

# Bush Gave Sharon Green Light for War

by Michele Steinberg

Following his first official visit to Washington, D.C., Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, with backing from President George W. Bush, lit the fuse for a new Middle East war. On March 19, the night before his two-hour meeting with Bush, Sharon delivered a bloodcurdling speech to the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), in which he declared that Jerusalem and the holy site of the Temple Mount (known in Islam as the Al Haram Al Sharif), are the property of the Jewish people “forever.” Using propaganda methods befitting a Hitler, Sharon denigrated Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon as terrorist states, describing Lebanon as “one of the main centers of international terrorism that will undermine the stability of the entire Middle East.”

Sharon directed special venom at Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, charging that Arafat “and the Palestinian Authority are returning to the belief that they can defeat Israel by means of armed struggle.” “Arafat,” he said, “is willing to destabilize the entire Middle East, including moderate Arab regimes, in order to achieve his goal.” Sharon accused Arafat’s personal security group, “Force 17,” of being behind planned car bombings in Jerusalem. By March 22, the day after Sharon returned to Israel, a 20-year-old officer in Arafat’s Presidential security detail had been killed by tank-fire from the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) in the Gaza occupied zone.

Sharon’s Nuremberg rally-type address to AIPAC, got high-visibility support from the U.S. government. AIPAC reports that more than 100 U.S. Congressmen attended the event, which was opened by Secretary of State Colin Powell, who threatened Iraq, Iran, and Russia over their developing “weapons of mass destruction.” Powell was introduced to a standing ovation as the Secretary of State who will make good on the Bush campaign promise to move the American Embassy to Jerusalem. Such a move would most likely trigger regionwide war, unleashing opposition in the streets against moderate Arab and Islamic leaders, and especially threatening nations that have maintained a close relationship to Washington.

## Cut Through the Propaganda

Amidst this atmosphere of war hysteria, on March 21, Lyndon LaRouche, Democratic Party Presidential pre-candidate for 2004, cut through the propaganda. Speaking to an

EIR seminar in Washington, D.C. on March 21 (see our report on p. 4), LaRouche clarified that the *only* reason that a Middle East war is breaking out, is because of the joint campaign by Bush and Sharon. LaRouche, in reply to a senior Russian strategic analyst, said:

“Now, let me be very candid on this one. If there is a war in the Middle East now, it will not be because some *factors* in the Middle East have control over whether or not there will be a war; there will be a new war in the Middle East only if Sharon and George W. Bush’s Presidency want it. Otherwise, it will not occur. There are no factors—Palestinian violence, this/that issue is not the question. It will occur only as an act of will. Now, we had this kind of thing with Hitler, in the famous story about the Nuremberg rally—‘the Triumph of the Will.’ What you are dealing with, is really a government which is not very intelligent. There are some intelligent people in it, but the organism of the government is not intelligent. It’s a very bad government. It operates on the basis of ‘The Triumph of the Will.’ ”

LaRouche ripped through the fraud that is currently being promoted by Bush circles about Middle East terrorism: “All this talk about ‘rogue states,’ and so forth, is bunk! It’s not true. The biggest rogue state I know about, is Sharon’s Israel, that’s the one you’ve got to worry about. They’re the ones that threaten to set off a whole world war, in the Middle East, right now.”

## Peace Negotiations Buried

The Bush government, while continuing its double-talk about being hopeful for peace, has cut off the peace negotiations. Following the meeting with Sharon, Bush said that he fully supports the position that there will be no resumption of talks until Arafat “stops the violence.” And on March 22, Bush “pulled the plug on the CIA’s high-profile role” in cooperating with the Palestinian Authority’s police and security services. Ever since the CIA security liaison was established by President Bill Clinton, Sharon and right-wing Likud party forces have been demanding that the CIA be recalled from the Palestinian Authority, so that there would be *no* official observers in the area to point a finger of blame in the direction of the Israelis.

Bush made this move as the situation in Israel rapidly deteriorates. To put it bluntly: Sharon’s government is in the process of assassinating key leaders of the Palestinian Authority and the Palestine Liberation Organization, in the name of fighting terrorism; and, it is attempting to take back land given to the Palestinian Authority, in the name of creating a security zone. Sharon, who has been accused of war crimes, wants no outside witnesses to this process.

The war hysteria was the only theme of the AIPAC meeting. Immediately after Powell’s speech, a live video interactive link with several military commanders from the Israeli “front lines” was beamed into the meeting. The military briefings were interspersed with fundraising appeals. The

three military commanders were Brigadier General Shihrur, stationed on the border with Lebanon in the Golan Heights; Col. Gal Hirsch from the Israeli settlement of Gilo outside of Jerusalem, in the West Bank; and Lt. Col. Chaim Moriah, who was filmed at the command center of the Arrow Project, a U.S.-Israeli anti-ballistic-missile project that Sharon wants to strengthen with an enhanced radar, in order to become the point of the U.S. ABM program in the Mediterranean. (The Clinton Administration refused to sell such a system to Israel, as long as a peace agreement was in limbo.)

