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From the Associate Editor

The *Feature* story in this week's issue was commissioned by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., for widest possible distribution internationally. *EIR* has "the goods" on the Pentagon faction of lunatics, kooks, and outright Satanists that is gunning for two horrendous actions in the immediate weeks ahead: a "pre-emptive" military attack against Iran, including the possible use of nuclear weapons; and a "new 9/11" assault against several U.S. cities, including, but not restricted to, New York City and Washington, D.C. Such a terrorist atrocity, which would probably be run under the cover of Hezbollah or al-Qaeda or some other Islamic group, would be blamed on Iran, thereby providing the pretext for a nuclear strike. You can read about it in our exclusive interview with Gen. Paul Vallely (ret.), one of those who are promoting the insane strategy.

Also notable in our coverage is the link between the "spoon-benders" and the Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay prison atrocities; and the connection of one of these Pentagon weirdos to certain of the Sept. 11, 2001 hijackers. There is much more to this story, still to be unravelled.

This insane policy, which we and others are exposing in order to prevent, comes from the highest levels of the Administration, notably Dick Cheney and his neo-conservative cabal. Crucial leads on the story were provided to *EIR* by military and retired military contacts, who were sufficiently alarmed about the consequences of Cheney's strategy, that they had to spill the beans. They came to *EIR*, because they recognize LaRouche uniquely as the "go to" person, when such a dangerous operation has to be exposed and stopped.

In *International*, of special note are Dennis Small's report on what's behing Donald Rumsfeld's trip to Paraguay; Hussein Askary's analysis of the so-called ethnic fissures in Iraq; and Michele Steinberg's exposé of the networks behind the recent outbreaks of Jewish fundamentalist terrorism in Israel. *EIR* has been tracking these people for decades—as we have the Pentagon spoon-benders—and our story is "must" reading for anyone trying to find the road to peace in the Mideast.



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42 Giovanni Galloni

Hon. Galloni participated in the Italian Resistance against Fascism during World War II, and became a leader of the Christian Democracy party. He was a close collaborator of former Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro; a Member of Parliament; Minister of Education; and editor of the newspaper *Il Popolo*. In 1991, he was appointed president of the state institution that supervises the Italian legal and magistracy system.

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Cheney's 'Spoon-Benders' Pushing Nuclear Armageddon

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Sometime in late 1980, then-Col. Paul E. Valley, the Commander of the 7th Psychological Operations Group, United States Army Reserve, Presidio of San Francisco, Calif., co-authored a discussion paper, which received wide and controversial attention within the U.S. military, particularly within the Special Operations community. The paper was titled "From PSYOP to MindWar: The Psychology of Victory," and it presented a Nietzschean scheme for waging perpetual psychological warfare against friend and enemy populations alike, and even against the American people.

The "MindWar" paper was provoked by an article by Lt. Col. John Alexander, which appeared in the December 1980 edition of *Military Review*, advocating the introduction of ESP (extra-sensory perception), "tele-pathic behavior modification," para-psychology, psychokinesis ("mind over matter"), remote viewing, out of body experiences, and other New Age and occult practices into U.S. military intelligence. Alexander's paper was titled "The New Mental Battlefield: Beam Me Up, Spock."

But the subsequent paper co-authored by Valley went way beyond ESP and the other paranormal techniques advocated by Alexander: "Strategic MindWar must begin the moment war is considered to be inevitable," the document stated. "It must seek out the attention of the enemy nation through every available medium, and it must strike at the nation's potential soldiers *before* they put on their uniforms. It is in their homes and their communities that they are most vulnerable to MindWar. . . .

"To this end," Valley and co-author continued, "MindWar must be strategic in emphasis, with tactical applications playing a reinforcing, supplementary role. In its strategic context, MindWar must reach out to friends, enemies,

and neutrals alike across the globe—neither through primitive 'battlefield' leaflets and loudspeakers of PSYOP nor through the weak, imprecise, and narrow effort of psychotronics—but through the media possessed by the United States which have the capabilities to reach virtually all people on the face of the Earth. These media are, of course the *electronic* media—television and radio. State of the art developments in satellite communication, video recording techniques, and laser and optical transmission of broadcasts make possible a penetration of the minds of the world such as would have been inconceivable just a few years ago. Like the sword Excalibur [King Arthur's magical sword—ed.], we have but to reach out and



Col. John B. Alexander (right), with Hal Puthoff. Alexander was one of the first to advocate the use of ESP, "tele-pathic behavior modification," para-psychology, and other New Age and occult practices into U.S. military intelligence.

knightsbillham.com



Uri Geller Press Pictures

Uri Geller, the legendary Israeli "spoon-bender," worked for U.S. intelligence in the 1980s, and has now reportedly been brought back.

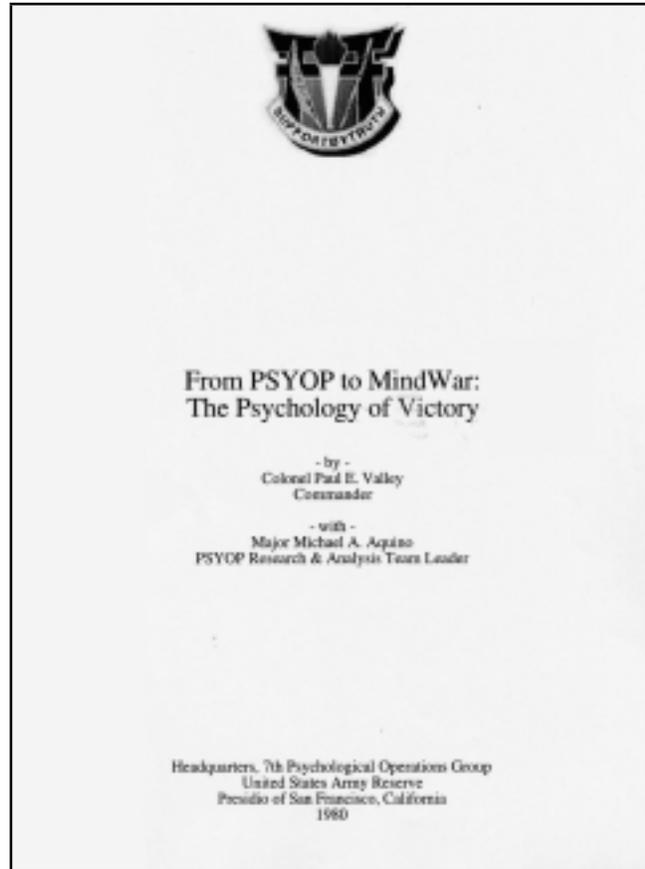
seize this tool; and it can transform the world for us if we have the courage and the integrity to enhance civilization with it. If we do not accept Excalibur, then we relinquish our ability to inspire foreign cultures with our morality. If they can then desire moralities unsatisfactory to us, we have no choice but to fight them on a more brutish level.

"MindWar must target *all* participants to be effective. It must not only weaken the enemy; it must strengthen the United States. It strengthens the United States by denying enemy propaganda access to our people, and by explaining and emphasizing to our people the rationale for our national interest in a specific war."

Leaving nothing to the imagination, the document concluded by emphasizing that MindWar should employ subliminal brainwashing technologies, and weapons that directly attack the targetted population's central nervous system and brain functioning: "There are some purely natural conditions under which minds may become more or less receptive to ideas, and MindWar should take full advantage of such phenomena as atmospheric electromagnetic activity, air ionization, and extremely low frequency waves," the paper concluded.

The "MindWar" paper was disturbing, for reasons beyond its fascist and occultist content. For one thing, Colonel Vallely's co-author was a PSYOP Research & Analysis Team Leader named Maj. Michael A. Aquino. Five years before the circulation of the MindWar paper, Special Forces Reserve officer Aquino had founded the Temple of Set, a Satanic organization which was the successor to Anton Szandor LeVay's Church of Satan. Aquino would soon be grabbing headlines, which persisted throughout the 1980s, as a leading suspect in a nationwide Satanic pedophile ring, that particularly targetted daycare centers on such military bases as Fort Bragg and the Presidio (see article, p. 21).

