

LaRouche Defends Zayed Centre

by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

August 31, 2003

It is my information, which I have received through channels which I know to be responsible and reliable, that the closing of the Zayed Centre for Coordination and Follow-Up (ZCCF) in Abu Dhabi, where the U.S.A.'s James Baker III once spoke, as I had done, occurred under heavy pressure from elements within the U.S. Bush Administration. Such action by the United States is another piece of idiocy, like the continuing U.S. war in Iraq, which is directly contrary to the current and long-term security interests of my republic, the U.S.A.

Under the present circumstances, when I am, at this moment, the only legally registered candidate competent to be chosen in the 2004 U.S. Presidential election, I have a special responsibility to speak out, on various occasions, in defense of the present and future integrity of the Presidency of my nation. Therefore, on this occasion, it is my immediate duty to point out the important role which the Zayed Centre had performed in contributing to the cause of world security and peace, and for which it is needed, more than ever before.

The world at large must accept as a matter of fact, that since the aftermath of the events of Sept. 11, 2001, the control of the U.S. Presidency has been usurped by a group centered around Vice-President Cheney. This group around Cheney is part of those same circles, formerly known as the Synarchist International of the 1921-1945 interval, which U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt and Britain's Winston Churchill united to join with others in defeating during World War II. This same Synarchist current which brought us Hitler then, is presently a powerful, subversive influence inside the institutions of the U.S.A. Cheney and his so-called neo-conservatives, are an instrument of that influence.

On account of that usurpation, my responsibility at this time, is to play a certain central role of leadership, in the effort

to free the United States from the grip of that still-active Synarchist interest, which has usurped control of my nation. I am committed, as all thoughtful anti-colonialist, and well-informed leaders of my nation, to work for the establishment of that just new world economic order at which President Franklin Roosevelt, and the 1976 Colombo conference of the Non-Aligned nations had aimed, and which is urgently needed today for the peace and security of the world at large.

The strategic problem posed by the Middle East today, is historically situated, summarily, as follows.

Since the beginning of historical times, about 6,000 B.C., when something like modern geography and patterns of climate had emerged from the approximately post-17,000-10,000 B.C. melting of the last great Ice Age, the region of Southwest Asia has emerged to become a principal cockpit or flank of great struggles throughout adjoining regions of Eurasia and Africa. Since approximately the emergence of the Sumerian colonization of southern Mesopotamia, the area bounded by Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Persia, Turkey, and the Transcaucasus had developed as a center of both conflict and civilization for much of the world at large. Today that region, with its presently geographically extended, largely Islamic cultures, contains many of the elements which will tend to be a crucially included factor, or even a trigger, of unleashed generalized, asymmetric modes of nuclear warfare throughout the world at large today.

It is time to speak frankly about ending the relevant follies of current U.S. policy generally, and, with special emphasis on the urgency of establishing not only peace, but a durable peace in Southwest Asia.

What I am working to bring my U.S. fellow-citizens to understand, urgently, now, is that the current, grotesquely aberrant policies of Vice-President Cheney are insane from any rational military-strategic standpoint, as many retired and



U.S. Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche spoke at the Zayed Centre for Coordination and Follow-Up of the Arab League, in Abu Dhabi on June 1, 2002; inset shows Arabic press coverage of his theme. The United States and British pressured Abu Dhabi into closing the Centre in late August.

serving U.S. general officers and others have said variously; that, in their own way, within the bounds of professional discretion incumbent upon them.

The essential military policy of the U.S.A., as of other leading nations, is governed by a doctrine of Classical strategic defense, a doctrine shaped by the 1648 Treaty of Westphalia, the leadership of the great commander Lazare Carnot in France, by the circles led by Scharnhorst in Germany, and exemplified by the work of von Wolzogen and others in designing the strategy for defense of Russia against the Grande Armée of the Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte. That should be the policy of the United States and other powers today.

The presently contrary, imperial, utopian doctrine of world government, was brought about through a terrifying use of nuclear weapons, which was authored principally by Bertrand Russell. Now as then, the utopian military faction—that U.S. enemy from within which President Eisenhower called a “military industrial complex”—has always threatened, since Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in 1945, to plunge the entire planet into a prolonged dark age. Whoever proposes such a utopian “revolution in military affairs,” such as a policy of nuclear preventive war, as Cheney and his confederates have done, must be considered a threat to all of humanity, including the U.S.A. itself.

