



**OUR MAN
IN HAIFA
CARL ALPERT**

*Someone
is Listening*

HAIFA -- It can't be seen from the windows of my home high up on Mount Carmel, but somewhere out there on the horizon it cruises lazily back and forth in the Mediterranean, well outside the territorial waters of Israel. It is quite safe on the international high seas, but of course the little ship has no aggressive potential. Its armaments, if any, are probably limited to a few small hand weapons.

No, this is not a war ship in the accepted sense of the word. It is one of the Soviet spy ships which swarm the oceans of the world engaged in gathering information.

There's no secret about it, either. The Soviet reconnaissance vessels on assignment to the U. S. Mediterranean Sixth Fleet are not at all bashful, and openly follow the big ships as they sail back and forth or even during the midst of naval maneuvers.

At first glance one would think these were simple fishing boats, except for the fact that they cruise in waters where there are no fish. The tell - tale indication is in the antennas which dominate the decks. These are not spy ships in the sense that they "watch" anything. Their specialty is in their sophisticated ears. These are "listening" craft, and the intricate electronic apparatus on board is so finely tuned that it can pick up anything and everything that the Israelis put into the ether.

The space above our little country is filled with many electronic signals. They include ship - to - shore broadcasts, taxi drivers reporting in to their dispatch stations, radio hams, long distance phone calls relayed by radio, children playing with their walkie-talkies, and of course a wide variety of military communications from tanks, planes and field stations. In the ether this becomes a chowder of confused sounds and signals, but the delicate Soviet equipment which picks it all up and records it is also capable of filtering the material and unscrambling it so that every message can be read clearly and without interference. The information is all then flashed back to Moscow where it is carefully fed into the master computer of miscellaneous information. It becomes intelligence on tap, bits of precious data which may some day help fill in spaces on a military jigsaw puzzle.

Soviet listening ships off the coast of Israel are not new. They were on duty here even before the Six - Day War, when the Soviet Union was a friendly nation, enjoying diplomatic relations with Israel. Spying has never been considered a hostile act. The best of friends do it to each other. Eavesdropping is part of the accepted international game. For some reason the Russians stopped "fishing" in these waters in 1975. Israel's defense forces weekly, Bama-

haneh, now reveals that early this year they returned. It would be safe to connect this fact with the latest Russian expansionism into Asia, of which the invasion of Afghanistan is but another symptom. Every scrap of information has its value at the proper time and place, and the Russians do not want to miss anything that might prove helpful some day.

Language is no problem. As anyone who has listened to Moscow's Voice of Kidma V'Shalom, Progress and Peace, knows there is an ample corps of Hebrew scholars, some of whom gained their first knowledge of Hebrew when, as members of the Russian Embassy in Tel Aviv, they attended Ulpan here.

A crane operator monitoring the unloading of special equipment in the port of Haifa, or an army officer who phones his wife from a distant army base that he won't be home that night because..... or the banking communications with Europe - all are rich sources of valuable information for the little vessel idly "fishing" off the coast of Israel.

A couple of friends of mine, who occasionally speak to each other by radio - phone between Haifa and Eilat, sometimes punctuate their casual, friendly conversation with a few Russian words and phrases, just to give a kick to the Russians listening in.

To repeat, there's no secret about it all, but still it gives one a creepy feeling to know that a Tovarich on the high seas is making a cassette of our voices, to be stored in the archives of the Kremlin.

**ISRAELI NATIONAL PARTY
SEEKS SUPPORT**

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Three leaders of a newly - formed Israeli nationalist party, Tehiya, arrived in the United States for a three - week effort aimed at trying to convince Americans, particularly Jews, to support their position in favor of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories and against the Egyptian - Israeli peace treaty.

"It is much better to have a confrontation with the (Carter) Administration today than have war (in the Middle East)

tomorrow," the three maintained at a recent press conference.

The three, MKs Moshe Shamir and Geula Cohen and Rabbi Eliezer Waldman, head of the Nir Yeshiva in Kiryat Arba near Hebron,

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**KISSINGER SAYS
NO TO PALESTINIAN STATE**

WASH. (WNS) -- Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger warned that a Palestinian state would be a disaster for Israel and the Middle East.

Speaking behind closed doors to some 350 persons at a dinner sponsored by the American Committee for the Weizman Institute, Kissinger said a Palestinian state would be another radical state tied to Iran.

The Middle East is near collapse and the only hope is rapid negotiations between Israel and Jordan, which would result in the transfer of the Arab population and permit Israel to retain its security, Kissinger stressed.

He urged the U.S. to provide credibility to backup Jordan, adding that in recent years Jordan has had no reason to trust U.S. words and support. Kissinger predicted that the current autonomy process for the West Bank will lead to one demand after another upon Israel.

Kissinger said that while the Camp David agreement was an accomplishment, a new framework and definition of the Camp David formula is needed. He said this new definition would mean that the Palestine Liberation Organization would be seen as an Arab problem, not an Israeli problem.

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