Furthermore, Vallely and Aquino's MindWar scheme is remarkably similar to the Total Information Awareness (TIA)



This document was co-authored by then-Col. Paul Vallely and the Satanist Maj. Michael Aquino in 1980, a seminal document in the bid for influence by the "spoon-benders" in the U.S. military.

program launched by the Donald Rumsfeld Pentagon, under the direction of Irangate figure Adm. John Poindexter. Ostensibly, the Total Information Awareness global propaganda and mega-data-mining plan was scrapped after a series of negative news stories, but Pentagon sources have reported that the program was merely "taken into a black box."

Indeed, on Aug. 16, 2005, *The New York Times*'s Philip Shenon revealed that a super-secret Pentagon "special action program" called Able Danger had tracked Mohammed Atta and three of the other Sept. 11, 2001 hijackers a year *prior* to the attacks; but Pentagon lawyers with the Special Operations Command refused to allow the information to be shared with the FBI, for fear of exposing the data-mining program to any public scrutiny. The *Times* learned of Able Danger from Lt. Col. Anthony Schaffer, who was the program's liaison to the Defense Intelligence Agency at the time.

'Nuke Iran!'

Colonel Vallely's association with Aquino did little to stall the former's military career advancement. A West Point graduate, Vallely retired in 1991 as deputy commanding gen-

eral of the U.S. Army of the Pacific. From 1982-86, he headed the 351st Civil Affairs Command, placing him in charge of all Special Forces, Psychological Warfare, and Civil Affairs Military units in the Western United States and Hawaii.

Today, he is practicing what he and Satanist Aquino preached in the MindWar paper, and is one of the leading propaganda assets in Vice President Dick Cheney's push for military confrontation with Iran—one that could see the United States carry out the first pre-emptive nuclear attack in history.

General Valley, now retired from the military, is a senior military commentator for Rupert Murdoch's shrill Fox TV News; is a "client" of Benador Associates, the premier public relations firm for the neo-conservative cabal in Washington; is the Military Committee chairman for Frank Gaffney's neocon Center for Strategic Policy; and is the co-founder, along with Gen. Thomas McInerney (USAF-ret.), another Benador client, of the Iran Policy Committee. IPC is yet another neocon front group that: 1) promotes the Mujahideen-e-Khalq (MEK), a group on the State Department's list of International Terrorist Organizations (for assassinating a number of U.S. military officers in Iran); and 2) demands U.S. military action to impose "regime change" in Tehran, through such measures as a massive bombing campaign against Iran's purported secret nuclear weapons labs, and a U.S. Naval blockade of the Strait of Hormuz. Recently General Valley co-authored a book with General McInerney, titled *Endgame—Blueprint for Victory for Winning the War on Terror*, which borrows, philosophically, from his and Aquino's original MindWar rant (see interview with Valley on p. 13).

The 'Jedi Warriors'

General Valley, Colonel Alexander, and Lt. Colonel Aquino (ret.) are but three leading figures within the Special Operations community, who have promoted the application of New Age and outright Satanic practices to the art of war, conducting experimental programs aimed at creating a Nietzschean "Übermensch warrior."

In preparation for this article, *EIR* has interviewed several senior retired military and intelligence officers, who have identified, from their own personal experiences, a number of other leading military officers who promoted these efforts and funnelled massive amounts of Pentagon money into "black programs," testing the military applications of a whole range of bizarre "non-lethal" techniques and technologies. Some of the top-secret programs funded by taxpayer dollars over the past 25 years betray a significant degree of outright "spoon-bending" lunacy. Others lead directly to the doorsteps of Guantanamo Bay and Abu Ghraib military detention centers, where prisoners have been turned into human guinea pigs for experimental torture techniques, drawn from the same New Age bag of tricks.

And *The New Yorker* magazine investigative journalist

Seymour Hersh, in a Jan. 24-31, 2005 article on "The Coming Wars," mooted that the Special Forces "black programs" may now have ventured into the field of "pseudo-gang warfare," in which counterinsurgency methods blur with insurgency.

Quoting from a September 2003 *San Francisco Chronicle* article by Naval Postgraduate School defense analyst and Pentagon counterinsurgency advisor John Arquilla, Hersh hinted that U.S. Special Forces units were being unleashed to create their own terrorist "pseudo gangs" to more easily infiltrate terrorist groups like al-Qaeda. Arquilla wrote: "When conventional military operations and bombing failed to defeat the Mau Mau insurgency in Kenya in the 1950s, the British formed teams of friendly Kikuyu tribesmen who went about pretending to be terrorists. These 'pseudo gangs,' as they were called, swiftly threw the Mau Mau on the defensive, either by befriending and then ambushing bands of fighters or by guiding bombers to the terrorists' camps. What worked in Kenya a half-century ago has a wonderful chance of undermining trust and recruitment among today's terror networks. Forming new pseudo gangs should not be difficult."

Arquilla added, for good measure: "If a confused young man from Marin County can join up with al-Qaeda [a reference to John Walker Lindh, the so-called American Taliban—ed.], think what professional operatives might do."

The 'Gang of Four'

Four of the names most often cited as promoters of programs like the "Goat Lab," the "Jedi Warriors," "Grill Flame," "Task Force Delta," and the "First Earth Battalion," have held top posts within the military intelligence and Special Operations commands:

Gen. Albert Stubblebine III was the head of U.S. Army Intelligence, INSCOM (Intelligence and Security Command), from 1981-84, during which time he launched a series of secret projects at Fort Meade, Md., involving remote viewing and other occult practices. General Stubblebine was, perhaps, the U.S. Army's most senior and loudest advocate of the full gamut of New Age warfare.



Gen. Albert Stubblebine III

Gen. Peter Schoomaker, the current U.S. Army Chief of Staff, was Commanding General of the Joint Special Operations Command (1994-96), Commander of the United States Army Special Operations Command (1996-97), and Commander in Chief of the United States Special Operations Command (1997-2000). Accord-



U.S. Army/Sgt. Carmen L. Burgess

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker has allegedly created a think-tank devoted to expanding the application of bizarre occult and paranormal operations throughout the Army.



benning.army.mil

Gen. Wayne A. Downing applied MindWar techniques during the invasion of Panama, as Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Special Operations Command.

ing to a well-researched book exposing the New Age penetration of the U.S. military, *The Men Who Stare at Goats*, by Jon Ronson (Simon & Schuster, New York, 2004), General Schoomaker has created a think-tank, under the sponsorship of the COS office, to expand the application of these bizarre occult and para-normal operations throughout the U.S. Army, as his contribution to President George W. Bush's Global War on Terrorism (GWOT).

Gen. Wayne Downing also was the Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Special Operations Command, and earlier directed all special operations during the December 1989 invasion of Panama, when some of the MindWar techniques were used, during the siege of the Vatican compound where Gen. Manuel Noriega had taken refuge. Following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Downing was named National Director and Deputy National Security Advisor for Combatting Terrorism in the Bush-Cheney White House, a post he held until June 2002.

According to military sources, General Downing left the White House as the result of a conflict with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, over plans for the invasion of Iraq. Downing had argued that Saddam Hussein could be overthrown by a massive "shock and awe" bombing campaign, followed by an invasion by a force of no more than 25,000 Special Forces troops. The "Downing Plan" was rejected by the Chiefs as "sheer madness," according to one senior military source familiar with the events.

Gen. William "Jerry" Boykin was the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, N.C., from 1998-2000. Prior to that, he was the Commander of the elite counter-terror unit, Delta Force, from 1992-95. He was, in that capacity, in charge of the Special Forces units in Mogadishu, Somalia, during the famous 1993 "Black Hawk Down" incident, in which a number of Special Forces soldiers were beaten to death by warlords, and dragged through the streets of the

city. Here, some of Lt. Col. John Alexander's non-lethal systems, including "Sticky Foam," were directly put to the combat test—and failed. From March 2000 until June 2003, General Boykin headed the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center. He was then named Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence, a post he still holds. According to *The New Yorker* piece by Hersh, Boykin and his immediate boss, Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence Stephen Cambone, are directly in charge of the Special Operations search-and-kill squads touted by John Arquilla in his pseudo-gang promo.

