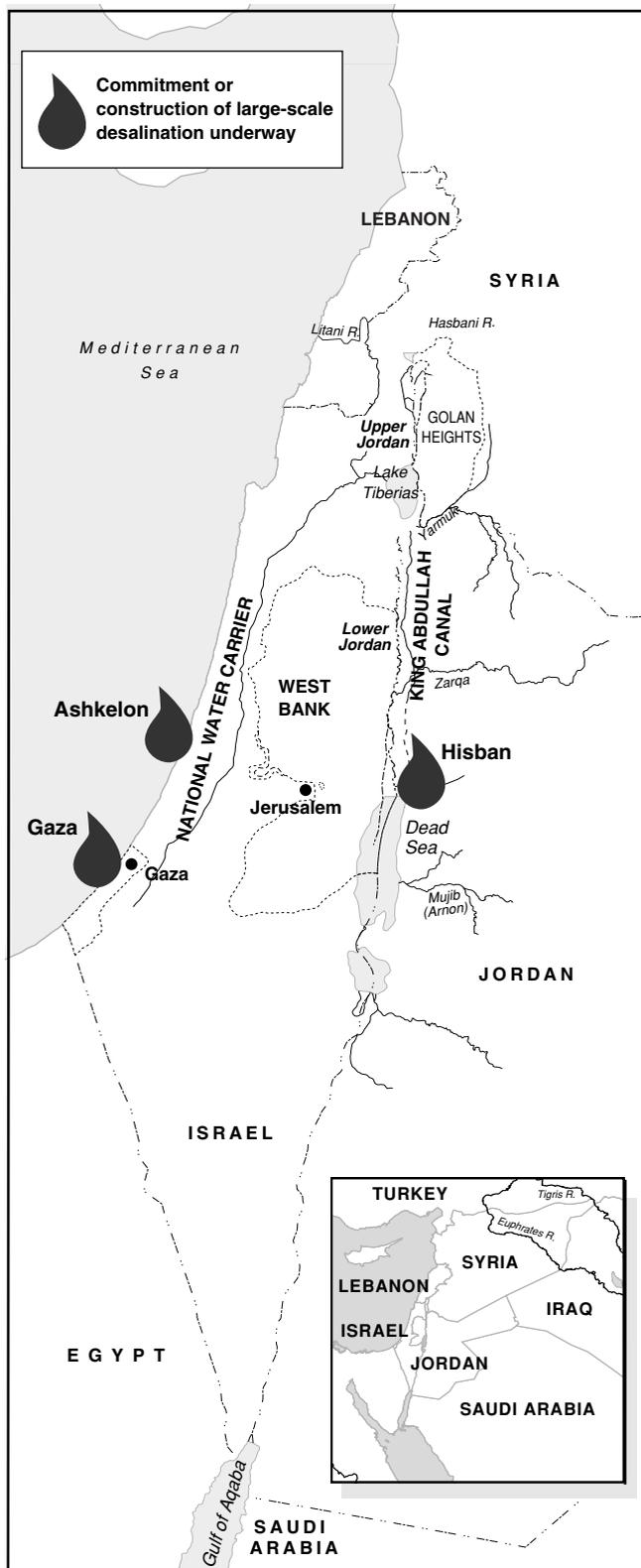


FIGURE 1
Proposed Nuclear Desalination



Make Water Resources To Ensure Mideast Peace

by Marsha Merry Baker

Figure 1 makes the point, that reaching an agreement on peace in the Middle East, can best be furthered by an internationally supported commitment to *creating water resources*, as a crucial precondition for mutual interest prosperity and security.

It shows three locations, in Gaza, Israel, and Jordan, where a project has approved, or is under way, for a large-scale water desalination facility. These are singled out by a policy paper released in November 1999, by the Washington D.C.-based Center for Middle East Peace and Economic Cooperation. Conventional power sources, not nuclear power, are premised.

Wadis Hisban: This facility in Jordan would desalt brackish water, potentially producing 50 million cubic meters (mcm) a year of sweet water.

Gaza: The coastal facility would be coupled with a new power plant under way, to likewise produce 50 mcm a year of fresh water from desalted seawater.

Ashkelon: This Israeli coastal location is the site for a project now being expedited, to produce 50 mcm, with contingencies to double the output.

The Center’s white paper, titled “Solving the Problem of Fresh Water Scarcity in Israel, Jordan, Gaza and the West Bank,” makes the point that, “without any formal decision to coordinate those efforts, simultaneously proceeding on the three projects could be presented to the world as a regional program for funding assistance purposes, and begin what could be formalized—and enlarged enough to offer a total solution to the fresh water crisis—in Final Status negotiations.”

The white paper (see www.centerpeace.org) presents, with maps, charts, and cost analyses, a more extensive “scenario” involving the Med-Dead, and Red-Dead Canal proposals, and more coastal and inland large-scale desalination throughout the region, including in Egypt.

Reportedly, this white paper has been “on the desk” of President Clinton, and experts on water resources have been on stand-by for Camp David negotiations, yet no diplomatic initiative has been forthcoming.

EIR has for decades publicized Lyndon LaRouche’s “Oasis Plan” approach, for combining safe, modular nuclear power plants, with desalination facilities, to produce the equivalent of “new rivers and oases” of economic development to transform the Mideast landscape of water scarcity, and strife (see *EIR*, May 19, 2000, p. 16).