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WASHINGTON APPLYING NEW PRESSURE ON ARAB OIL PRODUCERS

Moscow Radio Peace & Progress in Arabic to the Arab World 1430 GMT 7 Mar 74 L

[Text] Washington is applying new pressure on the Arab oil-producing countries to get them to lift the ban on the export of oil to the United States. In the Senate Finance Committee U.S. Treasury Secretary Shultz called on Congress to grant the administration power to refuse the Arab and other oil-producing countries preferential treatment in their trade with the United States. This is how, in fact, the good will, about which Kissinger continues to boast, is manifested by the United States toward the Arabs. Observers believe that Shultz's call is just as insolent as the statements recently made by the U.S. secretary of state in which he threatened the Arabs that he would send landing forces to oilfields in the Middle East. It is known that, faced with these threats, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait were forced to take protective measures. They planted mines in their oilfields and warned that they would not hesitate to blow them up in the event of intervention.

The present pressure campaign does not come from Washington alone. There is a noticeable military revitalization in the Israeli forces' positions in the Golan Heights. Moreover, the news agencies report that these forces are in a full state of alert. All this is happening on the eve of the convening of the Tripoli conference of the Arab oil-producing countries--the conference which the American newspapers are saying is raising hopes of the Arabs' reducing their ban on the export of oil to the United States. If we take into consideration that the decision of the conference largely depends on Syria's stand, we can see more clearly the purpose behind the massing of the Israeli forces on the Golan Heights.

U.S. endeavors to influence Arab oil policy and get the Arabs to lift the ban on the export of oil are currently influencing all U.S. policy in the Middle East. The New York TIMES on Sunday says this matter in particular, and not the settlement of the Middle East crisis, is what preoccupied Kissinger's mind while he was formulating the disengagement between the Israeli and Syrian forces.

Having failed to realize its aims through diplomatic threats, Washington is now apparently trying to use stronger means. However, the American policy planners are mistaken if they imagine that the United States will in this way secure the lifting of the ban on the export of Arab oil. It will lose the last hope of doing so. It is the inalienable right of the Arab peoples to use their natural resources in the interests of the Arab countries. Attempts to put pressure on these peoples only show Washington's inability to comprehend the endeavors of the Arab nation to restore its dignity and regain its rights. The Arabs applied a ban on the export of oil to the countries which support Israel's aggressive policy. They are asking Israel to implement the resolutions of the Security Council on the complete withdrawal of all Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories and to recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

If some Arab leaders are today ready to surrender in the face of American pressure and to lift the ban on oil before those demands are fulfilled, they are taking a chance by challenging the whole Arab world and by challenging all the world progressive forces which insist on the continued use of oil as a weapon in the battle until the consequences of the Israeli aggression have been liquidated. It is a fact that today American imperialism is doing its utmost to divert the Arabs of this weapon. This fact is the best proof of the effectiveness of this weapon. Therefore, to throw it away at this time, in particular, means to hinder indefinitely the question of finally ridding Arab territories of Israeli occupation.

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MOSCOW SCORES U.S. CORRESPONDENT FOR NAIVETE ON MIDEAST

Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1830 GMT 7 Mar 74 L

[Unattributed commentary: "A Naive Person From Washington POST"]

[Text] It is known that Mr Hoagland, the U.S. Washington POST correspondent, has for quite some time been regarded as a specialist on Arab affairs. This correspondent had visited a great number of Middle East states before he was accredited as a correspondent in Beirut. Thus, when Hoagland expresses his view with regard to the affairs of this region, he knows what he is talking about.

A few days ago in an article published by the Washington POST, this person wrote that what is increasingly disturbing the Arabs is the fact that Golda Meir may lose the premiership. We are sure that each one of our Arab listeners can only regard such a statement as an absurd fabrication. The fact remains that the only people who want to see Golda Meir staying in power pursuing the policy of her government are the imperialists in the United States.

