

THE PRESS AND THE NATION RISE AND FALL TOGETHER

THE MUSLIM

Regd. No. R-12

EVERY MORNING FROM ISLAMABAD

VOL. VI NO. 154 MUHARRAM-UL-HARAM 29, A.H.—THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1984 PRICE 1

U.S. expert says Egypt, Israel on collision course

From MARK A. BRUZONSKY

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24: Recently invited by senior Egyptian military authorities to visit Egypt, an American Middle East specialist has returned to warn the U.S. that Egypt and Israel are on a collision course which might eventually lead to a major war.

In an article scheduled for publication in next month's World Policy Review, author Stephen J. Green has concluded there is a "slow, steady drift toward war on a scale not yet seen in that part of the world, a scale that would almost certainly draw both the United States and the Soviet Union directly into the conflict."

Green, author of one of the year's most important new books about U.S. involvement in the Middle East - "Taking Sides: America's secret relations with a militant Israel" - further reports that the Egyptian military, under the leadership of Defence Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Abu Ghazala, has taken the decision to

build a deterrent military force against Israel. This Egyptian military build-up, Green writes, will include substantial numbers of short and medium range ballistic missiles.

According to Green, leading figures in the Egyptian military have been led to conclude that the Camp David peace process has failed, that the U.S. is an unreliable security partner, and that Egypt must have a deterrent force against possible future Israeli aggression.

Moreover, writes Green, the peace that accompanied the Camp David agreement "is fragile, uneasy, and increasingly uncomfortable for Egypt" and "would not survive the invasion by Israel of one more Arab country."

With the Reagan administration having shifted the U.S. from partner in the peace process to ally of an Israel seeking a "Pax Hebraica" throughout the region, there is seething discontent and anti-Americanism in Egypt, according to Green.

Even those officials most intimately connected with the peace process are no longer able to defend it. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Boutros Ghali, for instance, told Green: "The invasion of Lebanon was not just an aggression against Lebanon, it was an aggression against the peace process as such. And now you will find very few people in Egypt who believe in the peace process. It has no credibility. Now the only thing we can do is contain the degree of deterioration."

In Green's view, this state of affairs in Egypt has been slowly growing ever since the Israelis turned the Camp David accords into a totally separate peace and a license for Israeli military hegemony, rather than the beginning of a general accord between Israel and the Arab world. Then Israel's invasion of Lebanon, the American-Israeli strategic alliance, and the Reagan administration's tacit approval of Israel's near-annexation of the West Bank have created an

atmosphere of anger and betrayal. In addition, according to Green's investigations, when Egyptian military officials learned that the Israeli attack on the Iraq reactor in Baghdad was made possible by information leaked by U.S. Congressional sources to Israel about the air defences of Jordan and Saudi Arabia, the conclusion was reached "that America was simply an untrustworthy security partner."

Green writes that while in Cairo he received confirmation from a senior U.S. embassy official that "the Egyptians have been seeking ballistic missiles" and have already begun negotiations with a number of European governments, the Chinese and the Japanese.

Furthermore, Green adds, "it may be only a matter of time before Egypt turns to the one country with both the hardware and the willingness to share it - the Soviet Union." Green quotes the same American embassy official saying that "the Russians have already offered them weapons but wouldn't have refused in their

(See Back Page)

Once the already agreed upon exchange of ambassadors takes place between Cairo and Moscow, a new relationship with the Soviet Union will begin, according to an advance text of next month's article.

"A major purchase of spare parts for Egypt's still largely Soviet-equipped army and air force" is likely to be followed by purchase of "new weapons systems, probably starting with an advanced air-defence system", according to Green who has unusual access to top Egyptian military and political officials during his recent visit.

Green suggests that it is not likely that Egyptians have in mind a nuclear deterrent tied to the new ballistic missiles. Moreover, the Egyptians are well-aware of Israeli sensitivities and fear the possibility of an Israeli strike against them before they can establish a proper air defence to protect the new ballistic missile deterrent. Consequently, the Egyptians are moving very slowly and with considerable caution, all the while showing great care to maintain the legality of the Camp David accords.

Yet in Green's analysis, "according to U.S. military sources, short or medium-range ballistic missiles with accurately targetable chemical, biological, or even conventional, high-explosive warheads could probably do the job (of deterrence). These weapons could be acquired surreptitiously and deployed in a random pattern over a wide area. If this were done after Egypt had obtained and deployed a modern air defence and command, communications and control system, the missiles would be relatively safe from pre-emptive air attack. In the Israeli defence terminology so popular today in New York and Washington, such a move would 'create facts'.

Green's conclusion: "Despite the obvious risks of reduced U.S. military, food and economic aid, or of an Israeli pre-emptive air attack, in my opinion it is likely that in the coming months Egypt will begin to prepare for the possibility of war. This move will proceed deliberately, in stages - the approach will be cautious, even reluctant. But action will be taken."