

Kissinger Acts to Foil Arab Radicals

By Jack Anderson
and Les Whitten

The United States has made secret preparations not to seize but to protect the oil fields of the Arab oil sheikhs.

In public, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has warned that the United States, as a last resort, might take military action to prevent the oil strangulation of the West.

But in private, he has offered to help the petroleum potentates defend their fabulous holdings. He is worried that radical Arab groups may attempt to overthrow the conservative sheikhs, who have friendly ties with the United States. This could put the vast oil reserves of the Persian Gulf area into hostile hands.

Secret intelligence cables report radical movements in most of the Persian Gulf states. Some of the underground leaders, according to the cables, have spent time in Russia, China and North Korea. There is also evidence that they have received Soviet and Chinese arms.

For example, the strategic sheikhdom of Oman, which guards the entrance to the Persian Gulf, has been threatened

by a radical uprising. There have been intelligence reports, too, that guerrillas have attacked Saudi Arabian outposts.

This is the reason that the United States is bolstering the military forces of Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman and Saudi Arabia.

The heaviest military support is going to the shah of Iran, whom Kissinger has encouraged to become the protector of the Persian Gulf. Both the United States and Iran have gone to the aid of troubled Oman. The United States has just sent the sultan of Oman a shipment of antitank missiles, complete with military instructors to explain how to use them.

The United States is also advising, training and supplying the armed forces of Saudi Arabia. In the past, this military assistance has been largely hidden behind civilian contracts.

We reported on Jan. 6, 1973, for example, that the Bendix Field Engineering Corp. was hiring military experts right off U.S. bases, dressing them in civilian clothes and sending them to Saudi Arabia.

At least three other giant U.S. corporations—Lockheed, Northrop and Raytheon—have also

provided military services to Saudi Arabia. Now the Associated Press has discovered another civilian contractor, Vinnell Corp., which has agreed to train the Saudi National Guard to protect oil wells.

Pentagon officials, remembering how King Faisal withheld fuel from U.S. ships and planes in October, 1973, wanted his pledge in return for military assistance that he wouldn't participate in another oil embargo against the United States:

But Kissinger, satisfied with his relations with the king, overruled the Pentagon.

Black Revolution—Had he lived, Martin Luther King Jr. would now be 46 years old. Some say he kindled the second American revolution. He said his goal was the fulfillment of the first.

America's true meaning, that was the quest of his ministry. He saw, as no other, the blight upon the land—the bigotry, the exploitation. But he saw, too, another America that carried in its bones notions about liberty and equality, lessons never fully learned but never quite forgotten.

Because Martin Luther King was a prophet, he saw the nation that lay hidden in those half-formed aspirations. Year after year, night after night, he saw to it that white Americans watched their black neighbors humbly seeking only their commonplace rights—to petition; to enter voting booths, lunch counters, and schools; to obtain jobs and to own homes.

Montgomery. Atlanta. Birmingham. Washington. Jackson. Selma. Chicago. The blurring of a thousand nameless places. At Memphis, the voice of the prophet was stilled.

Seven years have passed. Such was the nature of his ministry that if it be judged to have failed, America has failed. If the "second revolution" aborted, there is no reason to celebrate the bicentennial of the first.

But we are encouraged. Thousands of blacks, responding to our appeal for a bicentennial slogan, have mailed us slogans expressing their faith in America. The Urban League, which marched beside Martin Luther King in the crusade for civil rights, supports our slogan search.

©1975, United Feature Syndicate