Colonel Hirsch claimed that Israel is already in “a low-intensity war” like the struggle in the 1940s before Israeli statehood. “I do not have any faith about living in the near future in a peaceful way,” he told the crowd of nearly 3,000 lobbyists. He announced that yet another killing of an Israeli settler had occurred that very morning, which he blamed on the Palestinian Authority.

By the end of the week, Hirsch’s statements were reverberating throughout the major Israeli press. On March 22, after the funeral of the slain settler, Baruch Cohen, a leading Israeli daily newspaper ran a commentary by columnist Israel Harel, saying that peace was a bad dream which is now over. “The whole nation is the army . . . the country is the front,” wrote Harel. “After years of brainwashing that led to worshipping the false god of peace, there is now a strong movement in favor of repenting, coming back down to Earth and sobering up.”

At the same time, at a hearing in the Israeli Knesset (parliament), IDF Chief of Staff Shaul Mofaz said that 40% of the Israeli fatalities (including car bombings and other suicide missions) since February have been directed by “Force 17,” the elite Palestinian security force set up years ago by Arafat.

One of the most gruesome reminders that the Bush Administration was in fact approving an Israeli government that is lawlessly *assassinating* targets—playing judge, jury, and executioner—came at the AIPAC meeting from Transportation Minister Ephraim Sneh, a General in the IDF Reserve, who was on stage at the event. Asked about the criticisms that have appeared over Israel’s “alleged” use of hit-teams against Palestinians, Sneh said that while opponents of Israel “call these assassinations . . . we call them ‘preventative actions.’ . . . While this has no standing with the world population . . . it is the only moral way” to stop terrorism. Sneh, a Labor Party member of the “Unity” government, boasted that he had invented the euphemism “preventative action.”

Sharon’s war dance was heartily endorsed by leading figures in the U.S. Congress, as well as by Bush. After Sneh’s performance, Reps. Henry Hyde (R-Ill.), chairman of the House International Relations Committee, and Tom Lantos (D-Calif.), a George Soros asset, announced that they will introduce punitive legislation targetting the Palestinian Authority and all the Arab states on Sharon’s hit-list.

Lantos, the ranking Democrat on the committee, was

more rabid than the Bush representatives in his backing for Sharon. He pronounced that the Oslo Peace Accords had been killed by Arafat when he rejected the Camp David “dream deal” offered by then-Prime Minister Ehud Barak in July 2000. Lantos accused Arafat and the Palestinians of embracing terrorism instead of peace, and said that the United States and Israel will respond accordingly. He also announced his plan for punitive legislation against every neighbor of Israel:

For Egypt, which he denounced for recalling its Ambassador to Israel (after the IDF killed Palestinian children), Lantos has a bill that would cut off *all military assistance* from the United States. He claimed that Egypt is under no military threat, so the aid is unnecessary.

For Lebanon and Syria, Lantos has tougher U.S. sanctions under the State Department’s list of terrorist “states of concern,” because they are allowing Hezbollah terrorists to threaten Israel.

For Iran and Iraq, Lantos directed his threats against Russia, saying that if President Vladimir Putin wants to be an arms supplier of weapons of mass destruction to Iran and Iraq, he will introduce legislation to ban Russia from the Group of Eight.

### Sharon’s War Crimes

While the Sharon-Bush alliance is insane, it is not omnipotent, especially if the opposition coalesces around LaRouche’s leadership. On March 26, the heads of state of Arab nations will convene in Jordan to discuss the status of Palestine and other pressing issues. Already, a memorandum in Arabic on the global financial and economic reorganization known as the “New Bretton Woods” as proposed by LaRouche, has been circulated to key leaders. The combination of the New Bretton Woods and the Oasis Plan for water development proposed by LaRouche, could be the basis for peace forces to come together and transcend the months of bloodshed.

There is also international backlash against the brutal Israeli attacks on the Palestinian population. Israeli leaders have blown the whistle in the press on the barbaric policy known as “Code-Name Bronze,” a medieval-type siege of Ramallah, a city of 50,000 and the economic center of the West Bank. “Bronze” involves cutting up the West Bank into no less than 64 separate areas which could be cut off and isolated at any time.

At the same time that the “Bronze” plan was being exposed, a fact-finding mission from the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva was filing a report that the IDF is “overreacting” and using deadly force against civilians. Also, the international commission headed by former U.S. Sen. George Mitchell, who was Clinton’s envoy for the Irish peace negotiations, is in Israel. On March 22, commission members visited the hospitals where five Palestinian boys under the age of ten are recovering from attacks by Israeli soldiers.