Now, we witness what was virtually inevitable, accelerating irregular warfare resistance of the people of Iraq against the looting and other destruction being conducted by the occupying forces at the disposal of imperial pro-consul Bremer. The informed circles of the world know that the U.S.A., as long as it remains under the present Administration, and as long as a durable Israeli-Palestinian peace has not been se-

cured, must withdraw from all roles which suggest a military occupation of any part of the Middle East in general. Otherwise, the situation created by continued U.S. occupation will produce even incalculable effects for the larger world, including the United States itself.

The behavior of the United States, in its bullying of nations of the Middle East region today, is often a copy of the extortionist “protection rackets” by those U.S. organized-crime circles which Cheney’s Halliburton operations are imitating today. Such thuggery may induce temporary submission today, but will drive enraged victims to war-like violence tomorrow, as we see in the irregular warfare building up in Iraq today. If we do not protect the governments of the region against such blackmail, the people of those nations will revolt against the governments which submit to such pressures, and bloody chaos will result. Soon, unless Cheney’s role is checked, or, better, his removal effected, it were inevitable that the violent reaction will not be limited to the territory of Iraq.

Therefore, the United States must get out quickly, and the UNO must be brought in under appropriate conditions and mandates, with a mandate for the early reestablishment of a stable and fully sovereign Iraq. There might be a U.S. alternative, were I already President of the U.S.A.—a President the people of the region could trust. Otherwise, there is no sane alternative. The U.S.A.’s submission to a UNO role is the only realistic course of action presently available. The practical question is: How shall that effort, involving the UNO’s leading role, be made successful? At the present, degenerated state of affairs produced by the war and the lunatic practice of the U.S. occupation, peace in Iraq can no longer be an Iraq

issue. Peace requires the voluntary, active cooperation among the nations of the region of Southwest Asia bounded, most immediately, by the Caucasus, Turkey, Iran, and Egypt.

The consequences of the stupid and outrageous folly of some U.S. representatives' thuggish attempts to stifle the voice of the Zayed Centre, must be assessed against that background.

The Arab world within that region of Southwest Asia is a group of relatively small states, many thinly populated, with much of their area presently desert. These states, many of which are fiercely jealous of their independence, do have profound common interests; but they require a forum through which definition of those common interests may be deliber-

ated; that, with little obligation but that of free choice to accept the influence of moral and intellectual persuasion.

If we are to build durable peace to replace the presently ominous situation in Southwest Asia and adjoining places, we must engage the consent of the people, the nations, which inhabit that region. We need means to step outside the formalities of formal diplomacy, to create the environment which is fertile for successful diplomacy. U.S. pressures to shut down the Zayed Centre are disgusting to anyone who prizes democratic freedoms of peoples. Such disgusting measures, as presently set against the background of Proconsul Bremer's role in supervising the carpetbagging role of Cheney's Halliburton, are not the road to successful diplomacy; under the

Why Centre Was Shut Down

The Zayed Centre for Coordination and Follow-Up (ZCCF), sponsored by the government of Abu Dhabi and functioning under the umbrella of Cairo-based Arab League Organization, was officially ordered to be shut down in Aug. 27, 2003 upon orders from the President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan. The office of Sheikh Zayed issued a statement in his name. The reason given, was that the ZCCF had engaged "in a discourse that starkly contradicted the principles of interfaith tolerance."

The real reason for the closure was massive pressure exercised for a period of months by elements in the U.S. Administration, combined with threats from Britain and Australia, the two countries that joined the Cheney neo-conservative fascists to launch the war against Iraq. The ZCCF has functioned since its founding in 1999 upon a request of Sheikh Zayed and approval of the Arab League's Foreign Ministers, as a unique forum for free discussions among Arab thinkers, economists, scientists, and cultural personalities on the one hand; and between these Arabs and their western counterparts; on issues related to the dialogue of civilizations, economic cooperation, and the pursuit of peaceful solution to international conflicts, especially in the Middle East. The Centre invited hundreds of government officials, former heads of state, economists and politicians. It held conferences and seminars on a wide range of political, economic and scientific issues.

