

A grain of SALT

President Jimmy Carter told the American Newspaper Publishers Association on April 25 that the United States is fully committed to concluding a SALT II accord with the Soviet Union, and U.S. newspapers headlined the slogan that SALT will be the "best chance for peace." But even as Carter spoke, the effects of another "peace in our time," concluded barely a month ago under the orchestration of the White House, brought the two potential signators of a U.S.-USSR Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty closer than ever before to a thermonuclear war.

Indeed, the actions of U.S. ally Israel, under the combined impetus of the "lebensraum" demands of its own war economy and the U.S. military umbrella extended by the terms of the Camp David pacts, signal that the Administration's current push for SALT cloaks an unbridled drive for strategic confrontation against the Soviet Union.

The Israeli military has begun preparations for a blitzkrieg war against Lebanon and Syria, the latter a treaty partner with the Soviet Union. Since April 22, Israeli armed forces have launched low-level, continual bombardment of positions in Lebanon from the northern port of Tripoli to the Palestinian camps in the south. In addition, the fascist militia commanded by Major Saad Haddad, the Lebanese renegade who last week declared an Israeli-backed "Republic of Free Lebanon," have launched heavy shelling against United Nations, Lebanese, and Palestinian forces in the south of Lebanon.

But observers are expecting something much bigger. The Israeli press has accused neighboring Syria of "teleguiding" the bands of terror-

ist zombies whose actions over the second half of April have whipped the Israeli population into a frenzy for revenge. In fact, Arab sources privately say that the terrorism was perpetrated by a combination of British intelligence and Israel's own intelligence service, the Mossad—not the first time that the Mossad has spilled Israeli blood to justify a "reprisal."

The threatened conflict in the Middle East is intended to expand immediately into a conflagration that will engulf the entire "arc of crisis" from the African Horn to the Persian Gulf, Iran and Pakistan. The disintegration of Iran, now under the Nazi-like rule of the komitehs and Ayatollah Khomeini, and the Egypt-Israel war axis are each being used to destabilize the governments of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria and Turkey.

In this light, it is hardly surprising that Jimmy Carter's April 25 speech insisted that "we will not accept any Soviet attempts to link SALT with aspects of our own foreign policy"—while one day earlier, Carter's press secretary had affirmed to reporters that U.S. decision on

deploying new weapons systems would be linked to "Soviet behavior." Administration proponents of SALT and their apparent foes in such outfits as the Committee on the Present Danger are fully in agreement that SALT should be used to force the Soviets to curb technology development, and provide a framework for negotiation while regional, "limited" nuclear wars are hotly pursued—preferably on the south Asian flank of the USSR.

A series of statements emanating from Moscow over this last week in April have made it abundantly clear that the Soviets will accept neither a ban on high technology nor a strategy for "limited" war (See SOVIET SECTOR report). The Soviet leadership sees the possibilities for avoiding World War III as rapidly running out. It is for this reason that they are staking much on French President Giscard's current visit to Moscow, and on Franco-Soviet negotiations which reportedly include a mutual monitoring of world hot spots.

—Nora Hamerman

The Week in Brief

Senator Proxmire's Banking Committee has just issued a report which predicts that **60 to 80 percent** of the U.S. population would be immediately killed in a nuclear war. This is considered an acceptable figure by the study's author, Dr. Arthur Katz. Katz is currently Assistant Secretary of the Environment at the **Department of Energy**.

In an interview, Katz spelled out

that the Harrisburg "nuclear mishap" was run to test civil defense capabilities. As he explained, however, civil defense is not concerned with the biological survival of individuals, or even the biological survival of the species. What is crucial is what he termed the "survival of the nation." Katz explained that the committee is investigating whether, after nuclear attack, the nation