

Bush carves out 'Kurdistan,' opens new front in war

by Joseph Brewda

Moving right on schedule, U.S. President George Bush announced at a Washington press conference on April 15 that the combined military forces of the U.S., Britain, and France would be entering northern Iraq that week. The publicly stated reason for the "intervention" this time was neither an occupied Kuwait nor presumed threats against Saudi Arabia, but rather the alleged Iraqi repression of millions of Kurds now living in horrifying conditions on Iraq's Turkish and Iranian borders. Bush said that the troop deployment was a "purely humanitarian operation" to provide "adequate security" for the Kurds. Professed concern for oppressed minorities has been a frequent justification for European and American imperial invasions over the last two centuries.

Following the press conference, Pentagon officials reported that some 10,000 U.S. troops, with the assistance of 3,000 British and 1,000 French forces, would be constructing "five or six encampments" for the Kurds within two weeks, as far south as Mosul. That same day, Gen. Martin Brandtner, operations director of the Pentagon, reported that Iraqi troops had been "ordered" by the U.S. government to "cease and desist and evacuate" northern Iraq—one of the world's most oil-rich regions. Threatening renewed combat, Brandtner stated that "if we see Iraqi forces" in this region, "obviously that's going to be a decision point."

What has been called a hastily made Bush administration decision actually follows two weeks of an international media campaign on the mass death of Iraqi Kurds, which censored even a reference to the rest of the Iraqi people, who are also facing death by starvation and epidemics. This genocide is the result of 120,000 U.S.-led bombing sorties, which deliberately destroyed all means of life throughout the country—including in the Kurdish regions. An aborted Kurdish insurrection, funded and armed by the CIA, and efforts by these CIA leaders to stampede the Kurds to the Turkish border,

have added to this general problem.

Earlier in April, British Prime Minister John Major threatened use of force if Iraq were to resist the establishment of a "Kurdish enclave" in the long-sought-after oil region, while French President François Mitterrand claimed to be outraged about "genocide"—for which he is, in fact, responsible together with Bush and Major. On April 15, the European Community adopted a German proposal calling for convening a war-crimes tribunal against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, in order to provide a further propagandistic cover for intervention.

Kissinger proclaims permanent occupation

In an interview with the *New York Times* that appeared on April 18, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger outlined the script that the Bush administration is now following. Kissinger, Bush's former boss and mentor, speaks for those British and American elite institutions which run the Bush administration.

"We should not delude ourselves that this is something we can do for a month and then walk away from," Kissinger stated on the militarily run "humanitarian intervention." "We can protect these people for a while," Kissinger stated, "but the basic problem will be either to get a government into Baghdad that one can trust to treat these Kurds differently than they've been treated for decades or get some kind of international regimen that limits the capacity of the Iraqi government for repression in the Kurdish area." He added, quite correctly, that either course "would be a major intervention in what has heretofore been considered the domestic affairs of another country."

Kissinger knows what he is talking about. Back when he was secretary of state during the Nixon administration, Kissinger personally ordered Kurdish leader Mustapha Bar-

zani to lead an insurrection in the same region that the U.S. military is now intending to occupy, in order to weaken the Iraqi central government. Barzani's sons, who are on the CIA payroll as their father had been, are the leaders of the Kurdish revolt today. Not surprisingly, Izzedine Barawi, a spokesman for the Barzani brothers' Kurdish Democratic Party, praised the Bush measure as "an initial step to protect the refugees inside the Iraqi territories," adding that what was further needed was "a permanent solution for the Kurdish problem."

That the Anglo-American-French abuse of the Kurdish plight might be used to violate the territorial integrity of other states in the region, and not just Iraq, was also hinted at by Kissinger, who told the *New York Times* that the creation of an "international regimen" could lead to "conflict" between Washington and Turkey, Syria, and Iran, which also have large Kurdish minorities.

