

Editorial

Hostages

The plight of foreigners held in Iraq for longer or shorter periods against their will has been given soap opera treatment by Western, and in particular the American mass media. Granted their situation was frightening; but the truth of the matter is that it is not they who have been held hostage by Saddam Hussein, but the world which is being held hostage by George Bush and Margaret Thatcher—by their policies which are creating a countdown to a third world war, if not immediately, then in the next two or three years.

The U.S. State Department has declared that it is preparing a war crimes case against Saddam Hussein. It were better, before accusing Saddam Hussein of anything, to try President Bush for the precedent he set with the U.S. operation in Panama. What Saddam Hussein did in Kuwait, had a basis in policy, in statecraft; what the United States did in Panama had none.

What Saddam Hussein's military did in Kuwait, was a very clean military operation. What the United States' forces did in Panama, was a piece of Nazi-like butchery and bungling, and we can expect much more of the same, if the U.S. forces, with their characteristic propensity presently for butchery and bungling, essay an attack upon Iraq. The best estimate now, is that over 5,000 people died as a direct result of the U.S. invasion of Panama.

Now the United States is forcing a policy of genocide on its far too acquiescent allies, by enforcing an embargo on food and medical supplies to Iraq. This, and the threat by the United States to saturation-bomb both Iraq and Kuwait, has resulted in a situation in which an estimated 1.5 million refugees are trying to flee these countries.

These people are now stranded somewhere on the border between Iraq and its neighboring countries—without shelter, without sanitation, with too little food, and barely any water. Cholera has already struck, and worse, people are fighting each other with rocks and bare fists, for the food and water which mean the difference between immediate death and possible survival.

This is as bad as or worse than the situation in Hitler's concentration camps, and—if the Thatcher-Bush policy prevails—it is the face of the future.

The truth of the Thatcher-Bush Mideast war is racist genocide. The heartless disregard of and failure to provide for the million and more refugees is proof of this. This outright genocide is the natural outcome of the more covert genocide practiced by the International Monetary Fund, with such devices as the imposition of austerity conditionalities upon the so-called developing sector. Now the British, with United States support, have gone one step further in their neo-malthusian plans for a resurgent colonial empire.

Their arrogance is such that they are now flaunting the end of the U.S.-Soviet condominium. There is now only one superpower, so they say: an Anglo-American superpower. For the Soviets, the conclusion is obvious: today Iraq, tomorrow the Soviet Union. The Soviet economy is a shambles, and the political structure in disarray—but a wounded beast can still strike.

The British, with the full backing of the criminally stupid George Bush, are involved in a ruthless resource grab. They intend to grab the world's resources at the same time that they kill off the darker-skinned peoples who inhabit the areas over which they mean to take direct control.

The situation is by no means hopeless, but it is extremely grave. If the United States goes ahead, with or without Gorbachov's blessing, to a military assault on Iraq, that will start the countdown toward World War III. There is no doubt of that.

The hope for the peoples of the world today lies in the promise of German reunification—if LaRouche's policies for the development of a high-technology Productive Triangle, encompassing France, Austria, and Czechoslovakia, with Germany at its center, go forward. The success of this policy will offer the Soviets their only perceived alternative for non-military self-defense, in the face of the present Anglo-American aggressive onslaught.