

## LaRouche to Bush: Stop Israeli Plan To Kill Arafat, Road Map

by Dean Andromidas

On Sept. 16, the Bush Administration came one step closer to giving Israel the green light to assassinate Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, when it vetoed a UN Security Council resolution demanding Israel retract its threat to “expel” Arafat from the Palestinian National Authority. The U.S. vetoed the resolution, even after the outrageous statement on Sept. 14, by Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, that Israel considers killing Arafat as “definitely one of the options.”

Lyndon LaRouche’s Democratic Presidential campaign, on Sept. 15, had already issued a strong demand to U.S. President George Bush, to stop his “cowardly capitulations” to Israel’s Prime Minister Ariel Sharon: “If Sharon persists in even talking about the expulsion or assassination of the duly elected Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, President Bush should immediately sign an Executive Order freezing all U.S. financing of Israel, LaRouche demanded. Only such a blunt U.S. action, publicly announced immediately, is a sufficient response to the latest criminal actions and threats coming out of the Sharon government,” said the LaRouche in 2004 statement.

“LaRouche demanded that President Bush show some actual guts. Instead of defending America’s true interests, the President picks on smaller states, while cringing every time that Sharon speaks. The U.S. can not dictate policy to Israel, but the United States can certainly act decisively if Israel acts in a manner that challenges the framework of international relations and vital U.S. interests in the Middle East region. Cutting off all American government aid and all economic ties with Israel is an appropriate course of action, that the President can take with the stroke of a pen, LaRouche declared.

“In a related matter, LaRouche stated that, when he enters

the White House in January 2005, he will launch a full probe into the circumstances surrounding the sinking of the *USS Liberty*, during the June 1967 Arab-Israeli War.” The *USS Liberty*, an electronic surveillance ship in international waters off the coast of Egypt, was attacked by the Israeli Air Force and Navy, with full knowledge that it was an American ship. In the two-hour attack, 34 U.S. Navy men were killed and 173 wounded. Congress has never investigated. LaRouche’s statement added, “He would call on President Bush and on all other candidates in the 2004 Presidential race to join him in endorsing such an official probe, so that there would be no need to wait for 16 months to get the investigation moving—while many key witnesses are still alive and able to provide their eyewitness evidence.”

### Sharon’s Murderous Plan: Not ‘If, but When’

Sharon and his generals have demonstrated that mere words and toothless UN resolutions will not deter them. The leading Israeli daily *Yediot Ahronot* warned on Sept. 14, that after the next major “Palestinian” attack, Sharon will announce to an emergency Cabinet meeting, that a special attack team is on its way to assassinate Arafat, and Sharon will give the Cabinet 15 minutes to decide whether the operation should be carried out; there is no doubt what the Cabinet would decide.

Generally, Israeli media are quoting their “military sources” that the question is not “if” Israel kills Arafat—but “when and how.”

According to senior *Ha’aretz* military commentator Ze’ev Schiff, on Sept. 17, almost the entire Israeli security establishment approves of killing Arafat. The decision, writes Schiff, is not between expelling or killing, because a consen-

sus has been reached that an exiled Arafat is more dangerous than an Arafat besieged in his Ramallah headquarters: So, now the real option is to kill him. Of the security chiefs, only military intelligence head Gen. Aharon Ze'evi Farkash opposes killing him, against Shin Beth head Avi Dichter and Chief of Staff Moshe Ya'alon. The decision for murder is being made fully knowing that it will kill the peace process; Schiff concludes, "It is important to emphasize this, there is a consensus among the security forces that removing or killing Arafat will broaden the bloody clashes, which could spread to Israeli Arabs."

The French secret services informed Paris' Foreign Ministry, that if Sharon has decided to kill Arafat, it is because he is confident that Washington will do nothing. Say the French services, the Israelis are creating a climate similar to that before the 1995 assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin: Israeli government pollsters are asking Israelis whether they support killing Arafat. The polls report, "It is to be feared that an Israeli soldier, thinking himself authorized, but having no official authorization, would launch a missile at Arafat's headquarters and his office. They could even try him, as they did with Rabin's murder."

