

Drive to obliterate Iraq heralds new U.S. wars

by Joseph Brewda

President George Bush's address to a joint session of Congress on March 6, outlining U.S. policy toward southwest Asia in the aftermath of "Desert Storm," may have had a triumphal air; but no amount of applause from flag-waving congressmen should hide the fact that the imperialist-minded, and confused, Bush administration is plunging the world into a disaster of its own making.

Bush's call for "shared security arrangements" in the region—a clumsy attempt to revive the long-dead 1950s Baghdad pact—is inherently unworkable. The effort to implement this plan will only further destabilize the area. His call for "peace and stability in the region" through "solving" the Israeli-Arab dispute, is only a cover for crushing the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) with an option of creating an Israeli-run "Palestinian state." While Bush made obligatory reference to fostering "economic development for the sake of peace and progress" in his remarks, U.S. policy is really to exterminate the Iraqi people through disease and malnutrition. At the same time, the U.S. administration is conspiring to destroy Jordan, Yemen, and Sudan, which had opposed American aggression, as well as Iran, Libya, and possibly even the present U.S. ally of Syria. A new war in the region within a year or even six months is to be expected.

The day following the outlining of the public version of this policy, Secretary of State James Baker left for a tour of the Mideast and Europe in an attempt to ensure that it is implemented.

Bush denied that the U.S. is planning to "station U.S. ground troops on the Arabian peninsula" in order to put his proposed "new security arrangement" into effect. Instead, he said, "our friends and allies in the region will bear the bulk of regional security."

Yet while denying a permanent occupation, Bush said that the Americans would retain a "capable naval presence,"

and would rotate U.S. ground forces through the region, supposedly in order to participate in joint exercises with local Arab satrap armies.

An authorized leak by "senior administration sources" to the *New York Times* on March 3, clarified what the new security structure involves:

- Permanent stationing of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia. Routine, months-long desert warfare training exercises for thousands of U.S. troops in the Saudi desert, and similar amphibious exercises for marines in the Persian Gulf, will be cover for this occupation. Large quantities of war matériel in Saudi Arabia will be prepositioned.

- Stationing of several U.S. combat aircraft squadrons at airbases in the Gulf on a rotating basis.

- Deployment of one U.S. aircraft carrier in the Persian Gulf for more than six months a year, and another in the Red Sea for at least three months a year.

The latter deployment is intended to put the U.S. in a dominant military position for strikes against Yemen and Sudan, which flank the Red Sea, as well as possibly imposing a continuing de facto blockade against Jordan. Meanwhile, the land and sea deployment in the Gulf region positions the U.S. for continuing pressure on Iraq, while otherwise giving it an option to strike Iran.

The *New York Times* report on March 7 that the CIA has "confirmed" that Libya has begun "large-scale production" of poison gas, suggests one potential target for the new military actions that the U.S. is preparing.

Exterminating the Iraqis

While Bush vaguely referenced economic development, Iraq, among other states, faces death. In remarks on March 1, Bush said he did not want to see "one dime" go for rebuilding that destroyed nation. Bush's call against "the prolifera-

tion of weapons of mass destruction" in his congressional address is also genocidal. Insecticide plants, fertilizer plants, and even milk formula factories all produce chemical weapons, in Bush's book.

A recent report of the WHO and UNICEF (see page 40) gives some sense of what the continuing U.N. Security Council sanctions against Iraq, and the denial of emergency relief, will mean: millions of deaths by disease and hunger. The insurrection of Shi'ites, Kurds, and others which began after the cease-fire, apparently sponsored by the United States, will further this process.

The extermination of Iraq is the policy of the U.S. government. The destruction of virtually every power plant, sewage facility, irrigation pump-complex and factory in the nation had no military purpose. Nor did the systematic targeting of residential areas. Nor did the massacre of retreating soldiers. According to several Iranian News Agency reports, which have tended to be the most accurate on such matters, perhaps 175,000 Iraqi soldiers were killed in the war, many while retreating.

One retired senior U.S. intelligence official, who asked not to be identified, told this news service what the real purpose was. "The objective was to kill 200,000 soldiers as part of the disarmament of Iraq. The war continued until that objective was more or less accomplished."

