
Behind the facade of Washington-Moscow detente

'The assault of Soviet imperialism'

Dear Dr. Kissinger,

The statement you made in Washington on October 26 to the effect that the conditions which brought about the Yom Kippur War were "intolerable to the Arabs" and that Israel would have to make substantial concessions both vindicates the Arabs and condones wanton aggression. It shows, moreover, that our Government failed to convince you that the Arabs were in fact the *aggressors*.

The only "intolerable condition from which the Arabs suffer is the fact of the existence of a 'Jewish State in the midst of their vast territories and their continued failure to annihilate it. The worst "condition" that Israel's secure and peaceful existence could mean for the Arabs is that of their 100 million people, one per cent would be living as a minority in the Jewish State with full rights.

The immediate practical consequence of the dictate you are trying to impose on Israel is quite clear. Every Israeli step backward will increase the combined Arab and Soviet pressure for more and then more concessions, until the balance of strategic circumstances makes successful resistance by the victim impossible. I do not have to tell you that there is a point beyond which the quality of men and of arms cannot compensate for loss of strategic depth. And surely you do not put your complete trust in Arab or even Soviet signatures on the guarantees in a peace-treaty.

Moreover, it is a serious error to think that by sacrificing Israel's security, Western interests and

In the following open letter to U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Land of Israel Movement leader SHMUEL KATZ challenges the idea that putting pressure on Israel to make concessions is a desirable step in the direction of achieving peace in the Middle East. He warns the American statesman that it is in America's best interest to check the growing presence of the Soviet Union in the Middle East and Africa—a menace whose only stumbling block is the Jewish State.

world peace will be preserved. The scenario of your policy, it seems to me, could have been written by Neville Chamberlain. The punitive cease-fire agreement and later the incredible saving of the Egyptian Third Army are all too reminiscent of the Munich Pact. What is being done seems as incredible to us as Munich seemed to the Czechs.

Let me spell out the truth, however obvious, of the international implications of your apparent policy.

Israel is the last bulwark of the West *against* the assault of a purposefully pursued policy of Soviet imperialism, the last line of defence against the swamping of the entire Middle East and of the African continent by Soviet influence and expansionism.

If Israel withdraws in Sinai, the whole zone will be overrun at a speed — already being planned in Moscow and Cairo — which will be irresistible.

Middle East oil, which for all its economic importance also symbolizes the gilded and gluttonous decadence into which Europe seems to be sinking, would pass directly into the control of the Soviet Union. Within months, perhaps, the peoples of the Middle East and Africa would become vassals of the Soviet Union. The way of life and, before long, the very survival of the West *as a meaningful entity* in the world would be at the mercy of the Soviet Union. Its defence system would have become grotesquely devalued.

You, Dr. Kissinger, are behaving

towards us as though you believe that by your policy you are preventing a war between the Super-Powers. The Russians are no more anxious for a war than you are.

Perhaps you honestly believe that their threat is real, that the Russians are in fact prepared to take the risk of an armed clash with you now, when you have the overall strategic advantage. But what kind of perverse logic suggests to you that their readiness will evaporate precisely when they have turned the strategic balance in their favour, when they will have laid hands, *inter alia.*, on a large part of the world's oil?

Can you prevent this? Once the Soviets are astride both banks of the Suez Canal, and freely deploy their naval strength in the Mediterranean how will you prevent their purposefully pursued penetration into the oil-countries of the Middle East? On what local forces will you depend to resist their demands? On King Faisal and his sons and brothers? On the major military powers of Abu Dhabi and Kuwait?

Yet there is still hope that this process can be halted, even in this black hour.

First mistake

We trust that our Government will not persist in its first mistake of giving way to pressure. The time to stand firm is now, while we are still strong. If we stand firm now, while still holding the fort against Soviet expansion, the people of the United States will not abandon us. If you stand Dr. Kissinger, the Soviet Union will not go to war. There is no reason to believe otherwise.

If, however, we are forced to withdraw from the Suez Canal to vulnerable boundaries, we shall in the end still fight. We shall not be a second Czechoslovakia. We *cannot* be a second 'Czechoslovakia. The Czech people did not disappear when they lost their independence. But if the Arabs are enabled to deal us the final blow, what will be at stake will be the physical existence of our people. 'It is idle for us to pretend to be horrified at the thought of civilized America, Britain and the rest "permitting" genocide. How were six million Jews murdered by Hitler if not by the silent resignation or acquiescence of the civilized world? And we have not forgotten Biafra, nor the hundreds of thousands of Nilotic Sudanese whose extermination hardly merited a headline in the Western press, nor the mass killings in Bangladesh. We have no illusions.

If our *State* goes under, it is the end of our people — our *people*, not only the three million living in Israel, sustained and driven by the memory of the millions eliminated by Hitler. The destiny of the three million Jews in the Soviet Union, of all Jewish communities throughout the world, including those of the United States, will be decided by Israel's fate.

We would not go down without a fight. Any pragmatic statesmen, who under the threat of Arab and Soviet barbarism, have toyed with the thought that the interests of Israel's three million — and the three million themselves — may have to be regarded as expendable on the altar of world peace — are making a dangerous miscalculation. *The altar will burn with the sacrifice.*

Many people are today hoping and praying that the process you have initiated will be halted. Think again, Dr. Kissinger, think hard and now. For all our sakes.

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