

Israeli-Soviet deal signals 'post-American era' in Mideast

by Mark Burdman

For all intents and purposes, the strategic disengagement of the United States from the Middle East has been certified, by an array of deals worked out between the Soviet Union and Israel, details of which have been, in part, leaked to the public by Israeli authorities, beginning on July 18.

From the standpoint of the Soviet military junta under Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, the banishing of the United States from the Middle East is critical to establish Soviet strategic control of the "Eurasian land-mass." For certain clever fellows at the British Foreign Office and the State Department, such a disengagement is a necessary component of their much-cherished "New Yalta" or "New Potsdam" agreement with the Soviets. In their regard, the Soviets, of course, are preparing the "double-cross of the century."

In particular, those co-thinkers of Henry Kissinger in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, who are hungrily awaiting a promised 50-60,000 Soviet Jewish emigrés per year, would do well to contemplate the anti-Semitic pedigrees of the current Soviet leadership. In their case, the double-cross will mean the "pogrom of the century."

According to Israeli and European sources, the July 22 arrival in Moscow of liquor magnate and World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman is the seminal event in Israeli-Soviet deal-making. A reliable Israeli military source told *EIR* that Bronfman has been "the key figure" in the June-July period of back-and-forth between Moscow and Jerusalem. Other important figures have been Occidental Petroleum multimillionaire Armand Hammer; former West German Chancellor and Socialist International leader Willy Brandt; former Socialist Chancellor of Austria Bruno Kreisky; and former Defense Minister of Israel Ezer Weizman, who has "delivered the messages" on Soviet offers to Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

The same period has seen an unusually active pattern of direct Israeli-Soviet contacts. According to France's *Le Figaro* on July 19, a high-level delegation of prelates from the Russian Orthodox Church arrived in Jerusalem during the

week of July 15 for a "courtesy visit"; Peres expressed hopes for closer Israeli-Soviet ties, while the prelates expressed the hope that relations could "improve rapidly."

Contacts have occurred elsewhere. The July 18 *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* reported that Soviet ambassador to the United States Anatolii Dobrynin has been meeting regularly with Israeli ambassador Meir Rosenne. In Paris, Soviet ambassador Vorontsov has also been meeting with his Israeli counterparts, while recent Radio Moscow Hebrew-language broadcasts have aired excerpts from the 1948 U.N. speech of Andrei Gromyko, declaring Soviet support for a Jewish state in Palestine.

In Israel, former foreign ministry official Shlomo Avineri, a Marxism specialist, wrote a July 12 op-ed in the *Jerusalem Post* calling for a reappraisal of Israel's agreement to participate in the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative. Under the title, "Need for Debate over 'Star Wars,'" he argued: "The recent changes in the Kremlin may portend better relations. . . . How can one express such views and at the same time get involved in a project which is considered, rightly or wrongly, by the Soviet Union as the most confrontational tool of U.S. policy vis-à-vis the Soviets?"

According to one Israeli insider, "Avineri's article reflects the current thinking of Peres."

'Under a Russian umbrella'

As details of the Israeli-Soviet talks began to leak, Israeli commentators stressed that the Soviets had offered mass emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, on condition that they *not* emigrate to the United States. To those with a memory longer than a week, the Soviet attitude reeks of the famous 19th-century Russian minister Pobedonostsev, on the subject of Russian Jews: Let one-third emigrate, let one-third be jailed, and let the rest die.

But, for Israeli planners obsessed with the "demographic" side of relations with Arab states, the offer is too tempting to refuse—even as they privately acknowledge that *EIR's*

characterization of Soviet anti-Semitism is "absolutely correct."

Israeli planners are also accommodating themselves to the momentum of the "New Yalta." If the 1980s Russian Empire is the force to be reckoned with, why not achieve for Israel the status of a "Greater Israel" satrapy, next to a "Greater Syria" satrapy.