Shortly after his appointment to the Deputy Undersecretary position, General Boykin drew fire, for remarks he delivered—in uniform—at a fundamentalist Christian church, in which he smeared Islam as a "Satanic" religion, and characterized the U.S. invasion of Iraq as a religious "crusade." He also said that "God had placed George W. Bush" into the Presidency, provoking serious debates about his own sanity and a Pentagon Inspector General's Office probe.

First Earth Battalion—Where It All Began

According to author Jon Ronson, in 1977, Lt. Col. Jim Channon, a Vietnam War combat veteran, wrote a letter to Lt. Gen. Walter Kerwin, then the U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Staff, proposing a fact-finding mission to unearth ways for the U.S. military to become more "cunning." Channon was given an open-ended assignment, a small Pentagon budget, and spent the next two years, by his own accounts, exploring the depths of the New Age movement, seeking military applications. Channon visited over 150 New Age facilities during his travels, with such countercultural names as: Gentle Wind, Integral Chuan Institute, Dayspring, Inc., The Center of Release and Integration, Postural Integration Reichian Rebirthing, the New Age Awareness Fair, Beyond Jogging, Aikido with Ki, the Biofeedback Center of Berkeley, and the Esalen Institute.



jimchannon.com

Lt. Col. Jim Channon was one of the first proponents of New Age mind-war in the military, starting in the late 1970s.

Channon particularly spent a good deal of time training under Michael Murphy, the co-founder of Esalen, which was the leading West Coast New Age psychological experimentation center, testing a wide array of mind-control methods, many involving the use of psychotropic drugs. Cultist mass murderer Charles Manson spent Aug. 5, 1969 at Esalen, just four days before he unleashed the “Helter Skelter” murder spree, for which he is still serving a lifetime jail sentence. Manson had been tracked, from his years in state prison, by military psychologists, who were studying behavioral patterns of what they dubbed the “pathologically violent five percent.”

In 1979, Lt. Colonel Channon presented his findings to the Army brass in a 125-page document, complete with slides, called “The First Earth Battalion.” While the document was laced with New Age vocabulary (“The First Earth is not mission oriented, it is potential oriented. That means we shall continue to look everywhere to find non-destructive methods of control.”), Channon did propose an array of non-lethal techniques that would be soon adopted by the military, including the use of atonal noises as a form of combat psychological warfare, oriental martial arts and spiritualist instruction, and widespread experimentation with psychoelectronics and other means of debilitating enemy forces.

Channon’s First Earth Battalion slide show was brought to General Stubblebine, the head of INSCOM, by Colonel Alexander, the author of the *Military Review* article on “The New Mental Battlefield,” and, by 1981, Stubblebine established a secret “psychic spies unit” at Fort Meade, to test out such dubious techniques as remote viewing.

Two years later, General Stubblebine travelled to Fort Bragg, to pitch the Channon/Alexander program to the top leadership of the Special Operations community. By now,

Stubblebine was convinced that, with the application of the right “mind over matter” techniques, he could personally walk through walls. As of this writing, he has not yet apparently succeeded. The Fort Bragg session, as he would later recount it to author Ronson, was a fiasco, and no action was taken to implement his program—or so Stubblebine thought.

In reality, Fort Bragg, by 1978, was already a hotbed of mind-war experimentation. Among the programs carried out at remote corners of the sprawling special operations base: the Goat Lab, where a team of New Age-trained Special Forces soldiers attempted to burst the hearts of goats, in an adjacent holding pen, through the power of psychic concentration. Veterinarians working on the base were horrified that Special Forces planes were airlifting goats up from Central America, without going through the normal Customs inspections. The goats were used in the training of combat medics. The goats would be shot, their limbs would be amputated, and, on some occasions, they were “de-bleated” by having their tongues cut out or their throats slashed. Then, they were subjected to the Goat Lab psychic warfare tests.

Keying off of Channon’s blueprint, a Special Operations experimental team, dubbed “Jedi Warriors,” after the Star Wars craze, were trained in a wide array of Eastern oriental martial arts and meditation techniques, combined with super-strenuous physical training programs. Outside “experts” like Dr. Jim Hardt, were brought in to train the “Jedi Warriors” to heighten their mental telepathy skills through Zen. Following Jim Channon’s First Earth Battalion recipe, Stuart Heller, a New Age psychologist, who gave classes in stress control to corporate executives and officials at NASA, was brought in to provide similar schooling to the commandos. Channon had been introduced to Heller by Marilyn Ferguson, the author of the 1980 book *The Aquarian Conspiracy*, which peddled a New Age version of H.G. Wells’s original *Open Conspiracy* concept of mass social control and cultural paradigm-shifts.

Not all the instructors of the “Jedi Warriors” were counter-culture psychologists. Michael Echanis, a Green Beret who was badly wounded in Vietnam, but later developed advanced martial arts skills, was brought in to train the “Jedi” in Hwa Rang Do, a combat technique that emphasized “invisibility.” Echanis would be killed in 1978 in Nicaragua, while working as a mercenary for the regime of Anastasio Somoza. He had been the martial arts editor of *Soldier of Fortune* magazine, a well-known hiring hall for ex-soldiers and wanna-be’s, seeking their fortunes as mercenaries.

By 1983, between the INSCOM program and the black box efforts at Fort Bragg, a fairly extensive network of military “spoon-benders” had been assembled, to the point that Task Force Delta was created, to stage quarterly meetings of as many as 300 military occult practitioners, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Col. Frank Burns launched Meta Network,

one of the first “chat rooms” run through the DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) computer networking system, that would ultimately evolve into the internet.

The scheme to create a breed of Nietzschean “super soldiers” employed some very far-out characters, like the Israeli “spoon-bender” Uri Geller, a one-time stage magician, who was brought into the U.S. intelligence community under the original patronage of Dr. Andrija Puharich, a doctor who had been conducting work on parapsychology and telepathy for the U.S. Army’s Psychological Warfare Division, since the 1950s. Dr. Puharich ran the Round Table Foundation of Electrobiolgy, which experimented with the manipulation of brain waves. He worked closely with Warren S. McCulloch, one of the founders of Cybernetics, and with the British intelligence counterculture guru, Aldous Huxley.

Wolfowitz Peddles Non-Lethal Warfare

According to author Ronson, in an October 2001 interview in London, Uri Geller confided to him that he had been “called back” to work for the U.S. government, immediately after the Sept. 11 attacks. It seems that the Bush Administration decided that the “psychic spies” could play a productive role in the hunt for Osama bin Laden, and in efforts to prevent a replay of the terror attacks on New York and Washington.

In fact, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz had been a big advocate of some of Alexander and Channon’s ideas, while serving as the chief policy advisor to then-Defense Secretary Dick Cheney in the George Herbert Walker Bush Pentagon. On March 10, 1991, Wolfowitz wrote a memo to Cheney, “Do We Need a Non-Lethal Defense Initiative?” in which he wrote, “A U.S. lead in non-lethal technologies will increase our options and reinforce our position in the post-Cold War world.” While Wolfowitz apparently made no mention of the more bizarre practices promoted by Colonel Alexander, the guru of the non-lethal weaponry campaign, at the time of Wolfowitz’s memo, Alexander had retired from active duty, and had been named head of the Non-Lethal Weapons Program at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

In 1990, Colonel Alexander had also come out with a book, *The Warrior’s Edge*, in which he promoted a variety of unconventional methods to promote “human excellence and optimum performance” among soldiers, based on a course he taught in 1983 called Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP). Among the students in that course were then-Senator and later Vice President Albert Gore, Gen. Max Thurman, and General Stubblebine. By his own accounts, Alexander and Gore became close friends in 1983, and remain so today.

