

Maghreb press hits 'imperial' U.S. war

by Christine Bierre

While the French press poured out the Anglo-American lies about the Persian Gulf war, the press of the Maghreb countries—Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco—were the few places a Frenchman could find truth.

The result was natural: Citizens of the three countries took to the streets by the hundreds of thousands to protest against the brutal aggression against Iraq. From the very beginning of the conflict, Maghreb nations' press unambiguously stated that the Anglo-American aim in the war had nothing to do with the liberation of Kuwait. "Iraq would have been attacked whether Kuwait had been annexed or not," wrote Kheiredine Ameyar in the editorial of the weekly *Algérie Actualités* for Feb. 7-13. "The annexation merely benefited the United States because it gave it the pretext and justification for its actions." Among the real aims of the war, Ameyar exposed the "imperial means" the U.S. has adopted in order to make "submit to their will whatever independent behavior might appear at the periphery, i.e., anywhere else in the world." He also attacked the U.S. hatred of any Third World country attempting to develop: "It is because Iraq is moving out of underdevelopment, through means which have not been officially accepted, that the example it gives is intolerable" to the U.S., concluded Ameyar.

Senators threatened Saddam

Issue No. 1323 of *Algérie Actualités* details how a delegation of five U.S. senators—Robert Dole, James McClure, Alan Simpson, Frank Markowski, and Howard Metzenbaum—was sent by Bush to President Saddam Hussein to demand his surrender in April 1990!

"Senator Dole starts speaking and proposes to have the interpreter read the message to Saddam signed by the five senators. . . . 'Desirous as we are to improve the bilateral relations between our two countries, it has appeared evident to us that it would be impossible to solve the grave differences which separate our two countries.' . . . With cynicism and contempt, in spite of the fact that several weeks before Israel declared its ability to use non-conventional weapons to ensure its security, the Americans explained: 'We insist on letting you know without exaggeration how convinced we are that your efforts to develop nuclear, chemical, and biological capabilities seriously endanger your country, instead of reinforcing your security. . . .'

"The interpreter reads to Saddam the rest of the letter presented by the American senators; the tone is more and more menacing, the natural calm of Saddam is mistaken for weakness. . . . 'It is in your interest,' says the letter, 'and in that of peace in the Middle East that we pressure you to revise the pursuit of those dangerous programs.' "

Bush impeachment, LaRouche role featured

In late February, the Algerian newspaper *El Moudjahid* highlighted the resolution of U.S. Rep. Henry Gonzalez (D-Tex.) to impeach President George Bush, and Gonzalez's Jan. 15 press conference, with former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, to announce the introduction of his motion for impeachment. Clark and Gonzalez, wrote *El Moudjahid*, denounced Bush's new world order, which, "they underline, implies genocide against the developing countries, through the food weapon and by doing nothing to stop global epidemics arising as a result of the conditionalities imposed by the International Monetary Fund, as well as through the launching of depopulation wars led by NATO during its out-of-area deployments." The weekly, whose primary source was *Nouvelle Solidarité*, the journal of France's Schiller Institute, took the opportunity to point out that "Ramsey Clark, who recently launched a no holds barred condemnation against the cowardly aggression of the Americans and their allies against the Iraqi people, is the attorney for prisoner Lyndon LaRouche, a defender of the rights of Third World countries to scientific and technology progress over the past 20 years." The *Algérie Actualités* (Feb. 21-27) also quoted sections of Gonzalez's House Resolution.

The Tunisian weekly *Tunis Hebdo* of Feb. 18 excerpted a 1985 speech that Jacques Cheminade, president of the French Schiller Institute, gave to the National Convention of French Muslims, which had been reprinted by *Nouvelle Solidarité* in August 1990. In that speech, Cheminade called on Frenchmen of all walks of life to acknowledge the debt France owes to Islamic culture, to the works of Ibn Sina, Al Farabi, and the Baghdad Caliphate. Cheminade was a featured speaker at the "International Colloquium to Inquire into Violations of International Law" sponsored by *El Moudjahid* on March 1 (see p. 42).

What can the future hold for the Maghreb given the Anglo-Americans' new world order? Speaking before the second national congress of Algeria's magistracy, President Chadli Bendjedid made a strong appeal for the strengthening of the Union of the Arab Maghreb, the treaty organization created in February 1989 by Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania, and Libya. In addition to constituting a mutual security and defense treaty among the national signatories, the Union of the Arab Maghreb treaty established a common market. The union's founding document called for ensuring "the industrial, agricultural, commercial and social development" of the region and for adopting the necessary means to realize this "mainly by adopting common projects."