The French assessment could be applied to the Bush Administration's policy toward Sharon. The White House reaffirms its policy against expelling Arafat, yet it still brands him as an "obstacle to peace," the very words Sharon uses to justify murder. U.S. Ambassador to the UN John Negroponte repeated Washington's opposition to expulsion . . . and then proceeded to veto a UN resolution that simply called for Israel to withdraw its threat. Palestinian Negotiator Saeb Erekat characterized the action, "It's a black day for the United Nations and for international law. I hope that Israel will not interpret the resolution as a license to kill Arafat."

Both U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell and National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice have told Israel not to touch Arafat. And reportedly, the Administration forced Sharon to back off from immediately killing Arafat, as planned. But Sharon will not be deterred for long, as he continues to coordinate his actions with Vice President Dick Cheney and his neo-cons. Cheney publicly remains silent; but Sharon dispatched his Bureau Chief Dov Weisglas to Washington, where he is expected to meet with Cheney.

Palestinians and Israeli peace activists have put up a "human shield" around Arafat; Palestinian delegations—intellectuals, artists, women's groups, and schoolchildren—have been making round-the-clock visits to the Ramallah headquarters. On Sept. 14, an Israeli delegation, led by veteran peace activist Uri Avnery and Arab Israeli Member of Knesset (parliament) Ahmed Tibi, visited Arafat, promising that the Israeli peace movement would participate in the human shield. Avnery told Israel Radio, that he is convinced that the government intends to assassinate Arafat, not expel him.

Middle East leaders fear that killing Arafat is part of Sharon's plan for triggering regional war. Visiting France on Sept.

15, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak told the daily *Le Figaro*, that expelling Arafat would be "a huge mistake that would inevitably lead to an escalation in violence and terrorist activity. For the sake of Middle East peace, the region needs President Arafat, and the Israelis should try to make use of him instead of exiling him. As for the Road Map, it is still the best and only hope for regional peace." He called on President Bush to personally take the initiative to implement the Road Map, lest "Sharon will exploit this . . . regardless of the bloody consequences."

Mubarak called on Israel to work with Prime Minister-designate Ahmed Qurei, adding that Israel's construction of the "security fence," and assassinating Palestinian faction leaders undermines the new prime minister.

Speaking as the first witness at the UN debate on Sept. 15, Terje Roed-Larsen, the special UN envoy to the Middle East Peace Process, urged a forceful return to the peace effort. He insisted that Arafat "is now far from irrelevant" and "is democratically elected, and as such, the legitimate leader of the Palestinians. He embodies Palestinian identity and national aspirations." Both Roed-Larsen and the French envoy put on the table deploying international troops to safeguard the Road Map. Russia, which with France voted for the resolution, has made clear it regards Arafat's security as essential.

### **Only the U.S. Presidency Can Stop Sharon**

Sharon considers the Road Map dead and buried, not even bothering to acknowledge the new Palestinian Prime Minister. His policy is to eliminate Arafat, continue killing Palestinian leaders and militants, and set the stage for a new regional war.

This is despite Palestinian overtures. Arafat told 2,500 demonstrators, "We say to the peace supporters in Israel that we extend our hand to you to revive peace." The President's national security advisor Jibril Rajoub affirmed to Israel Radio, "We are ready to sit and we are ready to declare a general cease-fire, but . . . without mutuality, nothing will be achieved." He urged Israel to "end their attacks, and lift the blockades and closures over the Palestinian population, which has been suffering for the last three years." He also called for the end to construction of settlements and the security fence. Israel rejected the proposal as a "deception," and proceeded to kill more Palestinian militants.

The Bush Administration announced on Sept. 15 that, as punishment for Israel's ongoing activities in the Palestinian territories, it will withhold funds, deducting from the promised \$9 billion in loan guarantees. A slap on the wrist: By law, the United States must deduct from the loan guarantees however much Israel spends in illegal activities in Palestinian lands. Outrageously, Sharon pre-discounted the penalty, spending \$250 million in illegal activities just since the guarantees were approved!

