

Editorial

End the killer embargo

Surely, the time has come to lift the embargo against Iraq. The country has for the most part complied with United Nations demands, despite their arbitrary character. Whatever the story is behind the recent Iraqi troop movements, how can we justify the terrible toll being taken upon the Iraqi population? Certainly not by accepting the principle of retributive justice.

For four years, the embargo has been in place, causing terrible material privation for men, women, and even children who were not alive at the time of the war. Food and medical supplies are scarce, as Muriel Mirak-Weissbach documented in our *Feature* last week. But, even aside from the obvious humanitarian considerations, now must be the time when every effort should be made to strengthen the Middle East peace process. Bringing Iraq back into the community of nations is a necessary step in this.

Every great nation must have a mission: For the United States, it should be to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II next year by finally having built a durable peace. It means a break with British geopolitics, and all that that entails. It means an end to the kind of games played by the British puppet Henry Kissinger, who has admitted that he favored the policies of the British Foreign Office over those of his own government, even when he was secretary of state.

In the 1890s, Gabriel Hanotaux as a minister of France and Count Sergei Witte as a minister of Russia, entered into a series of agreements which provided for defeating the British by the peaceful economic development of the Eurasian continent, centered on a system of rail projects, which foresaw a network of railroads from Brest on France's Atlantic coast to Vladivostok in Russia's Pacific, and beyond.

The British responded by preparing to destroy all of Europe. They recognized that German economic and scientific development was the key that would make possible the kind of cooperation which Witte and Hanotaux had entered into. So, the British set out to *destroy* continental Europe. They got rid of Hanotaux in France, they brought a catamite by the name of Théo-

phile Delcassé to power in France, who represented the so-called *revanchiste* faction in France, the imperial faction of Napoleon III, of prostitutes to the British cause.

The British established the "Entente Cordiale" over a period between 1898 and 1904. They perverted the French relationship with Russia while overthrowing Count Witte through their agents inside the Russian government and manipulating a mentally unstable czar. They then proceeded to have France's treaties with Russia perverted into a potential war. Two world wars which pitted the French and Russians against Germany were the result.

Their political maneuvers in the Middle East have played a similar role, as they fostered rivalry among the various Arab factions, and between Israel and its Arab neighbors. Certainly, the politics of oil and financial interests played their part, but were secondary to the perceived British interest: maintaining political control over the whole region. The British have kindled such conflicts again and again, to prevent the economic development of a Eurasian land-bridge: Keep your eye on what the British are doing in Kazakhstan, where they are already moving to kindle conflicts.

The instability in the Middle East has long been a potential detonator for war; conversely, the kind of major infrastructure development portended by the accords being reached between Israel and the Arab nations can be a springboard for lasting peace. This is a spiritual, and a cultural question, as well as one of the material welfare of the region's inhabitants.

The time has come to forget the grievances of the past, and to plan a new and better future. If we develop western Europe, eastern Europe, Russia, the republics of the former Soviet Union, China, Southeast Asia, South Asia, as one large economic bloc, we can find peaceful solutions. The question that is on the table is how to give every nation a share in the kind of global reconstruction plan that will make short shrift of petty politics. What is needed is a new Renaissance. We are at such a potential turning point in history.