The idea of using the Kurds, among other ethnic minorities, to obliterate Mideast states, had been first articulated in its modern form by British intelligence official and Princeton University Prof. Bernard Lewis. This plan was adopted with a vengeance by the Kissinger-initiated civil war in Lebanon, which began in 1976. In an April 14 commentary in the *Wall Street Journal* on the implications of the recent Gulf war, Lewis noted, "It may turn out that the civil war that destroyed Lebanon was a pilot project for the whole region, and that with very few exceptions, states will disintegrate into a chaos of squabbling, feuding, fighting sects."

Imperialists redefine national sovereignty

One of the main reasons for the intervention is that it savagely limits the traditional definition of national sovereignty to that amenable to the new form of Anglo-American imperialism.

According to an April 14 *Washington Post* article by Mario Bettati, the former dean of the University of Paris-South law school, this concept of limiting a state's sovereignty under the guise of pressing human rights concerns, had been first crafted by the French Foreign Ministry. Bettati reports that the idea was first raised at a 1987 conference attended by François Mitterrand and his activist wife Danièle, Gaullist leader and Mayor of Paris Jacques Chirac, and other notables. The event was sponsored by his own university together with a group called Médecins du Monde, which is now active on the Turkish-Iraq border. French Foreign Ministry officials Bernard Kouchner and Jean-Marc Rochereau de la Sablière were principal patrons of the concept. Kouchner is now overseeing the French "humanitarian" effort (see p. 36).

The Dec. 7, 1988 Soviet Armenian earthquake crisis was the first implementation of this plot to limit the concept of national sovereignty, Bettati reports. Under this pretext, the French pushed through the U.N. the notion that foreign-based, non-governmental organizations had a legally defined

role to play in "natural disasters and similar emergency situations"—which Bettati describes as "a catch-all phrase that was ambiguous enough to cover what we had in mind." The resolution made it possible for these non-governmental relief workers to enter Armenia without visas, which was previously impossible.

This was the first step toward changing the definition of sovereignty to become what was put forward in the April 5 U.N. Resolution 688. That French-sponsored resolution defined the alleged Iraqi repression of Kurds within its own borders as an "international concern," which allowed external military intervention. Henceforth, any claimed repression of any internal minority by any state could be considered the legal justification for a U.N.-sanctioned invasion. On April 17, for example, a representative of the South Yanomami tribe of Brazil held a press conference in Washington on the Brazilian "repression" of Indian rights. The resolution is the legal cover under which the Anglo-Americans and French have launched their occupation of northern Iraq. It could be the legal pretext under which they invade Brazil tomorrow (see p. 47, "Report from Rio.")

In order to ensure that this novel concept of sovereignty holds, the Bush administration is sponsoring an effort to replace the outgoing U.N. Secretary General, Javier Pérez de Cuellar, himself a U.S. stooge, by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, a British intelligence agent and Bush tennis partner. The Anglo-Americans began the drive to install the Ismaili sect leader shortly after Undersecretary General Martti Ahtisaari issued a report calling for emergency assistance for all of Iraq which he stated had been bombed back into a "pre-industrial age." (Ahtisaari's full report appeared in *EIR*, April 12.)

On April 16, the Iraqi government, still facing an international embargo on the sale of its products, asked permission from the U.N. to sell \$1 billion of oil to finance the desperately needed purchase of food. On the same day that he proclaimed his "humanitarian" military occupation of northern Iraq, Bush rejected the Iraqi plea. "Let these [Kurdish] refugees be settled in flat areas" in Iraq by the U.S. military, Bush told the press, "then I might be willing to consider something else."

And what are the conditions in central and southern Iraq that Bush "might consider" alleviating sometime in the future? "Thousands of children, weak, and elderly people will die from starvation," Dr. Martin Houmoeller-Joergensen of the relief organization of the Danish state church told the Danish press upon his return from Iraq on April 7. "What I saw in Baghdad during the week I was there, reminded me of the symptoms I know from starving Africa. . . . Nobody in Baghdad knows if the major epidemics have already broken out. Due to the precision bombings during Operation Desert Storm, there is no electricity and therefore no functioning laboratories. It is even impossible to do the necessary tests to determine whether the diarrhea is due to cholera."