LaRouche's statement makes clear that only the U.S. Presidency has the power to stop Sharon. On Sept. 17, former

President Jimmy Carter, who brokered the 1978 Camp David peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, echoed LaRouche, in an interview with National Public Radio: "It appears that Israel has rejected 12 of the key points of the Road Map. . . . I think the main issue is whether or not Israel insists upon the colonizing of the West Bank and Gaza or whether they will withdraw . . . as is required under the UN resolution [242], and . . . also under the so-called Road Map for peace." But, he stressed, "It depends on how assiduously the President of the United States is willing to devote himself to that very difficult issue and put his prestige on the line, and his influence on the line. I found out at Camp David, as did all my associates there, that only I personally, since I was *the* President, could exert the influence and make the concessions and promises from one side and the other to bring the two sides into a complete agreement."

Carter lamented, referring to Bush's re-election preoccupation, "But I think nowadays there are many other very troubling and important issues on the desk in the Oval Office, and I don't envision any time soon, President Bush putting the peace process at the top of his agenda."

But, while the mild-mannered Carter appeared to take Bush off the hook, LaRouche's statement gives Bush the impetus to take action against Sharon, "if Israel acts in a manner that challenges the framework of international relations and vital U.S. interests in the Middle East region."

**COVERUP EXPOSED!**

## The Israeli Attack On the 'USS Liberty'



"The Loss of Liberty," a video by filmmaker Tito Howard, proves beyond any doubt that the June 8, 1967 Israeli attack against the *USS Liberty*, in which 34 American servicemen were killed and 171 wounded, was deliberate. The video includes testimony from Liberty survivors, many Congressional Medal of Honor winners, and from such high-ranking Americans as Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, Adm. Arleigh Burke, Gen. Ray Davis, and Secretary of State Dean Rusk.

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# Mexico's LaRouche Youth Make Castañeda Crawl

by Gretchen Small

The growing LaRouche Youth Movement in Mexico delivered a potentially mortal blow to one of the International Synarchists' principal projects to rip that country apart, when they derailed the Presidential campaign of former Secretary of Foreign Relations, Jorge Castañeda, Jr. In back-to-back interventions, the young activists deflated campaign events in mid-September, in the industrial city of Monterrey and the capital Mexico City.

Presidential elections are in 2006, and many Mexicans dismiss the early bid of the despised former Foreign Secretary as some personal power bid, not a threat to the nation. LaRouche movement organizers have been told that they should concentrate on greater political enemies, because Castañeda has no real power base inside the country, and little or no chance of being elected. But many a country has been destroyed by such "insider" evaluations of national politics, which foolishly fail to take into account the global strategic forces deployed to determine what appear to be "local" politics. As we detail in the profile of him which follows, Castañeda's campaign today—whatever happens in 2006—is a threat to Mexico's national existence, not due to his domestic power, but because he is the instrument of an imperialist neo-conservative operation to break up Mexico.

Luckily for Mexico, the LaRouche movement there thinks strategically, from the top.

### Mexico's Schwarzenegger

Castañeda's campaign travels had gone well until Sept. 8, when he hit Monterrey. The arrogant candidate, accustomed to being fawned over by other Wall Street lackeys, found a different welcome waiting for him: A dozen-plus LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) members showed up at his campaign event, armed with leaflets titled, "How Are Arnie Schwarzenegger and Castañeda Alike?" and banners denouncing his ties to Dick Cheney's "Houston Oil Cartel" and to George Soros. Their persistent questions as Castañeda spoke, threw the candidate into a fit.

The LYM promised him: "We are going to follow you everywhere, and finish you off, the way we'll finish off Arnold Schwarzenegger."

The intervention was featured by the local media. Journalists reported Castañeda's sarcastic exclamation, "Ah! my good friend Lyndon!" as he left his ruined event, and noted he was referring to the United States' Lyndon LaRouche.