

Anglo-Americans prepare to launch new colonial wars

by Joseph Brewda

Among the first effects of George Bush's feeble showing in the Feb. 18 New Hampshire primary may be the acceleration of plans to launch a near-term military attack on some Third World nation. The Anglo-American elites are scrutinizing targets to regain lost political momentum, and terrorizing foreign policy adventures remain a favorite means of accomplishing this. While the most likely immediate outcome is an Anglo-American-led strike, under U.N. aegis, against Libya or Iraq, there is no shortage of pretexts throughout Asia, South America, and elsewhere in the Third World for military action.

Setting up Libya and Iraq

Preparations for a hit on Libya were dramatically accelerated at the end of January when the U.N. Security Council formally demanded that Libya hand over two Libyan intelligence officials allegedly responsible for blowing up Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988. Appearing on BBC television on Feb. 11, Vice President Dan Quayle, alluding to the U.S. kidnaping of Panamian Gen. Manuel Noriega and the Persian Gulf war, threatened that "Qaddafi had better realize we are serious. He ought to look to the past and see we've got the political will to make these types of requests happen." According to reports, the Anglo-Americans and French will introduce a new resolution by the end of February ordering a blockade, including an air-blockade, against Libya, and ordering all U.N. member-states to comply with the collective imperial will by pulling their representatives out of Tripoli.

One of the advantages of bombing Libya from the standpoint of demonstrating raw imperial power, is that there is no legal basis for it (see article, page 58). All available public evidence points to Syria and Iran—not Libya—as being responsible for the Pan Am bombing, as the committee estab-

lished by the relatives of the victims of the bombing argues. It was only after Syria and Iran agreed to join the Gulf coalition against Iraq that Libya was even mentioned as a potential suspect. Alluding to this fact, PLO official Bassam Abu Sharif reported on Feb. 19 that the PLO had established a special intelligence unit to trace the source of the detonators used in the bombing. "The investigation concluded," he said, "that another Middle Eastern country and other parties are responsible for the Lockerbie crime," not Libya.

Meanwhile, operations have accelerated against Iraq. On Feb. 13, National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft approved a provocative U.N. proposal to destroy the production lines at four Iraqi civilian factories, allegedly because the production lines could potentially be used in manufacturing Iraq's highly ineffective Scud missile. The proposal, by Swedish Ambassador to the U.N. Rolf Ekeus (who is in charge of destroying Iraq's weapons industry), has been sharply denounced by Iraq.

On Feb. 19, the U.N. leaked to the press that its border commission, which was established following the Gulf war to delineate the border between Iraq and Kuwait, would be releasing its "finding" in April. Reportedly, the commission will cut a new border, supposedly based on the new discovery of maps in the British Foreign Office archives, that is thousands of meters north of the current border. According to the new border plan, much of the disputed Rumailah oil field will fall within Kuwaiti territory. The U.N.-drawn border will also run through the middle of Umm Qasr, an Iraqi naval base and its only serviceable port on the Persian Gulf, thereby rendering Iraq land-locked, in effect.

Reportedly, the White House has also issued a new intelligence finding authorizing the CIA to aid "suppressed minorities" seeking to overthrow Saddam Hussein, which was also the reported purpose of CIA head Robert Gates's high-profile

trip to the region in mid-February. Right on cue, Iranian radio suddenly reported on Feb. 11 that new armed clashes between Iraqi troops and the Shiite population in southern Iraq had begun. On Feb. 11, Bush issued a report to the Congress claiming that Iraq's behavior "continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States."

Commenting on such provocations, the Iraqi newspaper *Al Jumhouriyah* noted on Feb. 11 that "Bush and Baker are making many abnormal statements these days." Bush is "just looking for pretexts" to aid his failing campaign, the paper wrote.

Meanwhile, Turkey and Egypt, which participated in the last war against Iraq, are showing concern over the renewed escalation of tensions. "Military action is no solution," the normally supine Egyptian Ambassador to the U.S. Abdel Raouf El Reedy told the *Washington Times* Feb. 14. History has shown, he added, that "when foreigners try to dislodge a national leader, it doesn't work." Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, while visiting in Washington, pointedly told the press after meeting with Bush on Feb. 12, "One may like Saddam or one may hate Saddam," but any actions against him "must be justified in the eyes of world opinion."