Colonel Alexander wrote that the goal of *The Warrior’s Edge* was to “unlock the door to the extraordinary human



DoD/Helene C. Stikkel

Paul Wolfowitz in 2002 as Deputy Secretary of Defense was a big advocate of the MindWar idea championed by Lt. Col. John Alexander.

potentials inherent in each of us. To do this, we, like governments around the world, must take a fresh look at non-traditional methods of affecting reality. We must raise human consciousness of the potential power of the individual body/mind system—the power to manipulate reality. We must be willing to retake control of our past, present, and ultimately, our future.”

Uri Geller was not the only “psychic warrior” called back to government service after 9/11. Jim Channon, the original First Earth Battalion New Age super-soldier, according to author Ronson, began holding a series of meetings in early 2004 with the new Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Pete Schoomaker. Schoomaker had been commander of Special Forces at Fort Bragg when the “Goat Lab” and “Jedi Warrior” programs were under way. Ronson wrote that “The rumor was that General Schoomaker was considering bringing Jim back from retirement to create, or contribute to, a new and secret think-tank, designed to encourage the army to take their minds further and further outside the mainstream.” Ronson described it as a revival of Task Force Delta. Ronson soon received an e-mail from Channon, confirming the rumor, and explaining that the think-tank idea had been floated “because

Rumsfeld has now openly asked for creative input on the war on terrorism . . . mmmm.” Channon elaborated:

“The Army has requested my services to teach the most highly selected Majors. The First Earth Battalion is the teaching exemplar of choice. I have done that in the presence of General Pete Schoomaker. . . . I am in contact with players who are or have recently been in Afghanistan and Iraq. I have sent in exit strategy plans based on Earth Battalion ideas. I talk weekly with a member of a stress control battalion in Iraq who carries the manual and uses it to inform his teammates of their potential service contributions. . . .”

Guantanamo, Abu Ghraib . . . and al-Qa’im

The International Committee of the Red Cross has published a series of studies and sponsored several international conventions, to evaluate just how “non-lethal” the non-lethal technologies are that have been promoted by Alexander, Channon, and their ilk. According to a 1998 ICRC presentation before the European Parliament, non-lethal weapons are simply defined as weapons with a less-than 25% fatality rate. Such now widely used non-lethal weapons as lasers, extremely low frequency (ELF) weapons, and various chemical, biological, and audio stun weapons, can cause permanent damage, such as blindness, deafness, and destruction of gastrointestinal systems, which, the ICRC insists, require serious study and a new set of international treaties and conventions.

Indeed, according to both Ronson and *The New Yorker* writer Jane Mayer, many of the torture techniques employed at Guantanamo Bay, at Abu Ghraib, and at such less-well-known locales as al-Qa’im near the Syrian border in Iraq, are based on Channon and Alexander’s non-lethal schemes, but with lethal consequences in some cases.

Ronson confirmed that a facility at al-Qa’im was conducting “interrogations” of captured Iraqi insurgents, after playing, non-stop, for days at a time, the theme song from Barney the Purple Dinosaur, “I Love You.” Ronson is convinced that the music was a cover for subliminal frequencies, very high- or very low-frequency sounds that affect brain functioning, to break prisoners’ resistance. The prisoners were kept in metal shipping containers in the scorching sun, blindfolded and in crouching positions, surrounded by barbed wire, with the music (and subliminals) blaring.

In an article published in the July 11-18, 2005 issue of *The New Yorker*, Mayer revealed that Special Forces psychologists from the Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape

(SERE) program at the JFK Special Warfare School at Fort Bragg had been brought to Guantanamo Bay, to oversee interrogation strategies. The SERE psychologists formed a core of the Behavioral Science Consultation Teams (BSCT, or “Biscuits”) that “reverse engineered” the techniques that were used on Special Forces soldiers, to train them to survive enemy torture/interrogations, as part of the advanced special warfare program at Fort Bragg.

Jim Channon confirmed, in another e-mail exchange with author Ronson, that many of the ideas adopted by the Army Intelligence interrogators at Guantanamo, Abu Ghraib, and al-Qa’im came right out of his First Earth Battalion blueprint.

‘Living Embodiment’ of First Earth Battalion

At one point in his probe of the military’s spoon-benders, author Jon Ronson asked Stuart Heller, the friend of Marilyn Ferguson and Jim Channon, if he could name one soldier who was “the living embodiment” of the First Earth Battalion. Without a second thought, Heller replied: “Bert Rodriguez.” “Bert’s one of the most spiritual guys I’ve ever met,” Heller told Ronson. “No. Spiritual is the wrong word. He’s occultic. He’s like a walking embodiment of death. He can stop you at a distance. He can influence physical events just with his mind. If he catches your attention he can stop you without touching you.”

As Jon Ronson reported, “In April 2001, Bert Rodriguez took on a new student. His name was Ziad Jarrah. Ziad just turned up at the US 1 Fitness Center one day and said he had heard that Bert was good. Why Ziad chose Bert, of all the martial arts instructors scattered around the Florida shoreline, is a matter of speculation. Maybe Bert’s uniquely occultic reputation preceded him, or perhaps it was Bert’s military connections. Plus, Bert had once taught the head of security for a Saudi prince. Maybe that was it.”

Ziad Jarrah presented himself as a Lebanese businessman, who travelled a great deal and wanted to protect himself. “I liked Ziad a lot,” Rodriguez later told Ronson. “He was very humble, very quiet. He was in good shape. Very diligent.” Rodriguez taught Jarrah “the choke hold and the kamikaze spirit. You need a code you’d die for, a do-or-die desire.” Rodriguez added, “Ziad was like Luke Skywalker. You know when Luke walks the invisible path? You have to believe it’s there. And if you do believe it it *is* there. Yeah, Ziad believed it. He was like Luke Skywalker.”

Rodriguez trained Ziad Jarrah for six months, and gave him copies of several knife-fighting books he had written. Jarrah shared them with a friend, Marwan al-Shehhi, who boarded with him at the Panther Motel and Apartments in Deerfield Beach, Fla.

On Sept. 11, 2001, Ziad Jarrah took control of United Airlines flight 93, and crashed it in a field in Pennsylvania. Marwan al-Shehhi commandeered United Airlines flight 175 and crashed it into the South Tower of the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan.

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Abu Ghraib, Satanists, And Spoon-Benders

by Edward Spannaus

In a legal battle currently raging in Federal court in New York, the Pentagon is desperately trying to block the release of more photos and videotapes of prisoner abuse and torture at Abu Ghraib. At issue, in the lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Physicians for Human Rights, Veterans for Common Sense, and others, are 87 photographs and four videotapes, which are reported to contain images of rape, sodomy, and other conduct far more horrendous even than that which has been disclosed so far.

The question raised, is what connection does this have to the reports received by *EIR* that the Special Warfare crowd based at Fort Bragg, N.C., is deeply enmeshed in “spoon-bender” Mind War programs and experimentation, and intersects outright Satanic circles?

‘Rape and Murder’

An examination of this question, should proceed in the light of recent hearings in the U.S. Senate, and the explosive *New Yorker* magazine article by investigative reporter Jane Mayer, which have further documented that prisoner abuse and torture was a deliberate, systematic policy, one that came from the very top of the Defense Department, and also that these practices were deliberately introduced into Iraq, after having first been tried at Guantanamo.

It may seem far-fetched to some readers, to suggest a link between the torture scandals, and Satanic pedophile rings that operated out of the Presidio Army Base in San Francisco, or around Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska. But consider the following:

When Defense Secretary Rumsfeld testified to the Senate Armed Services Committee in May 2004, he warned that the unreleased Abu Ghraib images were *far worse* than those that had come out so far, saying that they show acts “that can only be described as blatantly sadistic, cruel and inhumane.” Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) said, after the Senate hearings, that “we’re talking about rape and murder here.”

Other, shaken members of Congress who viewed the photos said they showed, among other things, naked prisoners being forced into sexual acts with one another.

In an affidavit filed last month in the ACLU case, but only recently unsealed, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Richard Myers, painted a stark picture of what could happen if the photos and videos, known as the “Darby photos,” were released. Official release of the photos “will pose

a clear and grave risk of inciting violence and riots against American troops and coalition forces,” Myers said, and could result in “increased terrorist recruitment.”