It is known that the aged Israeli prime minister has, for a long time now, been enjoying various sorts of support from overseas--help which is being rendered owing to Tel Aviv's policy, which is similar to that pursued by the gigantic military-industrial group in the United States. When Senator Jackson, the representative of the U.S. military monopolies, demands that the Arab territories which were usurped in 1967 should not be returned to their owners, and when the U.S. Zionists, who have invested billions of dollars in Israel, state that the usurped rights of the Palestinian Arab people should not be restored, Golda Meir at the same time makes every possible effort to carry out fully the instructions issued to her, it being understood that she herself liked this task just as much as her protectors.

Despite all this, Hoagland tries to pass himself off as a naive person when he claims that the Arabs are very anxious about the possibility of an obstacle to the establishment of peace in the Middle East caused by the current Israeli rulers' loss of their posts. It should be said that if there is anything that hinders the establishment of peace in this region, it is only the aggressive policy being pursued by the Israeli Government with the encouragement and active support of the U.S. imperialists. This is increasingly being discussed inside Israel itself, where the number of people who realize the futility of the policy of aggression against the Arabs is growing.

It is noteworthy that the Israeli Communist Party bloc in the Israeli Parliament recently delivered to the Israeli president, Katzir, a special note in which it denounces anew the policy of the Golda Meir administration and demands the immediate implementation of the Security Council resolution of 1967. The Israeli communists pointed out in their note that no administration can assume power in Israel and pursue the policy of the annexation of the territories.

Under these circumstances it is clearly very difficult for Mr Hoagland and his U.S. journalist colleagues, who can be found in large numbers in the Arab states, to defend the anti-Arab policy being pursued by the U.S. imperialists and justify the behavior of Gold Meir and her administration. Therefore, those who are working in the U.S. propaganda machinery resort to dillydallying, lies and clowning--and even to appearing very naive. Hoagland's article published by the Washington POST provides an excellent sample of such fabrications.

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In his words, participants in the meeting heard a report by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger on prospects for the settlement of the Middle East problem and lifting the embargo on Arab oil deliveries to the United States. Scott said that the U.S. administration hopes that the embargo will be lifted soon. However, he declined to call any dates or substantiate his forecast.

MOSCOW STRESSES EFFECTIVENESS OF ARAB OIL EMBARGO ON U.S.

Blow to U.S. Propaganda

Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1230 GMT 9 Mar 74 L

[Unattributed commentary: "The United States and the Arab Oil Embargo"]

[Text] A matter which has recently been occupying the minds of journalists and high-ranking officials, and which has been discussed a great deal on radio and TV programs in the United States is the possibility of eliminating, or at least easing, the energy crisis from which the country is suffering.

Nobody in the United States still attempts to deny or belittle the importance of resuming Arab oil imports as quickly as possible, although 4 months ago propaganda in the United States was disseminating an entire different point of view.

This was when, following the October war, the Arab countries decided to impose an embargo on their oil shipments to states supporting Israel in order to compel them to abandon their support for Israel's expansionist policy. At that time a big propaganda campaign was launched in the United States to prove that the country was capable of doing without Arab oil and that Arab countries would be unable to hold out when faced with a halt in the flow of the money they receive for selling their oil on the American market.

But life dealt a severe blow to such claims. Following the imposition of the Arab oil embargo, American statistical administrations were forced to admit in their published reports that signs of a dangerous stagnation in the economy of the United States were increasing noticeably, that the number of unemployed was rising and that signs of a decline in industrial output of special importance to the United States were beginning to appear. A dangerous mistake was discovered in the report of the special group attached to the President of the republic for the supervision of oil imports.

This report predicted that the ratio of Arab oil in American imports would reach the danger level, to use the expression of the authors of the report, of 10 percent only in 1985.

In fact it became clear that the United States has exceeded this level since 1973 by 50 percent and that it has no alternative oil resources to compensate for this amount of Arab oil. Another thing also became clear: The magazine U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT wrote that the United States is aware that it is unable to impose its will on Arab countries and that this is not a result of the growing Arab unity alone but also a result of the huge political, military and economic aid given to them by the Soviet Union and the entire socialist group.

Facts indicate that economic considerations play an important role at the current stage and have forced American diplomacy to seek a political settlement for the Middle East conflict on terms acceptable to Arab countries.

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I take my hat off to the political sagacity and the farsightedness of the political groups and personalities who 2 years ago blocked the way of the overambitious and irresponsible Senator from Washington. There is no greater threat to peace than such politicians pushing to power.

