

## Whole Gang of Iraq War Profiteers Must Go

by Michele Steinberg

More than a dozen “task forces” embedded across the national security spectrum of George W. Bush’s Administration have been secretly planning for the takeover of Iraq, with full-blown plans for installing an “occupation government” comprised entirely of an “inner circle” of Anglo-American neo-conservative operatives and businessmen, who stand to reap great profits from the nation they just destroyed militarily and will be paid to rebuild. This occupation government will be controlled and staffed by what the *New York Times* of April 3 calls “Wolfie’s people”—the loyalists to the Bush Administration’s leading follower of the late Leo Strauss, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz. The plan is, in effect, the full colonialization of Iraq, the only strategically placed Middle East country with *both* vital resources—oil *and* water. The *Washington Post* reported on April 3 that Royal Dutch Shell Oil executive Philip J. Carroll has already been picked to take over the Iraqi oil fields, reporting to Gen. Jay Garner (ret.), the “JINSA Viceroy” who is already in Iraq.

“Wolfie’s people” are led by two of his decades-long closest associates and fellow Likudniks (faithful to the Ariel Sharon/Benjamin Netanyahu group in Israel): Doug Feith, the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy; and the now degraded Richard Perle, who until March 27, chaired the Defense Policy Board. The group would have far less power, were it not for their patrons—Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, and Vice President Dick Cheney, whose staff, headed by Lewis “Scooter” Libby, in effect, runs the occupation plans.

“This is nepotism,” said Lyndon LaRouche, candidate for the 2004 Democratic Party presidential nomination, “It’s a bunch of carpetbaggers planning on taking over and looting everything in sight. What kind of a plan is this? There’s no reconstruction: This is deconstruction. It’s like post-Hayes-Tilden Reconstruction.”

But, with the dumping of “Prince of Darkness” Perle as chairman of the Defense Policy Board, as details of his myriad conflicts of interest were revealed, the very exposure of the occupation plan could be its undoing. The situation is ripe for sweeping the Administration clean of the Straussian chicken-hawks. Only such a bold cleanout of corruption in

the Administration, says LaRouche, will make it possible to *stop* this war.

Congress must take emergency action now to bring about an investigation of these issues. Already, Marine Gen. Joseph Hoar (ret.) and Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.) have moved in that direction. Hoar, who headed the Near East’s Central Command from 1991-94, called for Senate hearings in a *New York Times* op-ed on April 2, saying that “the senior military commanders and the civilian defense officials can testify. . . . Then the American people will know, if belatedly, why we didn’t send enough troops to begin with.” And, in a dramatic, April 1 letter to Rumsfeld, Conyers, who had initiated action against Perle’s conflict of interest with a previous letter to the DOD’s Inspector General, called for probing all 30 members of the Defense Policy Board. Conyers wrote, “I am writing to request copies of the financial disclosure forms submitted by the members of the Defense Policy Board as well as the minutes of all past Board meetings.”

“As the Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee, which has jurisdiction over conflict of interest rules,” Conyers continued, “I have a strong interest in insuring that our laws are being complied with, particularly those which touch on the integrity of our ethical requirements at a time of war.” At least one “Wolfie” appointment to the occupation government, former CIA Director James Woolsey, is a member of the Board.

While Hoar, a decorated military man, calls for waiting until after the war for a Senate investigation, in deference to the soldiers in combat, the real issue is to *change* the policy of the United States, so that the unnecessary, illegal war is stopped. And, such an investigation will find that the same grouping involved in financial profiteering, is also at the center of concocting the bogus intelligence which painted the Iraq war as a “cakewalk,” and which has been used, along with outright fabrications and forgeries, to bamboozle Congress into voting for an imperial, pre-emptive, possibly nuclear war. It is these elements that also deliberately misled the President, and rammed through the insane military plan now in play.

### Dividing the Spoils of War

Action by Congress and every other possible watchdog, including the British House of Commons, to prevent the colonialization of Iraq, is urgently needed. The *Washington Post* reported on April 4, that Rumsfeld has already delivered a memo to Bush to set up an “interim government.”

There is—so far—no Congressional oversight of any of the appointments being made to run the occupation government in Iraq, beginning with “Viceroy” Garner, a close supporter of the Israeli ultra-right through the U.S.-based Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA). In fact, when the Senate called Garner to testify before the Foreign Relations Committee, just two weeks before the war began, Rumsfeld and Wolfowitz stiff-armed Sen. Richard Lugar (R-

Ind.), the head of the committee, and refused to let Garner appear. Furthermore, when eight highly qualified Middle East former Ambassadors and experts were chosen by the State Department, reportedly at Garner's request, the order came from the Pentagon—presumably Rumsfeld and Wolfowitz—for them to “stand down.” They are being replaced by “Wolfie's people.”