“Release of these images will be portrayed as part and parcel of the alleged, continuing effort of the United States to humiliate Muslims,” Myers added.

Now, listen to investigative reporter Seymour Hersh, who first broke the Abu Ghraib story in April 2004, and who said the following, when speaking to an ACLU event in July 2004:

“Some of the worst things that happened you don’t know about, okay? Videos, um, there are women there. Some of you may have read that they were passing letters out, communications out to their men. This is at Abu Ghraib. . . . The women were passing messages out saying ‘Please come and kill me, because of what’s happened’ and basically what happened is that those women who were arrested with young boys, children in cases that have been recorded. The boys were sodomized with the cameras rolling. And the worst above all of that is the soundtrack of the boys shrieking that your government has. They are in total terror.”

Additionally, former prisoners from Abu Ghraib have given U.S. military investigators detailed descriptions of the rape of a boy prisoner at Abu Ghraib by an American soldier, and have described other types of abuse of children there.

At this point, the reader may rightly be asking him or herself: “How is it possible, that members of the U.S. military could be involved in such hideous practices?”

‘Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape’

Although her article does not explicitly raise these deeper questions, Jane Mayer’s July 11 *New Yorker* article, “The Experiment,” present a compelling case that the techniques of sexual and religious humiliation of prisoners, as well as most of the other techniques used at Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib, were developed by behavioral scientists and others associated with the U.S. military, and that study of such techniques is regularly used in the training of military personnel to resist interrogation if captured by enemy forces.

Rumsfeld sent Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Miller to take command of the Guantanamo prison camp in November 2002, since Rumsfeld believed that the previous commander was not getting adequate results from interrogations. It was Miller, said to be part of the “spoon-bender” set, and also of like mind with the Muslim-hating Gen. William Boykin, who established the role of psychologists and psychiatrists in assisting interrogations, as part of the Behavioral Science Consultation Teams (BSCT, or “biscuits”).

The BSCT program operates under Military Intelligence, and many of its members have undergone training in the resistance program known as SERE (Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape). SERE reportedly involves subjecting trainees to extreme temperatures, sensory deprivation including confinement in small spaces, loud noises, sexual embarrassment and humiliation, and what is called “religious



Lynndie England at Abu Ghraib was carrying out the very same techniques that are applied to U.S. soldiers in the SERE program. Could that be a coincidence?

dilemma”—including the desecration of the Bible.

Shortly after Miller arrived at Guantanamo, FBI agents assigned to Guantanamo raised objections to the use of SERE techniques in interrogations of prisoners, and they raised their concerns directly to Miller, according to FBI documents disclosed in the ACLU lawsuit.

Later, in August 2003, Miller was sent to Iraq by Rumsfeld’s Undersecretary for Intelligence Stephen Cambone, and Cambone’s assistant Boykin. Miller visited Abu Ghraib and the “hunter-killer” squad then known as Task Force 20; his express purpose was to “Gitmo-ize” detention and interrogation programs in Iraq. As he put it in his report summarizing his visit, he went to Iraq “to discuss current theatre ability to rapidly exploit interneers for actionable intelligence.”

His best-known recommendation was that of using detention operations (e.g., MPs serving as prison guards) to “set conditions for successful interrogations.” Less well known, is that Miller also recommended providing a BSCT “to support interrogation operations,” explaining: “These teams comprised of operational behavioral psychologists and psychiatrists are essential in developing integrated interrogation strategies and assessing interrogation intelligence production.”

‘Reverse Engineering’

According to Mayer, the flagship SERE program is based at the JFK Special Warfare School at Fort Bragg, and the training program is overseen by psychologists and other behavioral science clinicians, who keep detailed records of trainees’ responses and stress levels. Since the program is ostensibly intended to expose trainees to maximum anxiety in order to better equip them to resist interrogation and torture, the program is, Mayer reports, “a storehouse of knowledge about coercive methods of interrogation.”

Mayer continues:

“One way to stimulate acute anxiety, SERE scientists have learned, is to create an environment of radical uncertainty: trainees are hooded; their sleep patterns are disrupted; they are starved for extended periods; they are stripped of their clothes; they are exposed to extreme temperatures,” and so on. If a POW “is trying to avoid revealing secrets to enemy interrogators, he is much less likely to succeed if he has been deprived of sleep or is struggling to avoid intense pain.”

Or, as Mayer put it in an interview posted on the *New Yorker* website: “Before 9/11, many of these behavioral scientists [at Guantanamo] were affiliated with SERE schools, where they used their knowledge to train U.S. soldiers to resist coercive interrogations. But since 9/11, several sources told me, these same behavioral scientists began to ‘reverse engineer’ the process. Instead of teaching resistance, they used their skills to help overcome resistance in U.S.-held detainees.”

One of those identified in the Mayer article, as playing an important role at Guantanamo, is Col. Morgan Banks, the director of the Psychological Applications Directorate of the Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg. Banks recommended that the psychologists working with the BSCTs at Guantanamo, have backgrounds with SERE.

Gitmo, the Laboratory

During the controversy over the *Newsweek* story about desecration of the Koran, a former U.S. military officer wrote to Prof. Juan Cole (who runs the anti-war “Informed Comment” web blog) and described his own experiences at SERE school, which had a mock POW camp for training CI (counterintelligence) personnel, interrogators, etc. “One of the most memorable parts of the camp experience was when one of the camp leaders trashed a Bible on the ground, kicking it around, etc.,” the ex-officer wrote. “It was a crushing blow, even though this was just a school. I have no doubt that the stories about trashing the Koran are true.”

“I’m sure you must realize that Gitmo must be being used as a ‘laboratory’ for all these psychological manipulation techniques by the CI guys,” he continued, calling this “absolutely sickening.” Sexual humiliation and ridicule, involving stripping trainees naked, and having women laugh at the size of the men’s genitals, is part of the advanced SERE training. (And they still claim that 19-year-old Lynndie England thought this up, all by herself.)

Mayer was told about another SERE training technique called the “mock rape,” in which a female officer stands behind a screen and screams as if she were being violated, and the trainee is told that he can stop the rape if he cooperates with his captors.

At Abu Ghraib, they seem to have dropped the “mock” part.

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'We've Got To Bring the Hammer Down on Iran'

Retired Army general Vallely is currently the head of the Military Committee of Frank Gaffney's Center for Security Policy and a member of the Iran Policy Committee, a gaggle of neo-conservatives formed to promote war and rebellion in Iran. He was interviewed by telephone on Aug. 15 by Bill Jones. In an earlier conversa-



tion, Vallely had told Jones that he knew that Osama bin Laden was in Iran, and that Ken Timmerman (author of Countdown to Crisis: The Coming Nuclear Showdown with Iran), had learned from Iranian dissidents in Europe that Iran already had nuclear weapons. "All roads lead to Tehran," Vallely said.

EIR: I wanted to ask you a few more questions on this whole Iran scenario. You indicated that, if push came to shove, and some military action were to be taken, you would recommend a naval blockade of the Strait of Hormuz?

Vallely: Yes, the Strait of Hormuz is the chokepoint for going in and out of Iran by sea—oil, imports, whatever, has to go through there. And it would be the most feasible option, if we went that route. It would be that, because then you can basically allow all ships to go in and out except Iranian ships. That would provoke—obviously some kind of a reaction. And the other down side is, of course, whether the Iranian people who would like to see the mullahs go, would put then any kind of a *force majeure* [extraordinary circumstance] there that would be supportive of that, and not create a lot of negatives. But someone has got to deal with this Iranian issue. Because they're absolutely convinced that they can do anything they want to, including the continued support of terrorism, and nobody's going to do anything about it.

We know the Europeans won't do anything about it. Like I told a couple of groups, I think we're probably going to find for the third time in the last hundred years that we're going to have to bail the French out again, because they don't get it. Britain now gets it. When I was up on the Lebanese border in March of this year, it was apparent, the sightings of Iranians in uniform with the Hezbollah, on patrol. And of course they

control and feed the Hezbollah as the grown child of Iran, that it has been.