Israel invades Lebanon, again

The Anglo-Americans might also unleash Israel in wars and assassinations. By Feb. 20, Israeli forces had already launched a new, supposedly limited, invasion of Lebanon. Such military action by the Israelis could only occur after clearance by London and Washington.

Preparations for the invasion began on Feb. 16, when Israeli helicopters launched a rocket attack on a car convoy of Hezbollah leader Sheikh Abbas Musawi in southern Lebanon, killing him and his family. The Iranian-supported Hezbollah has been involved in numerous military and terrorist operations against Israel, thereby serving as a handy pretext for Israeli "counter-operations." The assassination could not have taken place without the prior approval of Syria and Iran.

"This is a message to all the terrorist organizations," Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens said of the assassination, alluding to the PLO, which Israel claims is also terrorist. A day before, four Israeli soldiers were killed at their Israeli base, an act Israel attributes to the PLO.

As early as Feb. 13, PLO Ambassador to France Ibrahim Souss had warned, in an interview with the French daily *Libération*, of an Israeli plot against PLO chairman Yasser Arafat's life. Earlier that week, Cable News Network had broadcast a tape of an alleged phone call between Souss and Arafat in which Arafat reportedly denounced Jews as "dogs." Although many French papers labeled the tape a fabrication, as did Arafat and Souss, the French Zionist lobby and Israel went into an uproar. "I am worried, first of all, for the life of Mr. Arafat; this is an incitement to violence," Souss commented.

Other hot-spots

Meanwhile, the Anglo-Americans are preparing possible interventions in other parts of the world, either through direct military action or provoking ruinous regional or civil wars.

Haiti: The U.S. is "losing its patience" with the Haiti government, which so far has survived the U.S.-imposed blockade, the German daily *Die Welt* reported Feb. 17. Citing State Department sources, the paper reported that the U.S. is plotting a military intervention, possibly under the cover of the Organization of American States. The invasion is endorsed by Carlos Andrés Pérez, the U.S. puppet President of Venezuela who just survived a coup attempt.

There is also reportedly consideration being given to military action against nearby Surinam, over its alleged ties to narcotics trafficking and terrorism, which would justify a U.S. military presence closer to the Amazon.

India-Pakistan: The Anglo-Americans are moving to provoke a mutually ruinous war between India and Pakistan over the disputed territory of Kashmir. A Feb. 11 march by thousands of members of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) into India-Kashmir was only blocked by Pakistani military action. Prime Minister Sardar Qayyum of Pakistan-Kashmir has charged that the British-based JKLF leader Amanullah Khan is associated with forces "inimical to Pakistan." Popular opposition to the JKLF on the other side of the border is led by the Hindu expansionist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which like the JKLF is also run by British intelligence.

Burma-Bangladesh: Some 100,000 Burmese Muslims have fled into neighboring Bangladesh, fearing Burmese persecution. An estimated 85,000 Burmese troops are now on the border; military conflict between the two states would lead to a broader destabilization of the region.

North Korea: The United States is upping the pressure against North Korea, including preparing to impose economic sanctions through the U.N., because of the country's alleged nuclear bomb program. The effort is opposed by the South Korean government, according to *Hangyore Sinmun* on Feb. 11, as undermining ongoing negotiations between north and south.

On Feb. 17, the *New York Times*, based on a leak from the Pentagon, identified seven scenarios for conflicts that could draw U.S. forces into combat over the coming 10 years, including war with North Korea, Iraq, Panama, and the Philippines. On Feb. 17, the London-based Institute for European Defense and Strategic Studies issued a report complaining that at least 24 Third World countries could have ballistic missiles by the end of the century and that action was demanded. Speaking at Johns Hopkins University on Feb. 18, U.S. Rep. Les Aspin (D-Wisc.), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, urged U.S. strikes to prevent Third World states from developing nuclear weapons. "It should be an actually stated policy of ours," he said.