

# New Baker plan will carve up the Mideast

by Joseph Brewda

Testifying on Capitol Hill on Sept. 4, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker III reported that the Bush administration has been planning a "new security structure" in the Middle East, in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf crisis. Left unsaid by the secretary, is that the creation of such a new security structure, modeled in some respects on the defunct Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) of 1955, was one of the major reasons that Great Britain and the United States provoked the crisis in the first place.

The new security structure would allow the Anglo-American elites continuing control over the majority of the world's oil, sufficient to check the tendencies of a newly reunited Germany and Japan to break out of their imperial dictates. At the same time, a new version of CENTO would provide a jumping-off point for Anglo-American depopulation wars against former and would-be colonies in Africa and Asia. The same strategy is being pushed through NATO itself,

under the code word "out-of-area deployment."

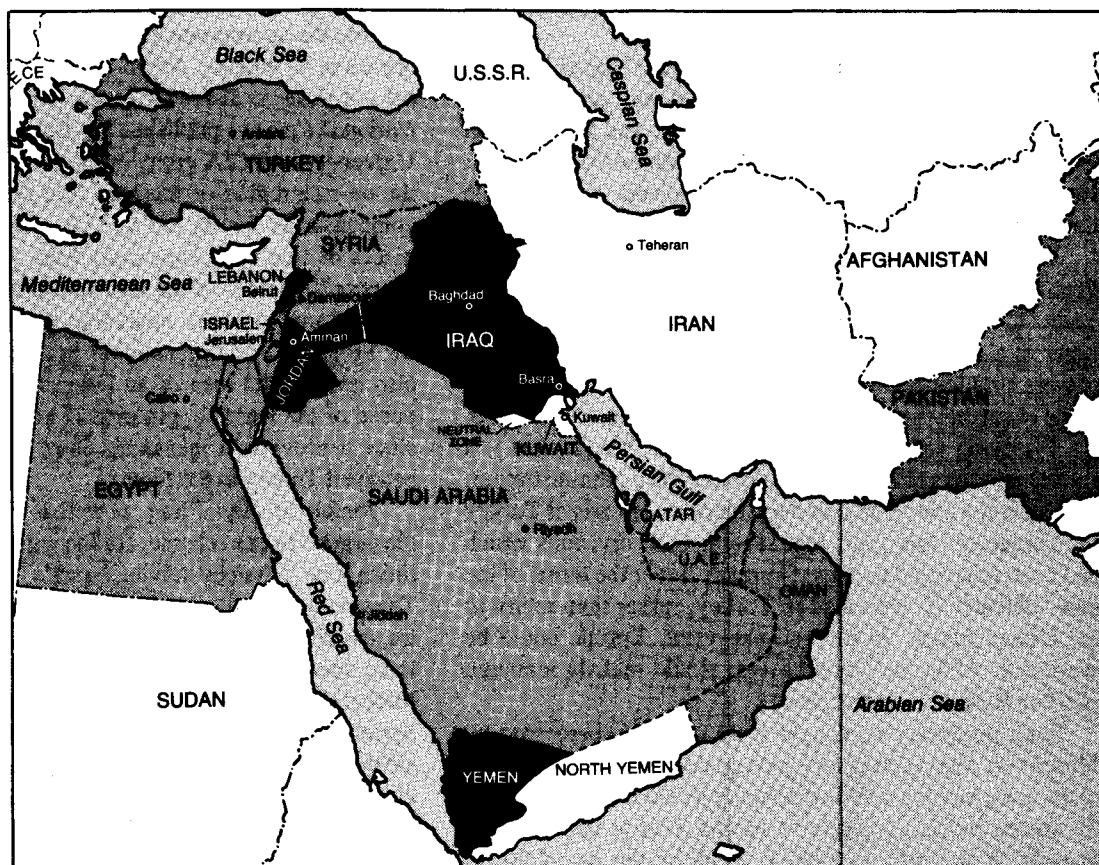
Baker testified that since the administration projected a lengthy stand-off in the area, the United States would have to become involved in a long-term mission in the Persian Gulf. Without specifying details, Baker added that the new security structure would have an "Arab character" and would bear some resemblance to NATO. Like NATO, it would require the long-term presence of U.S. troops. "Certainly we ought to play some role, and therefore there would be . . . some continuing presence there," he stated.

Baker added that even if the United States were successful in forcing Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait through diplomatic or related pressure, some continuing U.S. military presence would be needed to "contain" the "dictator." "Even if you assume that they [the sanctions] work in moving him out of Kuwait, there has to be a clear overall examination of the security structure of the region, the balance of power of the region," he said.

"We'll stay as long as we're needed," Defense Secretary Dick Cheney said that same day. Cheney declared that he wouldn't rule out continuing U.S. troop presence in Saudi Arabia beyond 1992, adding that U.S. troops have been in Korea for 40 years, and have had even a longer commitment in Europe.