POLITICAL CIRCLES IN WASHINGTON FAVOR NEW SUMMIT WITH USSR

Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1830 GMT 10 Mar 74 L

[Text] The French word detente, relaxation, has become the political term in the United States to describe Soviet-American relations at their current stage of development. The policy of detente has the support of the widest sections of the American public. A positive reaction was accorded in the United States, in particular, to the recent statement by President Richard Nixon on the need to strive for further relaxation in the relations between the two countries in order to avoid a confrontation which could lead to war.

However, not everyone shares this point of view. The forces in the United States which would like to resurrect the times of the cold war have not laid down their arms. This has been shown in Congress, where a group of reactionary politicians (?are trying to impede) the policy of cooperation between the two countries. It has its expression in the Pentagon's aim to achieve approval for a military budget of almost 100 billion and in the writings of [word indistinct] journalists who intimidate Americans with the Soviet threat.

However, attempts to turn the process of detente back are not only unsavory, but are scarcely (?credible). It is characteristic that in political circles in Washington, a positive attitude is being taken toward the opportunities and prospects of a new Soviet-American summit meeting. Both Republicans and Democrats are coming out in favor of continuing the course of detente. In particular, Congressman Michael Harrington, Democrat, Massachusetts, said in an interview for All-Union Radio [Moscow Domestic Service] that it is necessary to undertake new efforts to make the atmosphere of Soviet-American relations healthier. The development of cooperation between the Soviet Union and the United States is an important historical process, which exerts a favorable influence on the state of international security as a whole.

KISSINGER CRITICIZES WEST EUROPEAN STAND ON ENERGY PROBLEM

Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 8 Mar 74 L

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has criticized the energy policy of America's West European allies. He stated at a meeting of the U.S. Senate Finance Committee that if West Europe refuses to have consultations with the United States, Washington will adopt unilateral measures. In this context, Kissinger said the United States is in a better position than its European allies with regard to energy questions. The U.S. secretary of state appealed to these partners to implement the resolutions of the recent Washington oil conference. It is noteworthy that these resolutions have been opposed, especially by France. Paris said that these resolutions may antagonize the oil-producing countries.

TASS REPORTS NIXON MEETING WITH CONGRESSMEN ON ENERGY ISSUE

Moscow TASS in English 2139 GMT 8 Mar 74 L

[Text] Washington March 8 TASS--President Richard Nixon conferred today with the Republican leaders in Congress. As leader of the Republican minority in [the] Senate Hugh Schott said after the meeting, it was chiefly devoted to a discussion of energy problems.

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This became apparent following the failure of the attempt by Washington to form a bloc of capitalist major Arab oil-consuming countries hostile to the Arabs--an attempt made last month at the Washington conference.

The persistent tone in the U.S. appeals to the Arabs to lift the oil embargo has become more pronounced: Washington will have no incentive to continue the efforts to achieve a political settlement in the Middle East and activate the work of the Geneva conference, without progress on lifting the embargo. Even President Nixon himself stated in his first press conference following the October war that the efforts of the United States to achieve a political settlement in the Middle East are motivated by the desire to have the Arab oil embargo lifted.

But it is no secret that the reasons which forced the Arab countries to use their oil as a weapon in the struggle against Israeli aggression and for the establishment of a just peace in the Middle East still exist. One step in this direction has been achieved--the disengagement of forces on the Egyptian-Israeli front. But the issue of the complete withdrawal of the aggressors' forces from Arab-occupied territories and the guaranteeing of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people is still unsettled.

As many Arab countries believe, the future of the Arab oil embargo will only become clear through the resolution of these problems. Arab countries now know from experience what means should be taken--and when and how--to win respect for their rights and legitimate interests.

Aspects of U.S. Policy

Moscow Radio Peace & Progress in Arabic to the Arab World 1430 GMT 9 Mar 74 L

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] World attention is still concentrated on the Middle East, and particularly U.S. policy in this region. This attention is due to a number of reasons, including the increasing activity of U.S. diplomacy in the Arab world, the energy crisis and other reasons. But despite all this the question of U.S. policy in the Middle East is a complicated and multisided issue.

