

SECRET



Numayri

apparent reference to dissident exiles—and other scapegoats. He failed to address himself to any of the key problems facing the country and his regime. These include:

- inflation and shortage of consumer goods—issues that were exploited by his enemies during the disturbances;
- labor unrest and how to deal with strikes;
- student grievances against the educational system.

25X1

ARAB HARMONY

60 President Sadat's latest go at summitry—his fourth in three weeks—brought Jordan's King

60 Husayn and Syria's President Asad to Cairo this week. Billed as an effort to reconcile Jordan's long-standing differences with its sister "confrontation" states, the meeting resulted in the normalization of Egypt's relations with Jordan and the prospect of an early restoration of Syrian-Jordanian ties.

60 The communique issued at the summit's conclusion indicates by its terse wording that all differences have not been resolved. Major problems remain, centering on the restoration of the fedayeen to Jordan and the re-establishment of the so-called "eastern front" against Israel. Husayn is not willing to agree to more than a token commitment to either proposition, and Sadat—whose experience with the Libyan merger project has reinforced his caution—will probably not press the point.

60 Sadat is taking other steps to expand Egypt's international support and to forge a greater degree of inter-Arab cooperation. Iran's foreign minister was in Cairo early this week, and the Arab League is meeting there now. Discussion will center on Arab strategy at the UN General Assembly, which opens next week.

60 Also scheduled for next week, or soon thereafter, is the final adoption of Sadat's new policy paper, which has been under debate in Egypt for the past several weeks. The paper calls for:

- disengagement from superpower interests
- expanded diplomatic and economic ties to establish a better balance in Egypt's relations between East and West
- greater inter-Arab collaboration, particularly on economic matters, to strengthen Egypt's and the Arabs' position against Israel.

25X1

SECRET

SECRET

ARAB APPREHENSIONS

61 The Arabs are playing up accounts of US desert warfare exercises, linking them to Washington's current concern over its energy supplies. As the Arabs are handling the story, it has so stirred existing suspicions that some Arab leaders are openly expressing uneasiness about the possibility of US military intervention in the Middle East.

62 Feature articles about "the largest US desert battlefield maneuvers in 40 years" appeared in US newspapers in August. The stories, along with comments from Arab correspondents in Washington, were picked up and embellished in a variety of Middle Eastern periodicals, which are now talking of US readiness to ensure its oil requirements by force. Several articles claim that unidentified US Marines had directly linked the intensification of their desert training to the situation in the Middle East.

64 The Beirut *Daily Star*, a moderate English-language newspaper, noted that the maneuvers came on the heels of reports that "the US, in order to guarantee its oil supplies, may intervene directly or through surrogates such as Israel and Iran." As usual, more inflammatory renditions appeared in the Libyan press; for example, one paper claimed last week that the exercises were carried out under conditions which simulated the

Libyan environment. Others predicted US and British collusion in a plan for using airborne troops to seize oil fields.

62 Arab officials, who see themselves reacting in a war of nerves started by the US, have lent themselves to the campaign. President Boumediene, in his address to the nonaligned conference, declared that "overt and covert military threats" by the US are dangerous tools to gain domination over important economic and strategic areas. He specifically referred to the possibility of an "imminent invasion" of the Gulf states. President Sadat told the conference, "What the American press writes about, what it calls the desert war, is intended to usurp the wealth of other states."

63 Some Middle East observers believe all this talk about "desert war" has created a sense of urgency in the Arabs' search for common ground on such sensitive issues as oil pricing and production limitation. The search, however, still confronts the same serious political and economic differences that have so far prevented a united Arab oil policy. Nevertheless, if mistrust of US intentions grows, Arab oil negotiations will be that much more difficult in the months ahead.

25X1

THE DAILY STAR

25X1

The Leading English Language Newspaper in the Middle East

BEIRUT
No. 7816

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 1973

10 Pages
PL 25

But Deny Mideast Link

U.S. Marines Train for Desert War

By EDMOND GHAREEB

"The Daily Star" Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Aug. 21 -- Energy requirements, Middle East tension and geo-political considerations may have been the motivating factors behind the largest desert battlefield maneuvers in 40 years held recently by the U.S. Marines in the Mojave desert.

The maneuvers, which involved several thousand reserve troops, would desert the "training" v

"I have been in the marines for 12 years and I have never been called upon to fight in the desert before. I just hope it is another 12 years before the marines decide they have to be ready again.

"There must be some reason for the longest desert exercise in 40 years. You can hardly say it took us 40 years to think of it. The airline hijackings, the skirmishes, the controversy in this country over the Jews and the Arabs, the Russian influence in the Arab world that might've had something to do with