

Editorial

Are We Safer?

The recent testimony by former National Security Council counterterrorism czar Richard Clarke before the 9/11 Commission has further exposed the pathetic hoax of “George W. Bush, the War President.” President Bush’s political handlers have declared that the “war on terrorism” is the historic mission of this generation, just as the war to defeat fascism was the mission of the World War II generation.

But now we learn from Mr. Clarke that the Bush Administration’s obsessions with Saddam Hussein and the need for “regime change” in Iraq prior to the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington blinded them to the looming danger of a terrorist attack. Whether the Administration could have responded differently, had they been more attentive to the intelligence warnings, is a question that cannot be answered. What is clear is that the Bush campaign’s use of the “War President” theme is as hypocritical as is their willful prewar disinformation about the “imminent threat” from Saddam’s WMD arsenal, and his alleged links to the 9/11 terrorists.

Even more to the point, while the President’s men declared that the military invasion and overthrow of Saddam Hussein was a vital part of the “war on terrorism,” we are now discovering that the U.S. actions in Iraq have made us *less safe*. Not only are American GIs sitting-duck targets for continuous asymmetric warfare attacks throughout Iraq. The combination of the Bush Administration’s Iraq occupation, and their failure to take any action to curb the Sharon government’s blood lust against the Palestinian people, has made all Americans the potential targets of choice of a vast apparatus of current and future terrorists all around the globe.

Far from being President Bush’s greatest achieve-

ment, his so-called “war on terrorism” is now emerging as the single greatest foreign policy failure of this Administration. And this is not merely an issue that can be fought out this coming November, when Americans take to the polls to decide whether Bush and Cheney deserve another four years in office. As documented in this issue of *EIR*, we are *already* in the throes of a global upsurge in “strategy of tension” terrorism, aimed at spreading chaos, and leaving much of the planet in a state of ungovernability. This is the fruit of the Bush Administration’s so-called “war on terrorism.”

Readers should recall that, immediately after the 9/11 attacks, there was an enormous amount of international solidarity and sympathy for the victims of the attacks. This translated, initially, into far-reaching cooperation, among law enforcement, intelligence and military services, to roll up the global terror infrastructure. From continental Europe, to North Africa, to Southeast Asia, some real progress was made towards dismantling the underground economy of illegal drugs, weapons, diamonds, and cash, that provides the logistical lifeblood to what Lyndon LaRouche had labeled the “new international terrorism.”

All of that progress was wiped out by the Bush-Cheney obsession with Saddam Hussein, and their neo-con wish list of regime change targets—Syria, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, and North Korea. The Administration’s cavalier attitude towards the March 22 Israeli assassination of Sheikh Yassin, as LaRouche observed in the lead strategic study of this issue, has now brought about a further phase-shift. The world is far less safe than at any moment since 9/11, and this is due to the dangerously foolish policies of this Administration.