

'DeLantos' Democrats Attack Bush's Road Map

by Michele Steinberg

Despite an all-out war on George W. Bush's Road Map policy by the neo-conservative cabal of Vice President Dick Cheney, Likudnik and other ultra-right fascist parties of Israel, Christian Zionist crazies, and their open allied House *Democratic* leadership, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice is due to arrive in Israel on June 26 to push the Road Map's implementation. Under it, the Israeli government is obligated to pull out of the Occupied Territories, its Cabinet having, after all, accepted the Road Map by a majority vote. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told his people that Israel has "occupied" Palestinian lands, and should now accept a Palestinian state.

But, now, fanatics in both Washington and Israel are hell-bent on changing the rules, even if it means reneging on the Israeli acceptance in order to stop the Road Map—the plan that reached a crucial moment the last week of June, when a deal was reportedly sealed between the Palestinian National Authority, and Hamas and other groups, to stop terrorist attacks against Jews in Israel.

In this campaign against Bush, the first shots since the Aqaba summit were fired on June 25, but not by the neo-cons. Rather it is the Democratic Party which is protecting the neo-conservative war-mongers, and doing the dirty work for House Majority Whip Republican Tom DeLay—just as Democratic Party Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche has exposed.

On June 25, Democrat Tom Lantos, Congressman from California, rushed through legislation supporting the Israeli policy of "preventive assassinations," delivering a vote of 399-5—but only carrying out DeLay's threat to President Bush, which was exposed in the *Washington Post* June 21. The action earned him the nickname, "Tom DeLantos." House Resolution 294—which required a suspension of House rules, in order to bypass the International Relations Committee and get immediately to a vote—blames the Palestinians for all of the violence that has occurred since the Aqaba summit; demands that the "cycle of violence" concept be rejected, because it implies moral equivalence between Palestinians killed by Israelis and Israelis killed by terrorists; and supports all measures that Israel has taken "in self-defense."

Up until he decided to push the Road Map in April 2003, Bush had given a total green light to all Israeli assassinations by Sharon's regime.

This Israeli assassination policy has killed approximately

64 Palestinians since June 4, the date of the Aqaba summit where Bush met the two Prime Ministers—Israel's Ariel Sharon, and the Palestinian National Authority's Abu Mazen. Of those 64 Israeli killings—some carried out by the Israeli Defense Forces firing rockets from Apache helicopters, and heavy artillery fire backed up with tank invasions—less than one-third of the victims have been "militants," and the rest were civilians, ranging from young teenagers to the elderly. These attacks do not *stop* terrorism, but create more terrorists out of desperation and despair. The Lantos resolution falsely claimed that the Palestinian leadership refuses to dismantle terrorism, and cited 24 Israeli deaths due to terrorist attacks since June 4. That the resolution never mentions Israeli killings of Palestinians, was denounced by both Jewish and Islamic pro-peace groups, among them the Israel Policy Forum, and American Muslims for Jerusalem.

DeLay Threatens the President

Tom DeLay is an Armageddonist, who cites supposed Biblical prophecy in declaring that a Palestinian state is a violation of the "God's Law." DeLay's closest Israeli allies oppose the Road Map, including key Jabotinskyites in Sharon's Cabinet: Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and Minister for Tourism Benny Alon, who visited the United States in early May to push the policy of "transfer," i.e., driving Palestinians out of the West Bank and Gaza into Jordan.

The *Washington Post* reports that after the President had said, on June 10, that he was "troubled" by the attempted Israeli assassination of Abdel Aziz Rantisi—a key Hamas leader in cease-fire negotiations involving the Egyptian government and supported by Bush—DeLay immediately demanded, and got, a private meeting with Bush. DeLay threatened to introduce a resolution supporting Israel's assassinations, to stop Bush's pressure on Israel. Sharon also sent Avi Dichter, head of the domestic Shin Bet intelligence agency, to Washington with a dossier arguing that Rantisi is really a "ticking bomb" who threatens Israel. Still, top Bush aides, notably Secretary of State Colin Powell, continued the criticism.

The pressure against Bush by the "DeLantos" neo-cons and the Likudniks won't let up. This was clear on June 26, when Israeli Cabinet Minister Uzi Landau held a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington, to say that Israel *will not take one further step to implement the Road Map*—especially, will not withdraw from the Gaza Strip and Bethlehem—and *will not accept the cease-fire*. Landau said that unless Hamas is destroyed in "the next week to ten days," Israel "will have to go after them." At the Likud party convention after Aqaba, Landau had ranted, "Terrorism has won. The Road Map is the most dangerous document Israel has ever faced. The Oslo tragedy will be nothing compared to [the catastrophe of] the Road Map." This is the ideology that led to the killing of peace Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Are these fanatics willing to kill again?