

next three years. The target audience will be the next generation after Potter followers. Since its publication 50 years ago, Tolkien's story of wizards, elves, and dwarfs has sold more than 100 million copies.

AOL has embarked on a saturation advertising campaign to promote the *Lord of the Rings* movies. All showings and advertising of *Harry Potter* intensively advertise the *Rings*. A visitor to any of AOL's many internet providers, including Netscape and CompuServe, will be invited to join an "interactive sweepstakes" called "Search for the Magic Ring." For the first time, the *New York Times* Company will "integrate" an advertising package for the movies on its websites, indicating the degree to which this advertising permeates the Internet.

AOL/Time-Warner has also been in the lead of promoting the spread of the international trade in cocaine and heroin. Behind AOL's fantasy one-two punch are executives who have been open advocates and negotiators with the FARC, South America's and perhaps the world's largest narco-terrorist cartel. On Jan. 22, 2000 the founder of AOL, Jim Kimsey, Chairman of the New York Stock Exchange Richard Grasso, and other top businessmen met with Colombian President Andrés Pastrana. Acting as the spokesman, Kimsey announced that they were there to help organize international support for a "peace plan" with the FARC. This followed Kimsey's and Grasso's June 1999 visit to the jungles of Colombia to embrace and "legalize" the FARC.

## The Potter Cult

Many parents believe that anything that gets their children to read is good, even if it is about magic, sorcery and witchcraft. "They're just nice fairy tales," the claim is made of *Harry Potter*. But what are they really reading? In Harry Potter's world, love of one's fellow human being is non-existent. Helga Zepp-LaRouche, in a public speech given last year described the cartoon video game of Pokémon, the precursor to the Harry Potter cult: "Now as everybody knows, the minds of children are completely impressionable, because children learn primarily through imitation and through play. But what is there to imitate? Aggression. And what is completely lacking? Love, compassion, joy, beauty."

In *Harry Potter*, the characters substitute magic spells and tricks for the physical violence that is central to Pokémon. The effect on the child, however, is the same susceptibility to what Lyndon LaRouche has called the "New Violence."

Last July 8, thousands of children, led by their parents, lined up at midnight in front of 2,000 bookstores to grab the first-day release of the latest *Harry Potter* book for \$25.96. This year, with Christmas spending being intensively hyped as a virtual second "war against evil," Alan Greenspan and his friends hope to continue to have a good laugh as people rush out to spend millions on the latest Harry Potter books and paraphernalia.

# U.S. Congress Votes For Clash Of Civilizations

by Suzanne Rose

On Dec. 5, two resolutions were moved on Capitol Hill by which the U.S. Congress brought the Middle East closer to war. The House passed H. Con. Res. 280 "Expressing Solidarity with Israel in the Fight Against Terrorism," by a wide margin of 384-11. Twenty-one answered "present." Seventeen were not present for the vote. The Senate passed a similar resolution on the same day by unanimous consent. The resolutions would set the United States virtually at war with the Palestinian Authority and its supporters in the Arab world, abandoning any American search for Middle East peace.

Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche said on Dec. 8 that these mindless votes showed the Congress to be massively corrupt. He warned that this is the major problem President Bush faces in dealing with Israel, because it demonstrates that the vast majority of members of Congress are supporting Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's insane war drive. This means, noted LaRouche, that they back the Zbigniew Brzezinski-Samuel Huntington-Bernard Lewis "clash of civilizations" policy.

This includes not just the worst of the war-mongers typified by California Rep. Tom Lantos (D), and on the Senate side, by Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.); but the entire leadership of the Democratic Party. Are they so corrupt, LaRouche asked, that they cannot support the President when he is right? He demanded that constituents hold their Congressmen accountable for the spreading Mideast war.

## The Target: Bush-Putin Collaboration

The reckless and one-sided resolutions, beginning with the House version brought by Reps. Henry Hyde (R-Ill.) and Lantos (respectively chairman and ranking Democrat of the House International Relations Committee) reflect the growing desperation of the war-mongers in the Congress and Administration, over their failure so far to convince the Bush White House to go all-out for war against the Arab and Muslim populations of the Mideast. The actions continue the drumbeat of the Zionist Lobby since Sept. 11, claiming that Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat alone is responsible for the impasse in the Middle East peace negotiations; that he and the Palestinian Authority are equivalent to Osama bin Laden, and that Israel should be unleashed against the Palestinians to take "preventive action against terrorism."

Lantos, Gary Ackerman (D-N.Y.), and others kept up the demagoguery of previous hearings, insisting that, by their vote,

members demonstrate whether they are “for” or “against” terrorism. They intend to set the stage for consent to the premise that if Arafat doesn’t act to end terrorism, Israel will have to strike out throughout the region. This will unleash the “breakaway ally” syndrome warned against by LaRouche, and detonate an unstoppable conflagration.

