

'Regime Change' in Iraq Begins in Turkey

by Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

A steady stream of defections from the party and the government of Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit, which peaked in mid-July, has threatened to destabilize Turkey, a country considered crucial to the United States' planned military operations against Iraq. The claim issued by those leading the stampede out of Ecevit's government, is that the Prime Minister's failing health is paralyzing the administration, and that he must step down. Pressure on Ecevit, exerted especially by Ismail Cem, his former Foreign Minister, who bolted, forced the Prime Minister to agree in mid-July to call early elections for November.

Ecevit then seemed to backtrack on July 20, when he said he wanted to remain in power, and hold elections only in 2003 or 2004. At that point, Devlet Bahçeli, head of the Nationalist Action Party, the biggest party in the governing coalition, threatened to pull his forces out of the government if Ecevit tried to stay in power beyond the Nov. 3 date tentatively set for the elections. Bahçeli stated, that this could "invite a crisis situation," and pointed to the danger that a \$16 billion International Monetary Fund bailout package could be jeopardized by it.

Other "issues" being debated in the context of the Turkish crisis, include reforms required by the European Union for entry (including abolition of the death penalty) and reforms demanded by the International Monetary Fund. Ecevit again bent under the pressure, and again promised to call early elections in November. However, when the Parliament was recalled from recess to vote on the date for the polls, government parties boycotted the session, leaving it without a quorum.

Iraq Is the Real Issue

So much for the official account. In reality, the crisis which has gripped Ankara, has less to do with the Prime Minister's health, than with his firm opposition to allowing Turkey to be dragged into the war against Iraq. Ecevit has repeatedly expressed his principled rejection of any plan to use military force against Saddam Hussein. Most recently, even in the midst of the political turbulence on July 21, Ecevit warned in a TV interview, that the United States was making a big mistake in believing it could easily topple the Iraqi government. Saying "President Bush is a friend of

Turkey," and therefore, that it was a "duty to make our concerns known," he reiterated his position for the umpteenth time.

It is no coincidence that the sparks started flying in Turkey, just as Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz descended on the country during a regional tour of "consultations" about the Iraq campaign. Wolfowitz held a July 17 press conference in Ankara, after two days of meetings designed to armtwist Turkish military and political officials into support for the U.S. war. Wolfowitz, known as the leading "utopian" war-monger in Washington, was explicit in stating U.S. conditions for Turkish compliance. "As President Bush emphasized," he said, "the Iraqi regime, hostile to the United States and supporting terrorism, is a danger that we cannot afford to live with indefinitely. Turkey stands to benefit enormously if Iraq becomes a normal country," he added.

This apparently referred to monetary enticements made by Washington to Turkey, whose economy is undergoing a terminal crisis. One major component of the economic woes Turkey has faced, is the breakdown in trade with neighboring Iraq, since the sanctions were imposed on Baghdad in 1990. Turkey estimates it has lost about \$40 billion in the process.

Wolfowitz reportedly also promised Turkey that the United States would not support the formation of an independent Kurdish state, which could arise out of the chaos of a war in Iraq. The Turks fear that U.S. support for Kurdish minority populations in northern Iraq would incite Kurds living in Turkey.

But there was much more to Wolfowitz's visit than what he stated to journalists. According to well-placed Turkish political sources, and at least one press outlet, what Wolfowitz actually did went far beyond the normal carrot-and-stick approach. In short, he plotted to bring down the Ecevit government, because of the Prime Minister's known opposition to war plans.

\$36 Billion 'Only With Mr. Dervis'

The report provided to *EIR* by Turkish political sources, defines the defections from Ecevit as part of an "American plot against Iraq." The scenario recounted, which has been picked up in one paper only, *Milli Gazete*, and has not been denied, goes as follows:

Wolfowitz took part in a secret meeting in the Istanbul villa near the Bosphorus, of Mustafa Koc, who is acting head of executive committee of the powerful Koc Holding. With Wolfowitz and Koc at the July 14 meeting were several others: Kemal Dervis, a former deputy head of the World Bank, who was appointed as economics minister, from outside the parliament, on U.S. "recommendation"; Mehmet Ali Bayar, chairman of the Democratic Turkey Party, former chief of the mission of the Turkish Republic in New York; Robert Pearson, U.S. Ambassador to Turkey; David Arned, U.S.

chief counsellor to Turkey; Aldo Kaslowski, deputy head of the Turkish Businessmen and Industrialists Association (TUSIAD); Cem Duna, member of the executive committee of TUSIAD; Bulend Ozaydinli, coordinator general of Koc Holding; Cem Boyner, a well-known businessman; and others.