EIR: And what period of time was this? Before or after the withdrawal of the Syrians?

Vallely: Well, of course when I was there a lot of these things were occurring at that time, including the problems they were having in Beirut. But certainly we know that the only border in the world that is controlled by a terrorist organization is the Lebanese-Israeli border. That's completely controlled by Hezbollah. They've been able to very successfully infiltrate all of the towns and villages in southern Lebanon; they do it by buying the people off, of course. They give them food. They give them money. And of course all that money comes from Iran. Hezbollah is the most potent force in that area, as far as Lebanon is concerned. And I get a lot of intelligence out of Beirut through a couple of Lebanese sources.

So here you've got the situation now with the disengagement from Gaza going on, and we know, we're going to see it anyhow, that's going to become a very large terrorist camp. Hamas is going to control it, not the Palestinian Authority. Hamas is directly supported by Hezbollah. So you have this nexus of terror, that is connected and fueled by Iran and their surrogate, Syria. So what do you do? Nobody can figure where the hell the Administration is going on any of this.

EIR: Maybe they haven't figured it out either?

Vallely: They can't seem to figure any strategy out. I had dinner last night with the Speaker of the House—Denny Hastert was out here last night, and Congressman Dennis Rehberg (R.-Mont.)—we had a fundraiser for him. So I had dinner with eight congressmen, and these were all conservative Republicans, and nobody can figure out where in the hell this Administration is going strategically. There's no Iranian policy, there's no Greater Middle East Policy that's articulated. It's the same rhetoric. So that I'm finding more and more conservative Republicans are trying to figure out, is Bush acting more like his father every day, or what's going on? So it's a real dilemma. I just sense a lot of frustration.

EIR: Unless they do something that they're not telling anybody yet?

Vallely: Well, that's what everybody keeps saying, but there's never any action. I mean, you know, Powell went in to Damascus and laid down things, but there's never any follow-up, never any action taken. And certainly it appears that Condoleezza Rice has hit a wall like Colin Powell did. There's no strong diplomatic effort that we have. Condoleezza Rice goes up and meets with Abbas over there, who's certainly not in any control; Hamas is controlling, not the Palestinian Authority. And she comes out of there again, and then we send conflicting signals to Israel, continually. And Israel is not in good shape over there, politically, as you know, because of the disengagement.

“Just think of what one nuclear, small 20-kiloton weapon would do in Manhattan. . . . We’re thinking the naval [blockade] will really push them to do something stupid. And we hope they do. And then bring the hammer down on them. We know they’re going to use them against us. There’s nothing wrong with pre-emption.”

But I do know the Israelis have completed the targetting, for the targets in Iran. And they’re prepared to do something. Now, whether they will or not is another question. They know they’re the primary target of Iran. And you can see this whole disengagement thing, if it starts going south, and Gaza becomes the terrorist territory, with direct port entry, and entry from the Philadelphia line, the sector between Egypt and Gaza. Now you have clear paths coming in from the sea and from Egypt, and Hamas and Hezbollah, and Iran, of course, will take full advantage of that. You know if we had some clear, strong diplomatic efforts—I see *nothing* coming out of the State Department. Do you? You’re there, but I can see they are doing nothing there that is either aggressive, or dealing with strength.

EIR: Well, I’m sure they’re very divided on this issue. I don’t know exactly what the internal debates are.

Vallely: Well that’s where good strong leadership comes in. Who’s the President and who’s not? If I’m the President, I can have these debates, that’s fine, but sometimes I’ve got to make decisions, and go forth. But I don’t see any decisions coming out. And the attack dogs are always out there on the Democratic side. But there are no attack dogs any more on the Republican side. They’ve sort of silenced DeLay for a while here. And you find no attack dogs in the Senate or Congress any more. So to me, I’m sitting out here in Montana, and I see a weak Congress, I see a weak State Department. I see the the CIA trying to get on track. We don’t even have any good agent intelligence coming out of the Middle East.

EIR: That’s been a problem for a long time now.

Vallely: You know, I’ve got better intelligence coming out of the Middle East. I’ve got a guy from the Department of Defense that is assigned to me now, an intelligence guy, to process all the information that I’m getting directly out of the Middle East, including the sighting of bin Laden back in November, last year.

EIR: Now tell me about the options with Iran. You say the Israelis have targetted sites in Iran. There is also talk that the U.S. has also done its own targetting as well.

Vallely: Yes, it has, it’s done 81 targets, it’s already been done.

EIR: OK. But tell me what do you do with it? Anything they have of importance is obviously buried very deeply. And even some of my Israeli contacts will tell me, “You can’t do like Osirak on the Iranian facilities, you won’t get to anything important.” The facilities are buried much too deep to do that.

Vallely: Well, that’s not true. Let’s say you do designated strikes against the hardened facilities they have—just the psychological impact of laying down some JDAMs [Joint Direct Attack Munition—free-fall bombs fitted with a guidance system and tail kit] on those sites. You can dig down five or six stories, but I can still close you up. I can block you off. I can get down two or three stories; there’s a lot of weapons systems that can close these sites down. You can go ten stories and I still can close you down. The hardened sites don’t worry me.

EIR: You’re saying you can close them down, and they can’t get out.

Vallely: Yeah, there’s lots of ways [laughs], you know with a bunker buster, which we’ve given to Israel; we’ve delivered those all. They got brand new F-16s that are fully loaded, that we gave them or sold to them.

The Iranians are very smart. And this is where it all started. It was when Carter was so weak, when Khomeini took over, took over our embassy, our weak response there. So, if you go back to the late ’70s, Iran has been the pivotal state, along with Saudi Arabia, in fronting a lot of this. And the Saudis will do nothing about the Wahabis, the preachers of hate. Kuwait’s made some moves in that area. They won’t allow this preaching anymore. They’ve made some progress.

The other thing we’re working on now is the nuclear deterrence strategy against radical Islam, much like we had in the Cold War, where we told the Russians, you know, you launch once, and ten of your cities are gone. OK. Somehow we’ve got to tell radical Islam, that any indication of *one* nuclear weapon coming into the United States, and Mecca and Medina become sand. There’ll never be another hajj. And they have to have one completed hajj over their lifetime [laughs]. Not that we would do it, but the fact is you have to put the fear of God in them. It’s the only thing they understand. Did you read Ken Timmerman’s new book?

EIR: I sure did. It’s all over the place. Everybody’s reading it.

Valley: Yeah, and Ken and I have been on together, and Ken has his information from different sources than I had. So the question is, what do responsible nations do? We *cannot* let radical Islam and the Iranians destabilize the Middle East and the world. We just can't do that. They can't continue to destabilize what's going on. So the question is, who has the balls enough to do anything? And there's diplomatic things you can do. Sanctions don't work in the Middle East. That's a farce! We put sanctions on Syria. Hell, they have cash, you can buy anything in the Middle East if you have cash. So sanctions don't mean anything.

EIR: It was also the stance of the Iran Policy Committee that you would try to encourage popular revolt within the country. And obviously there's a lot of discontent with the mullahs. But it seems to me you're dealing with the Shi'a here, you're dealing with a very sensitive type of nationalism which is going to be aroused by this. Even the people who are opposed to the mullahs give their full support to their right as a nation to develop the full nuclear cycle for their energy production.

Valley: Look, we know the North Koreans were involved with the Iranians. We knew A.Q. Khan in Pakistan was involved with them. We knew about the Libyans. It's all connected. You know, it's not so hard to figure out. It really isn't. And everybody wants to make this so complicated. You change the regime in Iran, you change the whole Middle East. All those other things will tend to fall apart very quickly if they don't have Iranian support. So the question is, how do you do it? You can't depend on the Europeans for anything. I don't even worry about the Europeans. I told the Israelis the same thing: "Don't worry about the damned Europeans. You do what you have to do."

