

Europe, Arabs, Japan Build Mideast Development Option

Key European and Arab leaders, together with Japan's Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda, the Vatican and support from the Soviet Union are all moving to create a fallback option for the Middle East, in the form of a clearly defined economic development perspective. Their goal is to gain acceptance of this development perspective as a "safety-net," a policy option to the grave danger that failure of the Camp David Summit will leave no alternative in the Middle East to war and ensuing U.S.-Soviet confrontation.

In an Aug. 25 article entitled "Thermonuclear War by October?" U.S. Labor Party Chairman Lyndon H. LaRouche underlined the importance of the recent Bonn and Bremen accords as the cornerstone of a substantive Mideast peace: "The Bremen EEC agreements establishing the European Monetary System and European Monetary Fund are the keystones for a currently emerging new world monetary system meeting the exact specifications of the International Development Bank proposal issued by the U.S. Labor Party during the Spring of 1975. In short, in practice, the only possibility for securing a durable Middle East peace is subsumed under the successful implementation of the Bremen agreements."

In moves timed both to support U.S. President Carter's difficult Camp David gamble and put forth a simultaneous "Bonn" alternative to its potential collapse, West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and French President Giscard d'Estaing issued strong statements on the need for a Mideast peace this week. As well, Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda is currently touring the Persian Gulf states, Iran, and Saudi Arabia to foster the stabilization of the region through economic development.

Europe's Leaders Deploy for Peace

On Monday, Sept. 4, President Sadat flew to Paris for a series of personal consultations with Giscard, prior to his arrival at the Camp David meeting. Following a series of private meetings between the two leaders, the French daily *Le Figaro* reported that Sadat and Giscard had reached "total agreement" on the proper solution for the Mideast conflict. France, West Germany, and Japan have all made clear their view that the only viable solution to the Mideast is the question of a Palestinian state and Israel's withdrawal

to its 1967 borders under UN Resolution 242 guidelines.

Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Butros-Ghali, who accompanied Sadat to Paris, made a point of commenting on the significance of Sadat's Paris visit, in a *Le Monde* interview, stating that if Camp David failed, "then Egypt would have only France and the rest of Europe to rely on as friends," i.e., the Bonn summit Mideast development proposal.

Moving in step with his French counterpart, West German Chancellor Schmidt delivered two major statements on the need for world peace, in messages timed to converge on the delicate negotiations at the Camp David talks. Speaking at the West German Biblis nuclear power site on Sept. 6, Schmidt said that "West Germany's major task is to avoid the destruction of war."

The West German government has been actively pushing for an economic development thrust to unblock the Mideast deadlock. An article in the Aug. 22 issue of the conservative Frankfurter *Allgemeine Zeitung* reported that the U.S., in coordination with France and West Germany, has worked out a series of economic deals for Egypt incorporating Israeli technological know-how. The newspaper stated that Sadat and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance have agreed that development is the only solution for the problems of the area. In addition to Israeli expertise, the Saudi Arabians have agreed to contribute petrodollars, and France and West Germany will furnish machine tools and heavy industrial equipment.

Further momentum toward a Mideast settlement has been provided by the personal message of Jimmy Carter to Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, and the first-ever tour of a Japanese head of state to the Persian Gulf and Mideast region. Carter's letter to Andreotti, delivered by Vice President Mondale who represented the U.S. at the investiture of Pope John Paul (see text below), makes it clear that the American President not only holds the judgment of the Italian leader — who has been identified with efforts for a comprehensive Mideast solution — in the highest regard, but also understands the full import of the Bonn accords for a stable world order.

On Sept. 3 and 4, Pope John Paul took the occasion of his coronation ceremonies to meet with Chancellor Schmidt and several heads of state and government

representatives in order to discuss the upcoming Camp David summit. Recently, the Pope said that a solution to the Palestinian problem was at the core of the problem.

From the Japanese side, Prime Minister Fukuda is stressing vigorously that only economic cooperation can stabilize the region. As one of the chief architects of the Bonn accords, Fukuda is taking the time to brief the heads of state of the Persian Gulf (currently being wooed by China to form an anti-Soviet Persian Gulf security alliance). In Fukuda's view — and what he is presumably telling Gulf leaders — only economic cooperation can stabilize the region within the framework sketched out at the recent Bonn summit (see details in the *Le Monde* article below). In addition to the myriad oil for technology deals that are on the drawing board, Fukuda will discuss the crucial issue of nuclear energy development in the region with particular emphasis on supporting the Shah of Iran's commitment to the nuclearization of his country.

The Soviet Union has sent clear signals that it will welcome viable alternatives to Camp David. Over the weekend, *Pravda's* Washington correspondent Gennadiy Vasilyev stressed that while the failure of the Camp David talks would be a blow to White House prestige — and to the hopes of those seeking a separate peace — this need not doom prospects for peace. Significantly, the French press chose to cover this analysis.

—Mary Jane Coates

Le Monde Reports Fukuda Mideast Initiative

Following are excerpts from an article in the Sept. Le Monde, titled "Fukuda's Visit to the Mideast: Japan Seeks to Aid the Stabilization of the Region Through Economic Cooperation."

Tokyo — Mr. Fukuda left Tokyo on March 5 for the Mideast. The Japanese Prime Minister will visit in succession Iran, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and will terminate his voyage in Saudi Arabia on September 13.

Mr. Fukuda has wished to endow this first "tour" by a Japanese head of state into the Arab world and Iran

with a political character. It is not completely fortuitous that his presence in the region coincides with the opening of the Camp David negotiations. The Prime Minister intends to make known the desire of Japan to contribute, through its economic aid and its technological cooperation, to the stabilization of the region.

Mr. Fukuda will insist especially on the interdependence existing between Japan, which needs oil, and the oil producing countries, concerned about their security. Concerning peace in the Middle East, the Japanese are prudent. Mr. Fukuda will reaffirm to his hosts Tokyo's position, which upholds resolution 242 voted by the United Nations in 1967, and is favorable to the self-determination of the Palestinian people.

The Japanese are in accord with American policy on two points: on the one hand, Mr. Fukuda will insist on the necessity of the oil producing countries utilizing their reserves in petrodollars to aid the Third World, while continuing to fix the price of oil in dollars; on the other hand, in developing its cooperation with the consuming nations, Mr. Fukuda will help to counterbalance, although in a small way, the Soviet presence in the region. In this perspective, the Prime Minister will propose to Saudi Arabia its participation in an economic assistance program for North Yemen, the Sudan and Somalia (Japan will furnish its technology and the Saudis will finance the projects).

Among these are the construction of a cement factory and a fertilizer plant in the Sudan and a thermal generating center in North Yemen. Japan has also decided to furnish a loan of ¥35 billion to Egypt in order to "reinforce its position in its efforts of peace with Israel." Mr. Fukuda will not go to Cairo — a stop initially foreseen — because of Sadat's absence.

Nuclear Energy

... The Japanese, who are studying the possibilities of new sources of energy, intend to incorporate into their program the oil producing countries who are concerned about their future once their oil resources have been exhausted. Saudi Arabia and Iran are interested in these projects. The Iranians, in particular, have asked for the help of Japan in the development of nuclear energy. Teheran and Tokyo are on the point of signing a cooperation accord in three points: Supply of Japanese technology for the construction of nuclear plants resistant to earthquakes; training of engineers in Japan; joint exploitation of uranium in third countries. . . .