The participants expressed certain concerns about Iraq. Wolfowitz then presented the U.S. offer. He said that the U.S. government was prepared to make a \$36 billion economic package available to Turkey, in exchange for its support in the Iraq operation. The package was presented as a way of helping Turkey solve its problems, giving people some prosperity, and helping the government win the coming elections. Wolfowitz spoke as if such a package could be made available only with Kemal Dervis, whose position in a prospective government he thus strengthened.

When Wolfowitz was asked about the details of the package, he answered that the funds would be split up into various parts: \$15 billion would be cash (\$5 billion as credit, \$10 billion as war reparations); \$10 billion in the form of new equipment/armaments; and \$11 billion, in debts and interest payments written off. It is interesting in this light, that J.P. Morgan announced in its 2003 report on Turkey, that Turkey would need approximately \$15 billion in the year 2003, and that if Kemal Dervis were in charge, he would not have any problems in finding the money.

Dervis met the following day at the Ankara Hilton with Marc Grossman, about the details of the operations. This was kept secret until leaked by *Milli Gazette*.

Thus, the general plot was to have MPs from Ecevit's Democratic Leftist Party (DSP), leave to form the New Turkey Party (in imitation of British Prime Minister Tony Blair's "New Labour") under the leadership of Ismail Cem, which indeed happened. Then the Nationalist Action Party (MHP) of Bahceli would be lured into leaving the coalition. The MHP was calling for early elections and threatening to leave the government otherwise. Then, a new government would be formed by Ismail Cem and his New Turkey Party with Mr. Yilmaz's Motherland Party (ANAP) and Mrs. Tansu Ciller's True Path Party (DYP). This prospective government would be supported by the pro-American Mr. Tayyip Erdogan's Justice and Development Party. The only opposition left would be Mr. Kutun's Felicity Party (Saadet Party), and Ecevit and close associates. The new government would support the American attack against Iraq.

If this reading of Wolfowitz's mission is accurate—and events in the wake of his visit conform to the scenario outlined—it means that the U.S. war plan for Iraq is on the front burner. Furthermore, if Washington's "regime change" policy is imposed in Ankara, it will unleash massive social and political destabilization, even before the first bombing raids begin. The only way such a scenario can be thwarted, in the view of informed sources inside the country, is through early elections to reshuffle political forces.

Dark Attacks Against LaRouche in Germany

by Alexander Hartmann

As Ariel Sharon is pursuing his war drive against the Palestinians, and as an American attack against Iraq is looming, the activities of the violent anarchist-fascist "Antifa" scene in Germany have been geared up. The LaRouche-associated Civil Rights Solidarity Movement (BüSo), which is campaigning for a peaceful co-existence of Israelis and Palestinians and is opposed to the forces demanding war on Iraq, is being targeted for brutal attacks by the autonomist thugs, self-styled "anti-fascists," whence the "Antifa" nickname. On July 9, an information booth of the BüSo at Humboldt University in Berlin was attacked and destroyed by four masked men, who identified themselves as members of the Antifa gangs.

Opponents of Sharon's actually fascist policies, especially in Germany, are being targeted as "anti-Semitic" by the gangster-like Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) and its affiliates—using the Antifa gangs as storm-troopers, as in the attacks on the BüSo. The day before the July 8 attack, the ADL's Abe Foxman was in Berlin to address a conference sponsored by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on anti-Semitism. He charged, "Only 60 years after the Holocaust, European leaders and citizens seem largely disinterested when confronted with anti-Semitism."

Anti-German Drivel

The "anti"-fascist mobilization started in April, when the Washington-based Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) created a branch in Berlin. MEMRI was co-founded by "former" Israeli military intelligence officer Yigal Carmon, and Meyrav Wurmser, a leading neo-conservative at the Hudson Institute and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, both also based in Washington, D.C. Carmon is a high-ranking Aman (military intelligence) professional on "private" assignment in Washington, who first attracted public attention in Israel and Washington by lobbying against the Oslo Peace Accords. Wurmser, a scholar on Zionist fascist Vladimir Jabotinsky, now heads the Middle East desk at the Hudson Institute. Her husband, David Wurmser, works nearby at the neo-con premiere think-tank, the American Enterprise Institute, one of the central organizations of the Clash of Civilizations faction.

MEMRI-Berlin was founded just in time to create a media food chain for the orchestrated anti-Semitism debate used to silence German criticism of Sharon's Israel. In the context of