The campaign against the ZCCF began in earnest following Lyndon LaRouche's historic visit there on June 2-3, 2002, during which he addressed a group of UAE ministers, Arab diplomats, professionals, intellectuals, economists, and press on "The Middle East as a Strategic

Crossroad." The speech was the keynote to a conference on "Oil and Gas in World Politics." The speech by LaRouche was subsequently published as a book by the ZCCF. The book also included a lecture on the subject of "Dialogue of Civilizations" which was contributed by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, founder of the Schiller Institute and the wife of Lyndon LaRouche.

Sources in the ZCCF told *EIR* that as soon as LaRouche's participation in the conference was announced, threats were made by U.S., British, Australian, and Canadian officials in a concerted effort to disinvite the American Presidential candidate. Both the Zayed Centre and the Foreign Ministry of the UAE were threatened through informal and formal messages. It reached the level of informing UAE officials that such a matter "would harm economic and political relations" with these countries.

Arab Critics of War Silenced

More pressure was applied in the period of preparation of the invasion of Iraq. From September to February, the ZCCF invited speakers from Europe, Britain, and the United States who were opposed to the war plans against Iraq, and who refuted the claims of the Bush Administration and the Blair government, of Iraqi possession of weapons of mass destruction.

The pressure was part of a larger intimidation of the Arab regimes to submit to the "will of power" of the U.S. Straussian neo-cons, marching to the Middle East to "change all the regimes" and "redraw the map" of the region. When it became obvious that these chicken-hawks were getting themselves into a "Vietnam in the desert," and could not fulfill their scheme for the region, they resorted to dirty tricks to shut down sources of criticism of these policies. That included the ZCCF and all the prominent Arab newspapers and media outlets. Journalists in the Gulf told *EIR* that any criticism of the U.S. policy in the Middle East "is currently regarded as blasphemy." Strict orders

circumstances, such behavior by certain U.S. officials is less than human.

The Zayed Centre's role as a place for such a forum among the member states of the Arab League, has been proven most appropriate, and valuable on this account. Here, the world has had the opportunity to engage in dialogue with the Arab world most immediately, and, implicitly, with a larger part of the world of Islamic cultures. Until now, the Zayed Centre's role in fostering of emergent consensus among Arab states, on numerous matters, has become a critical element in defining constructive goals among nations of the region. We need that channel more than ever in its past existence, at this time. By "we," I mean also the United States.

were given to journalists that any such criticism would be censured.

Immediately after the Iraq invasion, the ZCCF came under a heavy smear campaign by the Israeli intelligence/neo-con "think-tank" Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI)—based in Washington and Berlin—and the ADL. The charge this time was, that the ZCCF was spreading "anti-Semitic" and "anti-American" propaganda.

The UAE government's response to the campaigns against the ZCCF, in shutting the Centre, does not reflect a belief in these charges of anti-Semitism and anti-Americanism. It was, rather, a response to threatening manipulation by elements in the U.S. Administration, pulling of family and factional strings in the UAE, especially at a point when that country is faced with a succession issue, as Sheikh Zayed is entering old age and suffering chronic sickness. Certain elements within the U.S. State department have been suggesting that there is a dispute among the sons of Sheikh Zayed: Sultan, who was the Chairman and sponsor of the ZCCF; and his older brother Khalifa. According to these State Department elements, they were in a dispute over the role and practices of the ZCCF.

The intimidation by the U.S. "war party" of the Arab governments and political elite is threatening to destabilize the whole region. The population in these countries are seeing their governments succumbing to the demands of what they currently regard as an "enemy."

The Zayed Centre was a unique forum for free exchange of ideas. Its loss would be a loss for the whole region and the world in general. Its continued closure would just deepen the belief in the region that the United States is a tyrannical power, which wants neither free speech nor democracy there. The fact that the ZCCF was threatened for inviting LaRouche, the American statesman respected and esteemed by people in the Arab world as "America's voice of reason," adds to Arabs' frustration.—*EIR Staff*