Dore Gold¹ and I worked on a strategy called Defensible Borders, a paper which we put out. That's a good one to read, by the way. It shows how Israel has the right to defend its borders, like anybody else. But I think the downside is, and I think even Sharon knows deep in his mind, that if this thing goes south in Gaza, like we think it will, then they [Israel] will go for a complete occupation of the West Bank and Gaza until every terrorist organization is put out of business. That's the only solution there. And we'll have to see what happens. But I know the Israelis are prepared to take very decisive action militarily, if we see this rise in terrorism there. We have even reports of al-Qaeda being in Gaza now. A report came in, they have cells working in Gaza now with Hamas, as they have been given sanctuary in Iran.

1. President of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs; he was the 11th Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations. He has written a book, *Hatred's Kingdom: How Saudi Arabia Supports the New Global Terrorism*, in which he maintains that the ideology prompting Islamic terrorists is rooted deeply in Saudi Arabian history. He claims that Saudi Arabia has become one of the main areas of refuge for al-Qaeda, in addition to the Pakistani-Afghanistan border, and the Iraqi-Iranian border.

EIR: A pretty hairy situation, it seems.

Valley: Yeah, and at some point in time you've got to bring down the hammer. If not, we're going to be under this continued terrorism threat. Did you read my book *Endgame*?

EIR: I just paged quickly through it.

Valley: Well, read it again. Everything we said in there two years ago is coming true. It all comes back to Iran. And you're never going to solve the Israeli-Palestinian problem until you solve the larger Middle East situation.

EIR: There has been some talk of using tactical nuclear weapons to get at some of these sites.

Valley: Yeah, that option's there.

EIR: Would that be effective in terms of closing them down? And secondly, would people accept—

Valley: The fact that you irradiate the area, so there's no access—it's the same thing with irradiating Mecca and Medina. But if they're threatening, which we know, to bring nuclear weapons into this country—we know that's their ultimate goal, simultaneous detonations in New York, Washington, and maybe Chicago or Los Angeles. Just think of what one nuclear, small 20-kiloton weapon would do in Manhattan.

EIR: But what do you think the reaction would be if we used any type of nuclear devices, without having been provoked by their doing something similar?

Valley: Well, that's why we're thinking the naval thing will really push them to do something stupid. And we hope they do. And then bring the hammer down on them. We know they're going to use them against us. There's nothing wrong with pre-emption.

EIR: But you're dealing with public opinion here. You know there's going to be an outcry over this.

Valley: That'll happen no matter what you do. So Bush has nothing to lose. Do what he needs to do. American wants leadership. You're always going to have the anti-whatever-whatever. The other key thing is, what I keep telling audiences, that you can't drag wars out. If you go to war, it's gotta be decisive, it's gotta have finality, and it's gotta be done as quickly as possible. If not, the piranha will eat you alive. And that's what happened in Vietnam. We didn't, in Korea, with finality. And so we still have troops there.

The only finality we've seen is with Japan. That was finality.

Patton said, "Don't let the Russians take Berlin." We let that happen, and look what we had: the Cold War, and what they did in the aftermath of World War II.

But we just don't seem to have men of wisdom and strategic vision anymore, that understand. It's like Bush. The biggest mistake that he made, and I said it, at the time I was briefed on the post-Saddam period: We ended up putting in

the Coalition Provisional Authority under Jerry Bremer, and that created the problems we have today. And I've had that validated many, many times and by many senior military commanders as well as the Iraqis. We basically ended up putting a State Department organization in charge of a war zone.

At any rate, now we're trying to recover, rather than putting in an interim government that we recommended they do, just like we did in Afghanistan. Bring the army back immediately. Get them on the payroll. Don't create these big bases and the Green Zone, and do all that stuff. I mean, you ought to see it over there in Iraq. It's like a big commissary, big PX's. You got to strike hard, fast, get it over with, bring the enemy to their knees as quickly as possible. You can't drag wars out. We're already beyond the time that we took out Hitler, which was three years and eight, nine months—we took out the Japanese *and* the Germans. We're now over that.

EIR: And we seem to be stuck there.

Vallely: We won't lay the hammer down on Syria. We know the Baathists. We know they're living up in the Aleppo area of Syria. We know the funding. We know the Damascus pipeline coming out of Russia, through Ukraine and Belarus into Damascus. So they're being fed weapons systems and things coming through that pipeline. And then you've got the pipeline from Iran, working into Lebanon and Syria. And all we hear is rhetoric.

Hey, listen, over a year and a half ago, I would have sent some strong signals into Syria. I'd have taken out ten of the offices in Damascus plus two of the training sites where we know they are, and at 2:00 o'clock in the morning, those things disappear. And at 6:00 o'clock in the morning we have plausible deniability [laughs].

EIR: Well, Bush does sometimes tend to follow in the footsteps of his father, although sometimes he might have indicated some sort of "gumption"?

Vallely: Yes, he has.

EIR: But what about Vice President Cheney?

Vallely: Yeah, where the hell is he at? He ought to be the attack dog. Keep him in the damned closet over there in the West Wing somewhere. I'd make Cheney the attack dog every day! [laughs] You, know, I can't figure it out. Bush has nothing to lose. Nothing to lose. And he won't do anything stupid. But you've got to be aggressive, and if you don't bring these few nations that are causing these problems, supporting terrorism, to task, it's going to just continue and continue and continue. And that's why the Iranians—they know in their own mind that they're not going to do anything. That's why they're being the way they are. They're not dumb.

EIR: The statements they were making yesterday were very tough.

Vallely: You see, you do what you have to do. You don't worry about world opinion, because they're on to the next story in another two weeks, no matter what you do. That's why I told the Israelis: "Do what you have to do to protect yourself. Quit listening to our State Department."

EIR: We'll see what happens now with the Iranian President coming to address the UN, if they allow him to come, that is.

Vallely: Oh, what a farce that is! Do you believe that? The enemy coming into our camp.

LaRouche on Lebanese TV

Cheney Wants War Against Iran Now

Lyndon LaRouche gave a live interview to the Lebanese television station NewTV SAT's talk show program "Bila Rakib," hosted by Maria Maalouf, on Aug. 17, 2005. NewTV Sat's website describes "Bila Rakib" as "an inclusive live talk show that discusses international political as well as pan-Arab issues" and "debates the most important political, social, and educational subjects that concern Lebanese and Arab viewers."

Maalouf: We started this conversation from Washington with Mr. Lyndon LaRouche, the ex-Democratic candidate for the American Presidency election, and the head of LaRouche PAC, and *Executive Intelligence Review*, *EIR* magazine. . .

First, an update question about Iran: The Iranian negotiators said that they would restart the uranium enrichment facility where work has been suspended for the last two years, as part of an agreement with the Europeans. Do you believe that Iran is really working on an atomic bomb?

LaRouche: There's no indication that Iran has developed the capability at present, for doing so. This doesn't exclude that somebody might provide that capability, but as far as we know, and as we're getting from official UN agencies, there's no indication that Iran is on the verge of developing a nuclear weapon.

Maalouf: Even if there is indication, Iran is still not permitted to own the bomb, like India, Pakistan, and especially Israel, which has 200 atomic warheads.

LaRouche: That is a very hot issue. We've raised the issue many times. We've said, since Israel has nuclear weapons in the Middle East, don't we have to take that into consideration in talking about nuclear proliferation? It is a great danger—I understand the problem, but it is a great danger.



Lyndon LaRouche during his interview in Washington with Lebanese station NewTV SAT.

Maalouf: Do you expect in the next time period, that Europe will join the United States in its hard line against Iran? Don't you think that the issue will be submitted to the Security Council?

LaRouche: I think the danger comes from a different quarter: We have people in the United States who wish to go to war, as they did in Iraq. They don't care whether there's any truth or not in the pretext they're using. But people behind Cheney intend to go to war against Iran now, contrary to all perceptions of rational people in Europe and elsewhere. The problem is the threat that some terrorist act might occur in the United States, say, in the month of September, and that Cheney has threatened to attack Iran, if such attacks occur in the United States, is of great concern to us all. It's a great danger.

We got into the Iraq war. We shouldn't have gotten in there in the first place. Lies were used to get us into that war. Right now, lies are being used. But also the threat of a new 9/11 is being used to try to drive the United States into an unprovoked attack on Iran. This is dangerous. It could blow up the whole world.

