

Lord Carrington said in a television interview yesterday, "It is now known in the Middle East that Europe has a part to play and that it wishes to play a constructive part — an unbiased, even-handed part."

Without mentioning the Russians by name, he added, "If the Arabs feel

Plane theory in jet crash

INVESTIGATORS have found indications on radar that there was something — perhaps a plane or a meteor — near an Itavia DC-9 jet before it crashed off the Italian coast last month killing all 81 people on board, authorities in Rome said yesterday.

The evidence will be sent to the National Transport Safety Board in Washington for examination.

Several Italian newspapers have raised the possibility that a Nato aircraft struck the DC-9 while it was in the air.

But Captain Ralph Slawson, a spokesman for Nato's Italian office in Naples, said, "As we have said before, there was no unit under Nato command in the area at the time of the crash."

The plane, on a flight from Bologna to Palermo, crashed into the sea 90 miles southwest of Naples on June 27.

All those on board were Italians.