tested against Soviet intermediate-range missiles.

- 10,000 surface-to-air missiles—previously deployed as anti-aircraft weapons—are now being upgraded to shoot down ballistic-missile warheads.

- A high speed interceptor missile called SH-08, which can destroy intercontinental missile warheads when they enter the atmosphere, is on the way.

- A research center at Sarishagan, in Soviet central Asia, is experimenting on laser and particle-beam systems capable of hitting targets in orbit.

- The Soviets are pumping massive funds into microwave weapons which would destroy the electronic circuitry of space vehicles.

Already in the 1960s, writes the *Daily Express*, the Soviets developed a "fractional orbital bombardment system" which used an orbiting nuclear warhead.

On the conventional side, fuel pipelines are being laid from east to west across Warsaw Pact territory as part of a huge buildup of military strength.

European support grows for beam-defense plan

Growing numbers of European leaders and defense experts are calling for the governments of Western Europe to cooperate wholeheartedly with President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI)—or risk being "decoupled" from the United States politically, and left behind economically.

Lothar Späth, the Christian Democratic

Briefly

governor of the West German state of Baden-Württemberg, wrote an article for *Der Spiegel* magazine dated March 11, following a three-week tour of the United States. "Do Europeans really know what they would risk if they do not decide to push for participation in the SDI, and at the same time finally make serious steps toward creating an integrated research policy?" he asked.

"With one blow," he declared, "the SDI has made the order of magnitude of the issue clear. Moreover, Europe's deficit in efficient research infrastructure, covered up but not alleviated by a few spectacular individual projects, has been hung on the wall for all to see. . . . I can only draw the conclusion that we must urgently discuss the 'how' of participation in this research, and that the question of 'whether' has to be beyond any doubt."

Leading West German military commentator Adalbert Weinstein, in a March 10 editorial in the weekly *Welt am Sonntag*, called on Europe to join the SDI:

"But the Europeans in the first place ought to take the chance for cooperation the Americans are offering them. For one, because the realization of the SDI is not too far away. Remember, Kennedy's NASA program took the United States to the Moon in 10 years. Second, there is a real danger of 'decoupling,' if the old continent does not take every step to produce space-based defense against the small cruise and the medium-range missiles on its own. America, which faces the gigantic task of having to also include the skies in her strategy, necessarily has to concentrate on weapons which can destroy intercontinental weapons."

From London, *The Times* published an editorial on March 9 calling on Europe to stop believing Moscow's pre-Geneva propaganda, and to reject Prime Minister Thatcher's research-but-no-deployment line on the SDI:

"Moscow has only decided to resume the talks, not so much to dissuade the United States from pursuing its program of strategic missile defense, as to exploit the signs that West Europe is not yet convinced of the soundness of that defensive philosophy. . . .

"If defensive measures against incoming missiles can be developed, it would be extraordinary—indeed it would be immoral—not to exploit them simply because the strategic and scientific intelligentsia had become wedded to a system of deterrence based only on the threat of retaliation. . . .

"The European governments may unite behind Mrs. Thatcher's formula. But since that will not prevent Moscow from exploiting these evident transatlantic differences, Europe should be more positive. As a defensive alliance, NATO should be seen to welcome and work for a realistic defense against nuclear threats, and not regard it as negotiable."

Labour leader calls for deal to scrap the SDI

Britain's "shadow" Foreign Secretary and former Labour Party Defense Minister Denis Healey has come out for a deal favored by the Soviets whereby, in return for presumed Soviet reductions of offensive nuclear weapons, the United States would scrap the Strategic Defense Initiative.

In a statement on British television March 10, Healey said: "If the Russians offered to trade deep cuts in the offensive missiles against an embargo on the 'star wars' system, I think Europe should then be prepared to have an almighty row with the United States. . . . I would say to the Americans that if you go ahead with testing components in the 'star wars' system, the Russians are bound to go ahead in building offensive missiles. . . . and we will not support you if you persist in this path."

The Soviets are offering Western Europe another kind of bait to reject the American program: In an interview published in the March 11 issue of the West German weekly *Der Spiegel*, a group of young Soviet think tankers, including the son of Georgii Arbatov (head of Moscow's USA & Canada Institute), says that Moscow would agree for the first time to "on-site inspection" to verify arms-control treaties.

● **IS REGIS DEBRAY**, the special adviser to French President Mitterrand, working with Cuban-backed separatist networks to destabilize the French Caribbean territory of Guadeloupe? The island has been hit recently with terrorism and a truckers' strike. Mme. Michaux-Chevry, the governor of the territory, has charged Debray and his "Cuban friends" with fueling the trouble. What was Debray doing in Tashkent, U.S.S.R. a few months ago, visiting the Soviet center for manipulation of religious and ethnic minorities?

● **BRITAIN'S MI-5** intelligence service will soon get a new chief—rumor has it that it will be Sir Anthony Duff, the current chief of the Joint Intelligence Committee, a close confidant of Prime Minister Thatcher. He is expected to deal with the problems created by recent scandals over "irregularities" in investigative procedures. Sir John Jones, the current MI-5 chief, is retiring.

● **LORD BRIDGE** of Hawick will soon release a report from Britain's Security Commission recommending changes in MI-5's recruitment procedures, to better detect political and sexual weaknesses of prospective agents. The agency has been hit with numerous scandals recently, including the case of a middle-level MI-5 official accused of rape and other sex crimes. British television is playing up the case of ex-MI-5 agent Cathy Massiter, who complained about the agency's illegal investigation of communist infiltration of the British disarmament movement.

● **VENICE'S CINI** Foundation met early in March to map out plans to make Venice "the key city in Europe, from the Atlantic to the Urals, by 1986," Italian newspapers report. The meeting was addressed by Soviet Ambassador Alexander Lunkov, and Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti sent greetings.