In the climate thus created, more responsible members of Congress were cowed, while the majority danced to the tune and the funding of outside organizations.

### **Dingell’s Denunciation**

H. Con. Res. 280 is an attempt to roadblock the resumption of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, which was being sought by the Bush Administration, backed by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The resolution is viciously one-sided in its support for Israel. It demands that the Palestinian Authority take action immediately to destroy the infrastructure of the Palestinian terrorist groups, pursue and arrest terrorists whose incarceration has been called for by Israel, prosecute and punish them or turn them over to Israel. The Congress demanded that the President ensure that the Palestinian Authority do this, or else suspend relations. The President must insist that all countries supporting Palestinian groups end such support, dismantle infrastructure, etc. It finally expresses “the solidarity of the United States with Israel in our common struggle against the scourge of terrorism.”

The fact that the resolution is one-sided and undermines rather than promotes peace was forcefully protested by Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.). “What this resolution does is to essentially set up a situation where the United States appears, and in fact does, and will be viewed by people in the area as having taken sides. The interests of the United States here are to bring to a halt terrorism, and to create a lasting, viable, negotiated peace. That is best done by attacking the root causes of terrorism, not the least of which are the thousands or hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and others who feel themselves to be unfairly, badly, and improperly treated. Their homes are destroyed. Their orchards are destroyed. Their lands are settled in defiance of their wishes. Their people are driven to poverty and killed. International agreements which they have made in their names are not being honored.”

He reminded his colleagues, that it is the duty of the United States is to work for peace, which is not achieved by acts of retaliation, but by the “strongest possible leadership by the United States, functioning as an impartial honest broker between people who find little reason not to hate each other.” Dingell insisted that the resolution does not move the parties toward peace and undercuts efforts to do so, Our own national security is at stake, he said, because this is an area which has the potential for being the cockpit of the next world war.

Echoing LaRouche and serious Israeli observers, Dingell added that the results for Israel will be calamitous, because 5 million Israelis, in the midst of hundreds of millions of Arabs,

are facing a terrible danger in the event of general war. He reminded the body that he had sponsored a resolution which expresses support for the Mitchell Commission Report—White House policy—and that that resolution has not yet been taken up by the International Relations Committee.

“Why is it that we are failing to discuss peace and a really meaningful way of achieving peace?” Dingell asked.

### **No Mention Of ‘Peace’**

The irony in the war party’s position was pointed out by Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.)—a Lebanese-American and himself the target of a Jewish Defense League terrorist bomb-plot, exposed only days later—who asked how Arafat could carry out policing the terrorists, as the resolution demands, when the Israeli government has withheld \$900 million from the Palestinian Authority, which was to be used for policing purposes. “Those dollars were designed to allow them to enforce their laws, and yet that has been unlawfully, and in violation of the agreement that they have made, withheld.” Issa asked that the President do some positive things to undo the damage done by Israel to the very Palestinian Authority that they now insist take these steps.

Another strong voice against the resolution came from Rep. Joe Rahall (D-W.V.). He warned against outside groups that demonize Congressmen, who either oppose or vote “present” on the resolution. He warned also against those demanding that “we have to get Arafat.” “Some statements today have alluded very strongly to the fact that we have got to get Arafat. But such action, indeed such action as this resolution today and those that call for Arafat’s demise, will do zero, will do nothing to reach that just peace, and may even exacerbate and take us backward from achieving that just peace.”

Rahall denounced the methods of bullying the Palestinians. “The military option will not work.” He noted that the word “peace” is not mentioned in the resolution. “If every demand were met in this resolution, would there be peace? Would that end terrorism?”

Concurring that the resolution was ill-timed and undermined the negotiating process, Carolyn Kilpatrick (D-Mich.) noted that the Mitchell-Tenet Commission opposed just such Congressional resolutions. “I regret that Congress is ignoring that recommendation,” said Kirkpatrick. “By doing so, the action of this chamber only serves to prolong the hostilities in that region and discourages both sides from engaging in the negotiation process.”

Following remarks on the Senate floor on Dec. 5 by Majority Leader Thomas Daschle (D-S.D.), placing responsibility solely on Arafat for failing to prevent the suicide bombings in Jerusalem, and ending with an ultimatum to Arafat to stop the violence, the Senate passed, without debate, Senate Concurrent Resolution 88. This resolution is almost identical to the House resolution. It was co-sponsored by the chairman and the ranking Republican of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Joseph Biden (D-Del.) and Jesse Helms (R-S.C.).