

prepared to support a huge expansion of Middle East development, then this might have a significant impact on the Israeli population. They would see that they could have not only peace and security, but prosperity as well."

Another State Department official said that several U.S. departments have worked on a set of concrete plans for regional development, with a concentration on the problem of the economy of the West Bank, locale of an expected Palestinian state. The American Enterprise Institute, in a project headed by former Treasury official Richard Erb, is working on a similar project for the West Bank, in coordination with the State Department.

Too Slow?

The Carter Administration timetable for the Middle East leaves something to be desired. According to officials, Carter is expected to wait until after the Panama Canal treaty passes the Senate before making a major push on the Middle East; even the U.S. arms package, including the controversial proposal to sell F-15s to Saudi Arabia, will not be introduced until then. Afterwards, however, it is expected that Carter will begin a national drive to put across the American position on the Middle East, in what would become a showdown with the Zionist lobby.

Despite these politically motivated delays, however, there is a clear understanding of the urgent dangers of the situation. The war in Lebanon, officials agree, could easily spill over into Syria and turn into a conflagration. An official at the Defense Intelligence Agency said that such a danger could be dealt with most directly by "imposing" development.

"Israel," he said, is "not entirely a rational place. There is always a tendency in the general staff for the inherent Masada complex to trigger an Israeli strike at the Arabs, even if they have nothing to gain." The Israelis calculate, he said, that under certain circumstances they might be able to deal a crushing blow at Syria to cripple Syria militarily for years — though ignoring the consequences in terms of possible Soviet military intervention. "We've told them that we won't support their military adventures," he added. "But maybe they won't listen, or won't believe us. I've always thought that the answer lies in calming Israel's fears by setting up joint development zones with the Arabs. The West Bank is especially crucial. I think what we ought to do is what we did in Germany after World War II: go into the West Bank and impose development — build it up!"

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Energy Department Threatens Saudi-U.S. Relations

Just at the time good political relations between the United States and Saudi Arabia are most crucial for the health of the dollar, officials with the Energy Department are doing their best to disrupt the Saudi-U.S. alliance. The foremost point for applying pressure on the Saudis centers on oil supply interruption, the theme of an article in the current issue of *Foreign Policy* magazine, titled "OPEC's Threat to the West." The magazine was formerly run by the National Security Council Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski and Trilateral Commission member

Rockefeller Development Corp. Eyes Turkey

Former Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller is reportedly eyeing Turkey as one of the main beneficiaries of his soon-to-be-established development corporation. According to a State Department official, Rockefeller will leave soon for Ankara where he will discuss with Turkish government and business leaders his plans. His initiative is expected to clear the way for massive investment in Turkey by U.S. private interests eager to involve themselves in long-term development projects there. Such investment will place the U.S. in direct cooperation with the Soviets, who have recently signed an economic development agreement with the Turks aimed at developing the country's industrial and energy capacity.

The revived interest in Turkey reflects the growing recognition on the part of U.S. businessmen that economic development is the key to stabilizing the entire region, both economically and politically. In the case of Turkey, the understanding is especially crucial. Faced with a \$14 billion debt, most of which is short-term, a \$4 billion trade deficit, and a cutoff of credits by Western banks, the Turkish economy has been staggering for more than a year, defaulting repeatedly and closing down entire branches of industry to generate cash for debt repayment.

The unraveling of the economy has left the country a prime target for internal destabilization. Bloody clashes between leftists and rightists have left 150 dead this year, twice the number of deaths as occurred during the same period last year. In addition, the military is restive as a result of the U.S. arms embargo imposed after the 1974 Cyprus affair.

Last week, Prime Minister Ecevit warned the U.S. that Turkey will reconsider redefining its relations with the U.S. and NATO. With U.S. interests and the delicate balance of power in the region jeopardized, President Carter this week dispatched three high level State Department officials, led by Assistant Secretary of State Warren Christopher, to Turkey carrying new proposals from Carter.

Samuel Huntington, now in the Department of Defense as security advisor, and is now under the editorial direction of Kissinger crony and former NSC member Morton Halperin. Predicting that "another kind of crisis — an oil embargo or OPEC production cutback could occur quite easily," the article discusses at length "supply interruption" scenarios. It continues, specifying that "political events — such as another Mideast war, the destruction of oil-producing facilities by terrorists, or the overthrow of one of the key OPEC governments — might lead to a production cutback..."