

Editorial

How To Leave Iraq in Time

As the death toll in Iraq rises, and partisan warfare makes Americans increasingly vulnerable targets of the resistance, it is the last chance for the exit strategy outlined clearly by Lyndon LaRouche on Nov. 28, 2003 in *EIR*.

There are few Americans, particularly from the Bush Administration, who would be trusted by the Iraqis, or other leading Islamic figures, even if they made the proposals which LaRouche puts forward. The only American statesman who could truly be trusted would be LaRouche himself, whose prominent role and importance in policy-shaping in the United States continues to be buried by the Establishment press, and the banker-controlled sections of the Democratic Party.

All the more reason that Americans, Democrat, Republican, or Independent, who wish to prevent the worsening Vietnam in the desert which is now unfolding, will rally behind LaRouche, and force a breakthrough for his policy role.

LaRouche's first proposal in that Nov. 28 policy statement was as follows:

"Declare the intention of the President of the United States to be, to cease the U.S. military occupation of Iraq at the earliest feasible occasion, and to notify the UN Security Council of the U.S. intention to reopen the matter of Iraq's earliest restoration to sovereignty in its affairs, and of the U.S. government's solicitation of UN Security Council assistance in bringing about this desired state of affairs."

There is still no alternative to this proposed move. It doesn't represent a specific plan for withdrawal, and in effect, does mean a kind of humiliation for the United States. But, as LaRouche said at the conclusion of his statement, "Sometimes the humiliation of one's own government, when done for the sake of freeing that government from self-destructive practices, is the most patriotic act of all."

A statement of intent, like that made by General de Gaulle when he decided to abandon France's colonial role in Algeria, is the statesmanlike move to make. With

Cheney, Bush, Rumsfeld et al. discredited beyond repair, and with John Kerry uttering only ambiguities about the crisis, an actual leader is needed. Iraq is degenerating into Jacobin chaos, and Lyndon LaRouche is the only American figure who has the credibility and respect within the Arab and Muslim world, to deal with the mess. Without such a turn to LaRouche's exit strategy and his personal leadership of it, the chaotic situation is likely lead to the breaking up of Iraq into four separate entities (Shi'ite, Arab Sunni, Turkic, and Kurdish), and regional disorder spreading into the eastern province of Saudi Arabia where all the oil reserves are located; or, to the U.S. grimly staying in Iraq, and the same consequences being merely delayed. To bring stability to Iraq might well take 500,000 "coalition" troops—out of the question.

Have any Americans learned the lessons of Vietnam? That sending more and more troops only leads to more deaths?

Vice President Cheney and the claque of Straussian neo-cons who support him don't really care how many soldiers die, as long as their drive for empire continues. Just as they used phony intelligence to get the war they wanted, they will use the failures in Iraq to pursue their global agenda. Never underestimate their insanity.

Many military men have agreed with LaRouche from the beginning, arguing that the invasion was ill-planned, if not ill-advised altogether, because it would stir up the kind of nationalist reaction which has occurred. The United States must now, in effect, admit it was wrong—just as Secretary of State Powell has, belatedly, admitted he was lied to—in a manner LaRouche and *EIR* pinpointed precisely at the time.

The President was lied to and the Congress was intimidated, but now it is time to listen to the voice of reason and leadership. America must turn to collaboration with its allies on creating a true environment for peace, through dealing with the global economic financial disaster which threatens us all, and can be overcome only with an international collaborative effort for reconstruction.