

Editorial

More Chicken-Hawks Must Go

Labour Member of Parliament Tam Dalyell's March 27 call for British Prime Minister Tony Blair to resign, while not the first of "Father of the Commons" Dalyell's denunciations of Blair, took on a new importance for two reasons.

First, Dalyell titled his new commentary in the London *Guardian*, "Blair the War Criminal," airing the public charge for the first time, that Prime Minister Blair has made himself a war criminal by his actions inciting the unprovoked, so-called preventive invasion of Iraq by the "coalition." Blair, Dalyell wrote, "should be branded as a war criminal and sent to The Hague. I have served in the House of Commons, as a Labour member for 41 years, and I would never have dreamed of saying this about any one of my previous leaders. But Blair is a man who has disdain for both the House of Commons and international law. This is a grave thing to say about my leader. But it is far less serious than the results of a war that could set western Christendom against Islam."

Dalyell observes that "the overwhelming majority of international lawyers" have concluded that this war is "illegal under international law"—the same, we add, is true of numerous important national leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, Malaysia's Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed, and Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri. This list of law experts who have branded the war a violation of international law includes a partner in Cherie Blair's Matrix Chambers law firm, and Elizabeth Wilmhurst, the deputy legal advisor to the British Foreign Office, who has resigned. Dalyell notes that lawyers are already "getting phone calls from anxious members of the armed forces."

Dalyell further charges that Blair has given President Bush and Co. a "fig leaf" for the illegal invasion of Iraq against great international opposition—which is all the more terrible, since, if Britain had held firm against the war, this might have had a strong effect on "U.S. public opinion," which might "itself have stopped the war." He stresses that he himself is far from being

anti-American, having been formerly on the executive of the British-American parliamentary group, and being a distant relative of the late President Harry S Truman.

Dalyell's "fig-leaf" characterization is crucial to the second reason his commentary comes at a critical turning point in the drive to stop the war. It was published on the same day the leading neo-conservative, "chicken-hawk" theoretician of the imperial invasion of Iraq, Richard Perle, began to be forced out of government in the United States.

It is the combination of neo-conservative lunatics exemplified by "Iraq will be a cakewalk" Perle, and Tony Blair's attempt to replay Margaret Thatcher's "Iron Lady" role in 1991 Desert Storm, that drove President Bush into this illegal and disastrous war. The possibility of an immediate and sane "exit strategy" from the unjust and bloody invasion—a strategy for which many nations are searching at the UN and in direct diplomacy—can get its strongest launch by the departure from government of the chicken-hawks who pushed the "cakewalk" fantasies and the "wmd" lies. Let Vice-President "Lady Macbeth" Cheney's and his Mephistophelian staffs' heads roll with Perle's; let Blair be forced to step down; and the war could be stopped, as it must be.

MP Dalyell began his commentary by noting that the Labour Party in his Scottish constituency, has "just voted to recommend that Tony Blair reconsider his position as party leader, because he gave British backing to a war against Iraq, without clearly expressed support from the UN." "Reconsider his position" is a procedural euphemism, in Labour Party politics, for "resign."

He concluded, "Blair and Bush . . . may lose political face, but the careers of Bush and Blair are of little consequence compared to environmental mayhem and military agony." The analysis is also that of LaRouche: Blair and Bush must both lose some face; but there is a way to stop the war and Bush must take it fast. The departure of more "imperial" Rasputins from governments on both sides of the "coalition" is key.