

JINSA Man Named as ‘Viceroy of Baghdad’

by Carl Osgood

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld has tapped a general connected to the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA), of the Israeli Likud war-hawk faction, to be the envisaged military-civilian governor of a conquered Iraq. Retired Army Lt. Gen. Jay Garner was named by Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Douglas Feith as the head of the new Pentagon Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance, during a hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Feb. 11. That office is supposed to oversee three major operations in a Baghdad without Saddam Hussein: humanitarian relief, reconstruction, and civil administration. Feith told the committee that Garner would be responsible “for integrating the work of the three substantive operations and ensuring that the office can travel to the region when necessary and plug in smoothly” to the U.S. Central Command, which would have the task of fighting the war.

Garner’s associations make him as questionable as the viceroy’s post he’s supposed to fill. In October 2000, Garner was one of 26 retired flag officers who signed a letter circulated by JINSA, a key part of the Jabotinskyite penetration of the U.S. military and intelligence going back to the 1970s. JINSA personnel have repeatedly been implicated in espionage, including longtime staff member Steven Bryen, who was accused of passing classified information to Israel from his Pentagon post in the 1970s, along with leading chicken-hawk Richard Perle.

The statement Garner signed praised the “remarkable restraint” of the Israeli Defense Forces “in the face of lethal violence orchestrated by the leadership of a Palestinian Authority that deliberately pushes civilians and young people to the front lines.” The 26 officers had traveled to Israel under the sponsorship of JINSA. They say they “came away with the unswerving belief that the security of the State of Israel is a matter of great importance to U.S. policy in the Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean. . . . A strong Israel is an asset that American military planners and political leaders can rely on.” The statement came out only weeks after Gen. Ariel Sharon, now Israel’s Prime Minister staged his infamous armed march up the Temple Mount/al-Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem on Sept. 28, 2000, thereby triggering the violence that JINSA sought to blame solely on the Palestinians.

Subsequent events have apparently not changed Garner’s mind. In response to an e-mail inquiry, JINSA spokeswoman,

Steven Bryen’s wife Shoshana Bryen, declared that Garner “has been, as most of the participants in our Flag and General Officers Trip program have been, an excellent source of reliable military information and insight. We, in JINSA, think very highly of him.” Garner is thus traveling in the same JINSA/American Enterprise Institute/Center for Security Policy orbit as are all the key chicken-hawks, including Perle, Michael Ledeen, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, and Undersecretary Feith.

Missile-Defense Shenanigans

Garner retired from the Army in 1997 as assistant vice chief of staff. He had been commander of the Army’s Air and Space Missile Defense Command, from 1994-96. In 1991 he was a senior officer involved in the Operation Provide Comfort deployment into Northern Iraq, and according to a recent report in the Israeli daily *Ha’aretz*, was commander of the Patriot missile batteries deployed into Israel during the 1991 Gulf War. Garner is president of SY Technologies, a government contractor involved in ballistic-missile defense work and headquartered in California, and with offices in Colorado Springs, Colorado and Huntsville, Alabama.

According to a *Colorado Springs Independent* series by Terje Langeland, the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) Garner had headed was improperly awarding contracts, as sole source contracts, to his company. The whistle was blown by Biff Baker, a retired Army colonel employed by a subcontractor, who disputed the assertion that SY Technologies was the only qualified company. According to Langeland, Baker discovered that work assigned to the Boeing Co. was actually being done by SY Technologies personnel. Boeing employees told Baker that both companies were being paid to do the same work. He also charged that, when he tried to bring these irregularities to the attention of senior MDA officials, he was fired.

Baker’s charges resulted in two investigations, one by the DOD Inspector General regarding MDA’s role in Baker’s firing, and the other by the Government Accounting Office, a Congressional agency, into the alleged contracting irregularities. Garner’s response was a lawsuit last Fall, accusing Baker of defamation, “tortious interference,” and causing a “loss of privacy.” The suit also charged that Baker’s accusations had a “dramatic” effect on the company’s ability to conduct business. According to Langeland, the suit was settled out of court on Jan. 31, with Baker unwilling to discuss its terms, but refusing to sign off on any agreement saying that he was wrong.

Garner’s association with missile defense also included a stint on the “Commission to Assess United States National Security Space Management and Organization,” mandated by Congress in 1999. Its chairman was Rumsfeld. Garner’s SY Technologies has been well placed to benefit from the expansion of the missile-defense budget since President Bush assumed office.