

The US—Israeli Special Relationship

SDI Cooperation

This is the concluding installment of the study on the US-Israeli relationship, as viewed and engineered by US imperialism. It deals with the Zionist state's participation in 'Star Wars' - the Strategic Defense Initiative of the Reagan Administration.

With a world economy that has more of a military cast today than twenty years ago, the US administration and the military-industrial complex are looking to further boost the military's share in economic activity. This share has already risen from 4.7% in 1960 to 6% in 1985 worldwide, with the US playing no small part in the increase. Measured in US dollars at their 1984 value, world military expenditures more than doubled during the same period, from \$400 billion to \$940 billion - a sum that exceeds the income of the poorest half of humanity.

No less significant is the 1984 total of arms imports of underdeveloped countries, which is \$35 billion annually - \$2 billion more than grain imports. It is no wonder that the US regards high-tech, military-related industries as a growth sector of the economy. In 1986, the US faced a deficit in high-technology trade of more than \$2 billion according to a study made by the Joint Economic Committee of Congress. This was considered disturbing by US officials, since in 1980, the US had enjoyed a high-tech trade surplus of \$27 billion. This dropped to \$4 billion in 1985, and was converted into a \$2 billion deficit in 1986. This is mainly in the areas of computers, aircraft and other military-related products. This drop is mainly due to large research and development costs, a problem which is to be resolved through the Strategic Defense Initiative, with the Pentagon bankrolling the project. It is therefore not surprising that the Zionist entity, the US's strategic asset, should follow its partner's footsteps into the SDI, as was formalized in the document signed May 7, 1986.

Through participation in the SDI, the Zionist entity is being groomed to play a broader role as imperialism's strategic asset worldwide, in accordance with imperialism's drive to expand its interests, especially in the crucial Middle East area. Enhancing the military and economic superiority of 'Israel' in the region will enable it to strike at popular liberation movements and nationalist regimes without fear of retaliation. An even stronger 'Israel' will guarantee the continued subservience of imperialism's stooge regimes in the region, especially those bordering the Zionist entity. This would preserve the stability necessary for protecting existing imperialist interests in the region (Gulf oil reserves, exploitation of markets and natural resources). At the same time, it would hinder the genuine economic, political and military independence of the Arab regimes.

All in all, the Zionist entity will be developed into an even more menacing military-political club, to be used to push Camp David to higher levels of implementation. This in turn leads to a spiraling demand by other countries in the region for more arms to offset Israeli military superiority. This demand will naturally feed into the pockets of the imperialist military industries. The stationing of AWACS in Saudi Arabia, and Egypt's increasing military budget, are only two examples of this spiraling which began with the signing of the Israeli-Egyptian accord.

The repercussions of Israeli participation in the SDI are not limited to the Middle East. As SDI partner, 'Israel' will more apparently become a base for the US's international crusade against the Soviet Union, other socialist countries and newly independent nations. The SDI will trigger new, more sophisticated technology which the US will utilize to reassert its dominance over its rivals in Japan and Western Europe, while breathing new life into the troubled US economy.

On the other hand, participation in the SDI will address some of the problems plaguing the Zionist entity, which imperialism has great interests in resolving. It will alleviate the slump in the Israeli economy and maintain the rigorous economic reforms implemented under US supervision. Israeli Defense Minister Rabin stated, «We hope to carry out research on designs within the framework of SDI in as much as it solves our problems» - a statement with both economic and military implications. By strengthening 'Israel', participation in the SDI will better enable it to pursue the ultimate goals of the Zionist project: full control not only of Palestine, but of the resources of the whole region.

Partnership in the SDI could also help 'Israel' stem the rising emigration of expert technologists and scientists, by providing challenging job opportunities and better salaries. 'Israel' will be able to team up with the US and its European allies in research to develop systems against short-range tactical ballistic missiles. Alone, the Zionist entity lacks the funds for developing such systems. Being a partner to the SDI allows 'Israel' to share in US research and development (R&D) money for military technology. An infusion of \$50-100 million from SDI subcontracts, or teaming relations with US corporations, portends enormous profits for Israeli high-technology and military firms. The technology transfer involved in such military research will raise the technological level of the entire Israeli industrial sector, both civilian and military.

THE MOTIVATION FOR SDI

The Star Wars approach has earlier been evident in the arms race. Roughly 25 years ago, in an essay titled «Arms Race: Prerequisites and Results,» Samuel P. Huntington of Harvard University described the SDI quite precisely: «States may define absolute qualitative goals, such as the erection of an impenetrable system of defenses (Maginot Line) or the possession of an 'ultimate' or 'absolute' weapon which will render superfluous further military effort regardless of what other states may do.» He also predicted the US's underlying motive: «The formulation by a state of its armaments goal in absolute terms is more likely to reflect the desire to obscure from its rivals the true relative superiority which it wishes to achieve, or to obscure from itself the need to participate actively in the balancing process.»

The SDI is the US's attempt to release itself from any arms control accord which would restrict or hinder attainment of