Gen. James Gavin, the commander-in-chief of the U.S.

## Baker's geopolitical gameplan for the Mideast



European command, told the London *Financial Times* on Sept. 10 that NATO must consider "out-of-area deployments," such as in the Middle East, referencing the supposed importance of such U.S. bases as that of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, to the security of Europe.

### **An old story**

To those familiar with the recurring effort of the United States to extend NATO into the Middle East, the Bush administration officials' remarks have an eerie ring. Back during the days of the Cold War, the U.S. and Britain sponsored the formation of the so-called Baghdad Pact, also known as CENTO—comprised of Britain, Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, and Iraq—as part of a scheme to "contain" Russian expansionism. The scheme didn't work too well, partly because Saddam Hussein's Ba'athist party overthrew Iraq's British puppet monarchy in 1958, and withdrew Iraq from the pact in 1959. CENTO became a paper organization in the early 1960s, and was quietly buried in the 1970s. However, the Anglo-American policy of continuing to build up the military capacity of Israel showed that, despite a shifting public posture toward Moscow, extending NATO into the region was still a live option.

In the mid-1970s, that policy became popularized as a proposed Middle East Treaty Organization, METO, where Israel would play the central role. The plan was particularly associated with U.S.-Israeli go-between Edgar Bronfman, the Seagram's liquor magnate.

Then, in 1979, Carter administration National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski spoke of an "arc of crisis" south of the borders of the Soviet Union, and the potential insurgency of Islamic republics in the southern Soviet Union. He proposed that U.S. military deployments in the Middle East orient toward exploiting such possibilities.

While the Malta summit of December 1989 between Presidents Bush and Gorbachov set the terms for a "new Yalta" to divide up the world between the two empires, and usher in a new era of imperial partnership and peace, both powers simultaneously pursued their own fallback options, in the event that the planned "condominium" structure failed.

Typifying such thinking, Gen. James Vaught (ret.), a spokesman for certain elements in the Bush administration, proposed at a conference of the American Friends of Turkey in February of this year, that several U.S. divisions which had been scheduled to leave Germany under the terms of the new "détente" be relocated to Turkey, rather than return to the United States. In this utopian view, Europe could be sacrificed, while the United States would merrily maintain itself on Russia's southern rim.

Such proposals as Vaught's are naturally perceived by Moscow as representing an unacceptable military threat, one of the main reasons that Gorbachov rejected Bush's overtures for shared military operations against Iraq at their summit meeting in Helsinki on Sept. 9. High on the list of Soviet

concerns is the way that Baker's "new security structure" could potentially hamper Soviet military measures against the highly unstable, restive Turkic republics which Brzezinski had proposed assisting only a few years ago.

### **Redrawing the map**

According to the Anglo-Americans' geopolitical scheme, their new partners, or satraps, would be Egypt, the Persian Gulf emirates, the British colony of Oman, the Saudi kingdom, Syria, Israel, and Turkey.

Already, troops from Egypt and Syria are assembling in Saudi Arabia under U.S. military authority. An agreement of the Turkish parliament, after massive U.S. pressure, to grant Turkish President Turgut Özal the authority to station Turkish soldiers outside of Turkish territory, and to allow the stationing of foreign troops on its soil, was also a necessary precondition for this scheme.

The U.S.-sponsored coup against Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Aug. 6, four days after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, was intended to prepare for the eventual incorporation of Pakistan into the new structure. Along with Egypt, Pakistan is intended to provide the bulk of the Anglo-Americans' expendable ground troops. Another feature of the plan will be the granting of U.S. naval and air basing rights on the territory of various of Gulf emirates, also providing for a linkup with U.S. forces in the Indian Ocean.

As part of its effort to secure its presence, and otherwise provide the appropriate award for the participation of native armies in its scheme, Anglo-American planners have dusted off old plans to dismember Iraq. An article in the Sept. 17 *National Review*, published by Bush's long-standing Yale University and CIA crony William Buckley, proposes that the oil-rich region of northern Iraq be seized by Turkey in compensation for its aid to U.S. plans. Similar offers of pieces of Iraq have apparently been made to Iran, another proposed member of the new military alliance, and also to Syria. Some planners, including those based at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, are also floating the idea of an independent "Kurdistan" composed of the Kurdish minority of northern Iraq—especially since it provides a launching point for destabilization of a betrayed Turkey in the future.

Jordan, an ally of Iraq, as well as Yemen, are also possible targets. In one scheme, Jordan will become a new "Palestinian state," thereby solving Israel's "Palestinian problem." The strategically located Yemen, including its island of Socatra, could be seized and used as a naval and air base. Lebanon is another target: It is slated for Syrian annexation. Gen. Michel Aoun, the embattled President and head of the anti-Syrian forces there, has been aligned with Iraq. Then, there are those in Washington who say that the various emirates and kingdoms of the region are really too corrupt and medieval to meet the new demands of the U.S. deployment, and that the various royal families should take a walk.