-An Israeli military source, asked what the foundations of an Israeli-Soviet deal might be, responded by expressing contempt for U.S. diplomacy in the region:

"We foresee negotiations with Syria, under a Russian umbrella. It's the only way Syria will talk. [U.S. State Department envoys] Murphy, Habib, all these guys, the whole lot know quite well the situation: They go to Syria, and they wait in the corridor, for hours, for a meeting. And the meeting is not even with [Syrian President] Hafez Assad, but with some functionary. So, a Russian-mediated deal is quite tempting, if Moscow says, 'We can bring Assad to the peace table, for a settlement with him.' Only *they* can do it.

"The Palestine Liberation Organization would be forgotten. Neither the Russians nor the Syrians like the PLO, that is certain, that's been Russian policy ever since Andropov came in. . . . It will all be done without the Americans, although the problem of Jordan will be left to the Americans to handle."

According to Middle East insiders, that last statement means that Jordan is to be carved up, primarily between Israel and Syria.

State Department treachery

Not for a moment, should it be thought that the U.S. State Department has become the hopeless victim of hostile forces in the Middle East: The State Department has *conspired* to bring about the U.S. disengagement from the Middle East.

It is no accident that the Israeli-Soviet deal occurs concurrently with the confirmation of a new U.S. ambassador to Israel, Thomas Pickering. Pickering, former U.S. ambassador to Nigeria and El Salvador, had primary responsibility for population issues and designed the Carter State Department's input into the *Global 2000 Report to the President*, a document frankly proposing global genocide by primarily economic means.

In Israel, Pickering is perceived as "the personal choice of George Shultz," in the words of one source. Shultz wants Pickering to implement the next stage of the State Department's economic "grand design" for Israel, which features fantastic levels of austerity, the dismantling of Israel's agro-industrial public sector, and the transformation of Israel into a casino, dope, and "services" economy. Shultz has assumed the role usually reserved for the International Monetary Fund: personal oversight of economic devastation. Pickering is his man on the scene.

This policy is the underlying force driving Israel into the arms of Moscow. And, should the policy not be overturned by the White House—not only Israel.

Egypt

Mubarak takes on the Islamic radicals

by a Cairo Insider

The decision by the Egyptian government to arrest some 46 leaders of the Islamic fundamentalist movement in mid-July came not a moment too soon. As the fundamentalist challenge to the Cairo authorities grew bolder by the day, many within Egypt and abroad doubted the ability of President Hosni Mubarak to respond. Finally, the government decided to show its teeth, and struck swiftly.

But intelligence analysts abroad have warned that the crucial period of confrontation will come before mid-August, the time of the Al Idhr celebration—the Feast of the Sacrifice—which comes two months after the fast of Ramadan, and opens the period of the annual pilgrimage to Mecca. Iranian President Ali Khamenei announced on July 18 that Ayatollah Khomeini had not been "satisfied" with previous pilgrimages, and wanted to make the upcoming one a more "political" event. Teheran appointed Hojatessalam Mehdi Kharroubi as commander-in-chief of this year's pilgrimage, the chairman of the Foundation of the Martyrs and an architect of the June 14 TWA hijacking. The infamous Iranian "Independent Brigade 110" has pledged to send 15,000 Revolutionary Guards to join the pilgrimage. The Brigade, headquartered in Lebanon, is the operational command of Iran's terrorist destabilization operations throughout the Middle East, and particularly in the Gulf.

Clearly, Khamenei's statement did not refer merely to fundamentalist disruption of the pilgrimage to Mecca, but to a terrorist upsurge throughout the Islamic world. And for Iran, which has just signed a treaty of strategic alliance with Egypt's arch-enemy, Libya, there is no doubt that Cairo is a more important target than Mecca.

The fundamentalist challenge

The fundamentalist movement has resurfaced, stronger than at any time since the days preceding the assassination of President Anwar al Sadat in October 1981. The very same persons who were arrested in the aftermath of that assassination, and later released for lack of evidence, are today's fundamentalist leaders.

Three interconnected factors have allowed for their re-emergence over the last two years:

First are events outside of the direct control of the Egyptian government—the deepening international economic cri-