

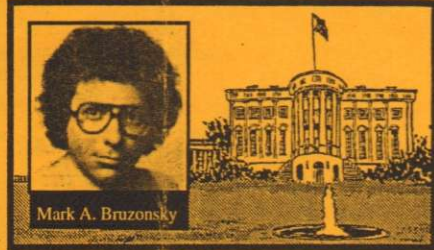
MICHAEL MANLEY

Thatcher could not empower the workers. My model begins with the workers, I want them to become shareholders. Instead of being time-clock adversaries of the owner, they should become owners themselves. I would like to get to the point where, one day, workers don't need a time clock. Instead, they will come to work because they not only get a paycheck, but because a dividend payment will be waiting for them at the end of the year

DIFFERING
AND
AGREEING
WITH
MAGGIE

Where do I depart from such well-known non-socialists as Margaret Thatcher, US Housing Secretary Jack Kemp, or

From



Mark A. Bruzonsky

Washington

THE ILLUSION

There's all too much evidence of the good guy-bad guy syndrome in regard to today's political moment. Sure the 'loan guarantees' have been put on hold; but the overall relationship with Israel proceeds with more money and more arms than ever before. Sure there are rhetorical spats, especially between Bush and Shamir; but isn't this just what one would expect in order to give the illusion of American 'even-handedness' when the reality of such is missing?

Part I

OF 'PEACE PROCESS'

WHAT might be, at least until next year and the likely triumphant return of George Bush to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, the last "round" of "peace talks" concluded here in Washington a few days ago.

Rome is next in this diplomatic merry-go-round with a bunch of sub-stations along the way as regional talks on specific themes break out beginning in Ottawa last week.

Since Madrid, everything so far has gone pretty much as expected. And that includes Israel's anticipated boycotting of the upcoming regional talks should the Palestinians send "unacceptable" delegates — as they plan to and should. Indeed, it's what they should have done all along, going right back to Madrid, putting the Americans in the hot seat to decide how to handle their Israeli client.

Overall, the Israelis have combined stalling for time — time which they are using well to further crush the Intifada and to further expand control of the occupied territories with a reinvigorated orgy of new settlements and expansion of old ones — together with crafty manoeuvring for negotiating position.

With superstar political showman like Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Washington ambassador Zalman

Shoval to handle the media, the Israelis have managed to portray absolutely outrageous policies as somehow somewhat reasonable.

Indeed the Israelis have become masters of public deception. Just as they have infiltrated the Mid-east with spy rings and clandestine operatives they have seeded the "peace talks" with one political minefield after another. Under these circumstances, the chances of a serious breakthrough to a real peace are all but nil.

Israel's latest "pilot municipal elections" play hardly fooled the small world of Mid-east professionals as anything more than a gimmickry. But it did further confuse an already bewildered and increasingly dazed public for which the "peace talks" are already little more than a sideshow — just as the Israelis have planned they would be.

For the Israelis this latest "elections play" is a careful manoeuvre that makes much sense and was carried-off with characteristic finesse and gamesmanship.

First of all they preempted the Palestinian positions, positions which in themselves have become increasingly difficult to understand and inherently complex.

By allowing themselves to get diverted

away from the key issues of an end to the occupation, independence and statehood — clear concepts that everyone can appreciate and very many support — the Palestinians have blundered down a path that sweet-talking James Baker has prepared for them. But most of all this last Washington round of talks has made it more possible for both the Shamir government and the Bush administration to go into their respective election campaigns claiming "progress" in the "peace talks".

Buzz-terms

"Peace process".... "Slow progress".... "Cautious hope"....

These are all the buzz-terms desperate politicians use when they've little serious to offer but want to get themselves voted back into office. Better he you already know and who is already engaged in the middle of pushing forward with important initiatives than taking a chance with someone new — so the basic message goes and so the "elections play" gambit may make more credible for all too many voters.

And even though the polls both in Israel and the US seem to give the challengers a good

opportunity to replace those now holding power, it's likely in the end that come 1993 the same players will be in charge.

But even if there should be a Bill Clinton in the White House and/or a different Yitzhak heading Israel's government, when it comes to the "peace process" currently underway there are basic national interests widely perceived by both the US and Israeli political establishments. Consequently even a change at the helm in either country is not likely to seriously alter overall strategies or base policies, no matter what shifts in tone, emphasis or rhetoric there might be.

The other day — while Arab-Americans meet across the river in Arlington at the annual conference of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) clearly giving their endorsement, and their hopes, to Bush and Baker — *New York Times* Mid-east correspondent Thomas Friedman was being broadcast on Cable TV insisting that rhetoric and tone aside the Bush-Baker administration is the most pro-Israeli in history, even more so than the Reagan administration before it!

Just look at the actual facts of what is going on today Friedman kept pointing out.

First the Americans insist on keeping Israel

militarily far superior to any combination of Arab forces, even now with Iraq pretty much knocked out of the equation. Indeed the strategic alliance, begun in the Reagan-Bush years, has continued to steadily expand in scope and emphasis for more than a decade now.

Second, unlike Reagan who at least verbally backed an international conference, Bush and Baker have done exactly what the Israelis have always wanted by arranging Mid-east peace talks totally devoid of any UN presence, by pushed the PLO far into the background, by agreeing with Israel to emphasize "autonomy", and by allowing Israeli's occupation of the occupied territories to actually expanding even while the peace talks take place.

Third, there's all too much evidence of the good guy-bad guy syndrome in regard to today's political moment. Sure the "loan guarantees" have been put on hold. But the overall relationship with Israel proceeds with more money and more arms than ever before. Sure there are rhetorical spats, especially between Bush and Shamir. But isn't this just what one would expect in order to give the illusion of American "even-handedness" when the reality of such is missing?

M D GILKAR

Saudi Gazette Correspondent in Srinagar

WITHDRAWAL of occupation forces from Afghan territory and

KASHMIR

leaders — Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and Professor Bukharuddin Rabbani — Salah

H DEEN

Special to Saudi Gazette from Colombo

CAITLI