Although the exact number of Iraq's civilian casualties is not known, the civilian dead and wounded probably exceed 300,000, well-informed estimates by several eyewitnesses suggest. The bombing of the civilian shelter at Amariyah in Baghdad, which killed several hundred civilians in their sleep, was replicated virtually every day of the month-long aerial bombardment of Iraq.

"It wasn't a war, it was genocide," charged Raphael Bidawid, the Roman Catholic patriarch of Iraq (Chaldean Rite) in Rome on March 4. Unfortunately, with Bush declaring the economic embargo still in effect, while denying Iraq emergency relief, the genocide has only begun. This genocide, combined with internal insurrection, will lead to spreading instability in neighboring Iran, Turkey, and Syria.

Genocide against the Palestinians

While Bush said he wanted a "solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute," his administration has already begun to exterminate the Palestinians and is planning to liquidate the leadership of the PLO.

"It's 'Kristallnacht' for Palestinians in Kuwait," on-the-scene columnist Mike McAlary reported in the March 6 *New York Post*. Mobs of Kuwaiti resistance fighters are systematically killing Palestinians, he wrote. "Foreign nationals, particularly Palestinians and Iraqis, are being rounded up, arrested, tortured and, in some cases, executed."

Palestinian sources add that special Arab squads, probably composed of Syrians, and operating under the watchful eye of U.S. Special Forces units, are systematically killing PLO cadre.

The Palestinians make up a large percentage of Kuwait's population, and had been an important financial base for the PLO and also for their relatives in the Israeli Occupied Territories. "Why did Schwartzkopf let the Kuwaiti troops enter the city first?" these sources ask. "The massacres are U.S. policy; don't blame it on the Kuwaitis alone."

On March 3, Baker said that the PLO and its chairman Yasser Arafat are going to pay a price for supporting Iraq. "Arafat was seriously and substantially hurt as a result of jumping so quickly and embracing Saddam Hussein," Baker told NBC TV, "Our Arab coalition partners tell us that, and they have some ideas about whether he may or may not have any future utility."

The plan on destroying the PLO was already signaled by Prince Bandar, the Saudi ambassador to Washington and long-time CIA and State Department tool, in an interview to the *Los Angeles Times* published on Feb. 21. Bandar denounced Arafat as a "clown" and threatened, "Everyone who stood up for Saddam Hussein is going to go under with Saddam Hussein." Bandar also threatened King Hussein of Jordan and President Ali Abdallah Salih of Yemen.

Bandar added, "We distinguish between Arafat and leadership of Palestinians. . . . We are 100% committed to the Palestinian cause, but Arafat chose his way, we are taking our way." Bandar was referencing the creation of the "new PLO," which would accept the sort of "peace plan" that Bush is preparing. According to sources in the region, Bush envisions some sort of "Palestinian state" on part of the Israeli-occupied West bank, which, "in order to ensure Israeli security" would be denied an army and a foreign policy. It would be simply an Israeli "bantustan." Since the PLO would never accept this, the Saudis, Egyptians, and Syrians conspired to form a new PLO, with the aid and support of the U.S. and Israel.

The same week that Bandar threatened Arafat, the Egyptian embassy in Israel began covertly financing and directing a new Arabic newspaper called *Manar* in the Israeli Occupied Territories; the paper is hostile to the PLO, Jordan, and Iraq, and will function as a key voice for the Bush "peace plan."

Another proponent of this plan is France, whose government is terrified that its involvement in the Gulf war has caused it to lose control over its former colonies in North Africa. In order to regain Arab sympathies, France will launch a new drive on behalf of a Palestinian state—but minus the PLO, well-placed sources report. In February, French Socialist Party head Pierre Maurois forced through a resolution at the Socialist International gathering in Vienna, "delegitimizing" the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

Since the PLO is the only accepted leadership of the Palestinian people, which even those few Israeli leaders who are not insane cannot deny, the destruction of the PLO, and efforts to impose new peace schemes, will only further destabilize the region.