In addition, from what is known so far about the occupation contracts—the scandals are monstrous.

Dick Cheney's Halliburton's subsidiary, Kellogg Brown and Root, has contacts to rebuild and repair the Iraqi oil wells that are being destroyed during this war. Cheney is from Halliburton, receiving \$1 million a year in deferred payments. Isn't there a conflict of interest in that Cheney's daughter Elizabeth is Assistant Secretary of State for the Near East, and makes decisions about “reconstruction” contracts for Iraq? Kellogg Brown and Root also has contracts to build U.S. military bases. Isn't that convenient, since one closely-guarded post-Iraq war chicken-hawk plan is to make Iraq the *major* U.S. military base in the area—a permanent colony.

Another beneficiary is George Shultz's Bechtel—a major construction firm. A clear conflict, since Shultz—who assigned Wolfowitz and Perle to George W. Bush's campaign in 2000, to turn him into a passable candidate—is head of the Committee for the Liberation of Iraq, which was created last year, with organized-crime-linked Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) also involved.

James Woolsey, the maniac who says “World War IV” is already here, is being placed as Iraq's “Minister of Information.” Woolsey has been the advisor to the Iraqi National Congress, headed by convicted embezzler Ahmed Chalabi; and the INC, which received tens of millions of dollars in U.S. government funding, pays Woolsey's lawfirm, Shea & Gardner, to represent them. Woolsey also recently joined the board of Booz, Allen, which also has Iraq war contracts. Woolsey is very close to Perle.

## Rummy Takes Over a Country

On Jan. 10, Knut Royce, a leading investigative journalist with Long Island *Newsday*, a New York daily, authored an explosive exposé, revealing Pentagon plans to finance an Iraq war and post-war military occupation by seizing Iraqi oil revenues. “There are strong advocates inside the administration, including in the White House, for appropriating the oil funds as ‘spoils of war,’ according to a source who has been briefed by participants in the dialogue,” Royce wrote. “There are people in the White House who take the position that it's all the spoils of war. We take all the oil money until there is a new democratic government,” the source added. Royce noted that Justice Department attorneys are cautioning that all this talk of “spoils of war” and “oil grabs” may be illegal. The article hinted that the “White House” enthusiasts are in the office of Vice President Cheney.

Dr. Halim Barakat, a recently retired professor of Arab studies at Georgetown University, told Royce that if the report is accurate, “it would mean that the real . . . objective of the war is not the democratization of Iraq, not getting rid of Saddam, not to liberate the Iraqi people, but a return to colonialism.”

Royce reported that in December 2002, the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments prepared a study on the Iraq war, which advocated the oil grab, to cover the occupation costs. The study was commissioned by Andy Marshall, the suspected “X Committee” member (Israeli intelligence agents), and RAND Corp. Pentagon godfather, who has run the Secretary of Defense's Office of Net Assessments since 1975. On Dec. 13, Paul Wolfowitz greeted the scheme enthusiastically.

Several other Administration officials are also involved in planning the oil grab. Elliott Abrams, the convicted perjurer of the Iran-Contra era, who now heads Middle East policy at the National Security Council, heads the task force planning the oil revenues grab. Abrams, the son-in-law of neo-con founders Norman Podhoretz and Midge Decter, was convicted—then pardoned by President George H.W. Bush—for lying to Congress—a matter which has become an art-form for the Wolfowitz cabal.

Now, they have gone even further, with taking over a sovereign country. On April 4, *Washington Post* columnist David Ignatius wrote that the list for the Pentagon's occupation government, is like “the guest roster for a neoconservative gabfest.”

Michael Mobbs, who designed the plans for using military tribunals to hold accused terrorists without charges, or time limits, will run “civilian affairs” for 11 ministries. Mobbs is the former law partner of Doug Feith. Defense Minister will be Walter Slocombe, a former advisor in the Clinton Administration.

Most outrageous, however, is that Rumsfeld is pushing Ahmed Chalabi to head the Iraq government. Chalabi, who was convicted in Amman, Jordan for embezzling millions from the bank he owned, is one of the most notorious liars of recent history, and the main reason that the Iraq “opposition” unity disintegrated, even when the war started. Iraq experts from ex-CIA agent Robert Baer, to former UN chief weapons inspector Scott Ritter have spoken and written volumes about Chalabi's disinformation.

In remarks published April 4, Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud bin Faisal said that “the worst thing that could happen” is a U.S. military occupation. It would “give truth to what is being presented as an effort . . . to rob Iraq of its wealth, rather than to bring peace and stability.”

From the UN Security Council, to the British Parliament, to key U.S. allies, and forces inside the State Department itself, there is a growing clamor against the occupation. But the answer is not a “multilateral” blessing on regime change. Instead, the war must be stopped.