

A TARNISHED PLAN

BY ROBERT E. SEGAL

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Fahd has come up with a Middle East "peace" plan omitting the traditional olive branch and weighed down with a hornets' nest. Some say it offers nothing new. Alas it does: it is novel in that it threatens to sink the Camp David Accords subvert Security Council Resolution 242 and -338 and whittle the State of Israel down to a whimpering shadow.

Yet Henry Kissinger sees hope in the fraudulent proposal. President Reagan has more than once lauded it and State Secretary Haig had to do a second take before he realized it resembled a booby trap.

Because of the huge propaganda campaign unleashed to sell the Saudi proposal Israel and friends of Israel look now upon a truly darkening plain. The largest cloud is persistent talk of a secret U.S. - Saudi Arabia agreement. At the heart of this proposal is construction of a Middle East defense network, paced by Saudi Arabia, promising to enable Washington to move rapidly against any USSR incursion aimed at capturing Persian Gulf oil fields. Such a development would, for Saudi Arabia add lustre to its successful drive to obtain AWACS and other greatly coveted, modern military tools.

Other dark clouds overarching the Saudi Arabian "peace plan" are the open invitation extended by Arab promoters to Moscow for participation in new negotiations; Yasser Arafat's delight in the plan; the blessing given the proposal by England's most influential Arabist-Foreign Secretary Carrington; and the strong tilt of the European Economic Community towards the jubilant Saudis.

What good does Mr. Kissinger see in the plan? He advises integrating some elements of the proposal with others previously put forward. And President Reagan? Taking what must have been a very fast look at the script, our leader saw in it "a beginning for negotiations" and what struck him as something that seemed to recognize Israel's right to exist. The mirage of the year.

The Wall Street Journal, not a newspaper to leap to judgments, has concluded bluntly that Prince Fahd has come up with nothing new. The Journal sees our State Department viewing the Saudi Plan as a modern Magna Carta. And eventually even Secretary Haig felt obliged to brand the plan as "irresponsible."

"There is simply nothing (in the plan,) the Journal pointed out, "to indicate that the PLO is ready to live at peace with Israel; and until

there is, it would be highly irresponsible for the U.S. to entertain even a whisper of a PLO state."

It must be remembered that Saudi Arabia, call it a friend of the U.S., call it a moderate Arab state call it what you will, continues to subscribe to the August, 1967 Khartoum formula, pronounced after Israel's victory in the Six-Day War: "No peace with Israel, no negotiations with Israel, no recognition of Israel." Saudi Arabia, having fought Israel in 1948, in the Six-Day War, and in the Yom Kippur War, is peace-minded now only in the minds of the Arab cheering squad, nowhere else.

Flying a plan that calls upon Israel to withdraw from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem the Saudis take the prize for arrogance in proposing the creation of a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital. Prince Fahd also rides rough shod over Israel's gracious record for keeping holy places open for all religions by contending that this will be done only if Saudi Arabia has its way.

If there is to be peace for Israel with its bellicose Arab neighbors it can come only through renewal of efforts to advance the Camp David Accords or through movement in the same direction under the leadership of a hero with the courage and wisdom of the late Anwar Sadat.

E. GERMANY TO AID PLO

BONN (WNS) -- East Germany has promised a substantial increase in military assistance to the Palestine Liberation Organization according to well informed sources in West Berlin, who added that the pledge was made by the East Germans to a PLO delegation that visited East Ber-

lin. East German military experts will be sent to Lebanon to train the PLO in the use of new weapons systems received from the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact countries, the sources said.

The sources noted that the PLO delegation headed by

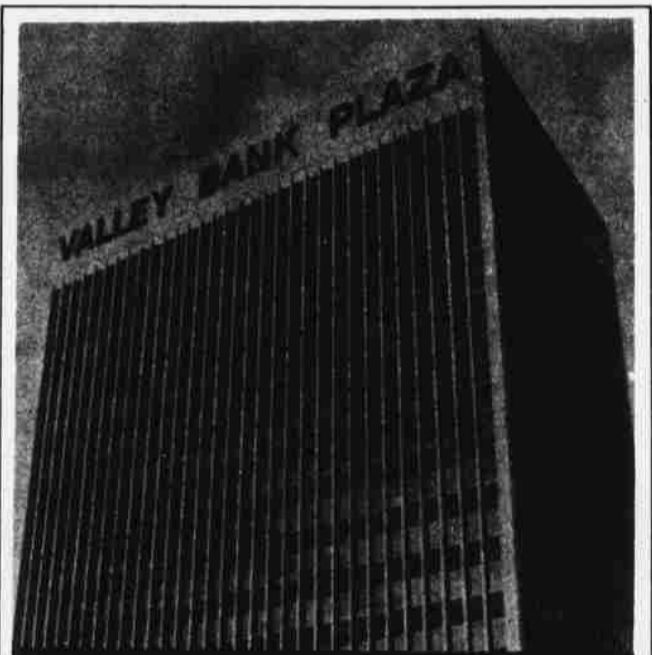
Kahil Al-Wazir, whose title is "Vice Chief Commander of the Armed Forces of the Palestinian Revolution," is receiving considerable attention in the government controlled East German media.

While East Germany has always been involved in the


supply and training of PLO units, it usually played down the military aspects while stressing solidarity with the Palestinian people on political terms.

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