Arab Republic opinion no doubt still remembers all the hostile acts carried out by the U.S. imperialist circles against the Arab world. For example, Arab public opinion has not forgotten the attitude of these circles when they supported the plans for intervention in Syria in 1957. It has not forgotten that the United States landed forces in Lebanon in 1958 and that the United States introduced the well-known Eisenhower-Dulles doctrine in which it declared its right to interfere in the affairs of the Arab world, including direct military intervention. As for the U.S. attitude vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli conflict and the United States' open support for Israel during the 1967 aggressive war and at present, it arouses the Arabs' legitimate wrath and makes it impossible for Washington to lessen the intensity of this wrath no matter what means it may use and irrespective of the maneuvers to which it may resort.

But nevertheless, U.S. policy is not a phenomenon isolated from the rest of the international phenomena. Therefore, those who plan U.S. policy cannot but take into consideration the changes occurring in the world. They cannot ignore the positive transformations leading to a reduction in international tension, transformations which have taken place as a result of the efforts of the forces of peace and socialism. All these factors, at the forefront of which is the improved Soviet-U.S. relations, will inevitably leave a great impact on the United States' Middle East policy and compel Washington to amend this policy.

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The victories which the Arabs realized on the battlefields at the beginning of the glorious October war with the help of the Soviet Union and the other socialist states, the Arabs' successful use of oil as a weapon in the battle, and the increased unity of the Arab nation in the struggle for liquidation of the consequences of the Israeli aggression and establishment of just peace in the Middle East also play a great role in this connection. Lastly, we cannot disregard another important factor--the increasing political isolation surrounding the Israeli extremist elements throughout the world generally and at the United Nations in particular, where the Soviet Union and all the socialist states, the developing countries, and even some of the advanced capitalist states stand on the side of the Arabs' just cause. In such circumstances the United States can no longer continue with its policy of comprehensive support for the Israeli militarists. All these factors compelled the United States to participate in the Geneva conference and made the United States carry out its feverish diplomatic efforts which are allegedly being exerted from the U.S. desire to establish a just peace in the Middle East.

But does this mean that neo-imperialism, and U.S. imperialism in particular, has abandoned the idea of infiltrating the Middle East and the Arab world? Events prove the contrary. They bear witness to the fact that the imperialist monopolies, at the forefront of which are the oil monopolies, are very anxious to exploit the opportunities made available by the current circumstances, and to exploit the energy crisis in particular. It is no secret that the (?mixed) monopolist groupings, especially the financial monopolies and the monopolies which dominate the construction industry, are today making every effort to infiltrate the economies of the Arab states, and particularly the states which have progressive regimes.

The press and the statements made by officials in the United States leave the impression that some U.S. circles hope that the efforts they are making today toward the settlement of the Middle East crisis will help them make some of the Arab states deviate from their progressive and anti-imperialist course.

Perhaps Arab public opinion has become aware of the statements made by U.S. Defense Secretary Schlesinger, who said he did not consider it improbable that the Pentagon will use its forces against the Arab countries which are applying the oil embargo policy. Thus, the U.S. military-industrial establishment has shown that its aims have not changed. The aims of the Zionist-U.S. circles will not change either, aims which call for comprehensive support by the U.S. Government for Israel's expansionist policy, especially since this policy is fully compatible with the policy of the Pentagon and the circles of neo-imperialism in the United States which regard Israel as a revolver aimed at the heart of the Arab world.

In such circumstances Arab progressive circles are calling on the masses to be more vigilant. The Beirut AN-NIDA wrote a few days ago that in the present circumstances we should bring more pressure to bear on the United States so it will not again evade the realization of the national demands of the Arab nation. The current situation has given the Arabs a wide opportunity for protecting their national interests and rights. The most important guarantee for this is the Soviet Union's attitude in support of the Arabs' cause, the attitude which was once again affirmed during the recent visit of Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko to Damascus and Cairo. Undoubtedly, if the Arab peoples continue to bolster their unity and consolidate their relations with the socialist states, they will have every opportunity to benefit from the positive changes which are taking place throughout the world, in realizing a just peace in the Middle East.

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