Maalouf: Mr. LaRouche, you were talking about details of this expected attack on Iran. But, do you think that Russia and China will back the Security Council resolution, or possibly abstain from voting?

LaRouche: I think that neither Russia nor China wishes to be involved in a quarrel with the United States, today. But they also understand, as many Europeans do—for example, the Chancellor of Germany, Gerhard Schröder, understands: There must not be a war over this issue of debate about what Iran's nuclear program is. Such a war would start *Hell on Earth throughout the planet*, and it *must not occur*. That's their view. That's my view. We may differ in some degree, on some details of it, but that is the view of all sane persons in the world.

The problem is, in the United States, there is hysteria because of the spreading fear that there might be a nuclear weapon deployed in Washington, or New York, or someplace like that. That's what the problem is.

Maalouf: Umm-hmm. Do you think that the United States will go to economic sanctions, to harm Iran?

LaRouche: They may threaten to do that. With Cheney running as acting President, which is what the situation is, those kinds of things are possible. But that is not the sentiment, I think, generally in the Congress, even the bipartisan sentiment in the Congress. We wish to avoid these problems; we know Cheney's crazy, but some people are not willing to take the risk of stopping him.

Maalouf: Mr. LaRouche, on July 27, you issued an international warning in *EIR* magazine on an imminent nuclear strike against Iran. What scenario could such an attack take?

LaRouche: Well, we have a group in the United States, and also in the British intelligence services, which we call the "spoon-benders," because they're very eccentric people, very wild people, and do some of the wildest things that happen. Cheney is very close to these people. These people are capable of all kinds of things. They are, in my view, clinically insane. They were clinically insane in the views of, for example, former head of the CIA, Bill Colby, and people like that, and most of our senior military. But they are a power in this Administration while Cheney remains the Vice President. And that's our problem.

Maalouf: Mr. LaRouche, in your warning, you call it the "Guns of August," expecting it to happen within this month, or by Sept. 4, knowing that in this period, American Congress will be on holiday, on vacation. That means we have 20 more days to go. Is it really so serious?

LaRouche: It is—well, you can not predict the day that something like that will happen. But you can foresee the time-frame in which it could begin to be a possibility of happening. The beginning point, the danger point, starts in August. It continues into September.

Now, I don't control the date that these guys are going to do something. But the possibility, we have to treat seriously: There's an immediate threat, beginning in August, running into September, of a combination of incidents, including some people from *inside* the United States—from this crowd, the spoon-benders—are capable of provoking, or organizing, a terrorist attack *inside* the United States, which would then be used for the bombing of Iran. And the bombing of Iran would be, under Cheney's dictate, a nuclear-weapons bombing. That's the danger.

Maalouf: You said this is about mini-nukes.

LaRouche: Yes.

Maalouf: Yes, mini-nukes. How do they differ from other nuclear bombs, such as the one dropped in Hiroshima?

LaRouche: Well, these are specialized types of nuclear weapons, which would be designed to hit deep bunker positions inside Iran, if they were deployed. And there are a number of deep positions in Iran. So, what you have is a multiplicity of targets in Iran, for individual bombing, from the air, or by missiles, and including some use of mini-nukes. That's specified.

In my view, if this occurs, you blow up Iran; you're going to blow up the entire region; you're going to set off a chain reaction around the world which can not be stopped. Because we're on the edge of a financial crisis beyond belief, under *these kinds of conditions*—under conditions of social crisis, spreading war, and a nuclear attack on Iran—the effects on the world are incalculable. Therefore, it must be stopped.

Maalouf: These bombs, you call it the “nuclear bunker buster,” why don't you use it to kill Osama bin Laden, in the mountains of Afghanistan? Or to put him under siege, for example?

LaRouche: Because, I don't think Osama bin Laden is the key to any of this. I think Osama bin Laden, was created as an al-Qaeda figure by British and U.S. intelligence services, including George H.W. Bush, the father of the current President! So, this fellow was created as a U.S. asset, for the Afghansi operations, and there's no indication in my book, that he's not *still* a secret asset of some of these secret intelligence operations from the Anglo-American side.

Now therefore, he is a factor, because he can be used, to the degree he is directly or indirectly controlled by Anglo-American intelligence services. But he is not the source of the threat: The source of the threat, of the type they are talking about, from my estimation, can only come from complicity of very-high-level elements inside the U.S. establishment, the elements I would call “the spoon-benders.” These are crazy people who would bring an attack *on the United States itself*, in order to provoke the United States to a policy such as bombarding Iran: That's the danger.

Maalouf: Yes, you called them, in your magazine, in *EIR* magazine, “crazy.” You say now they are crazy people. And on July 27, 2005, you said, that “Shultz, Cheney, Bolton, and company have managed to hold the world hostage to unilateral nuclear weapons within the grasp of a President who shows increasing signs of madness.” [See *EIR* article on CONPLAN 8022, May 27, 2005, p. 4.]

What are the real intentions of such a weird policy? Is America ruled now by a rather mad President?

LaRouche: Not exactly, no. The United States has conventional institutions which are very serious. And I'm very close, sentimentally and in practical ways, to these institutions.

But, you have on the other side, just as Bill Colby de-



White House Photo

Dick Cheney is very close to the people who want to launch a nuclear strike against Iran, LaRouche said, and “they are a power in this Administration while Cheney remains the Vice President. We have to get Cheney out . . . in order to remove that factor inside the White House which could unleash this kind of monstrosity.”

nounced, these kinds of characters who were inside the CIA and other institutions—they were based largely, say at Offutt Base up in Nebraska, you have people who are insane! You have general officers, four-star and other general officers, who are this type, like Boykin, who are insane. The military faction that ran Guantanamo interrogations, Abu Ghraib, they are insane. They are a special group, which has existed inside our institutions for the entire period since World War II.

They are dangerous, they have power, they have influence. They are opposed by most of the people in our institutions. So, this is not a United States operation, in the sense of being part of our institutions. It is something *in* the institutions, which Cheney and company are, shall we say, associated with. That's where the danger comes.

My view is, we have to get Cheney *out* of the Presidency, out of the Vice Presidency, in order to remove that factor inside the White House, which could unleash this kind of monstrosity.

Maalouf: You are talking about the Cheney doctrine. How can you define the global strike doctrine that was originally conceived when Dick Cheney was Secretary of Defense, under George Bush, Sr., in the 1990s?

LaRouche: Yes, well, first Cheney was, of course, Secretary of Defense under George H.W. Bush as President. He had big quarrels with other people in that Bush Administration. At that time, when he was Secretary of Defense, he had these same policies, which he represents as Vice President today. At that time, the Bush White House—H.W. Bush, “41,” Bush 41—with the Department of State, and other people in the institutions of the government, like Brent Scowcroft for example, sat on Cheney, and prevented him from carrying out

these policies.

The instant that Cheney was in the government, in 2001, from that point on, he was pushing these policies. The Iraq War policy was his policy in *January of 2001*. It had been his policy since he was in the first Bush Administration, back in the 1990s.

So, this is a continuing policy by certain people, which Cheney happens to coincide with. It is not U.S. policy as such, but we have—for example, many people, Democrats and Republicans alike in the Senate, will say, as they have said recently—that the way we got into the war in Iraq, is, Senators were convinced to support that, because *Cheney lied to them*. President Bush lied to them, but we don't know that President Bush knew what he was saying. But *Cheney lied, personally*.

Maalouf: We need to know, what in your opinion, is the difference between the Bush-Cheney new policy, and the conventional American policy, concerning the use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states.

LaRouche: Well, this is a part of trying to set up world government. This is a view of a certain group in London and the United States, in particular. They're a minority. In my view, they're crazy, or they're just simply evil.

The problem is, our institutions have not responded to get these people *out*. My insistence is, *we must get these people out of our institutions of government*. Because, if they have control, over nuclear institutions and things of that sort, they will use them—for their purposes—even though the rest of us don't want it to happen.

We saw what happened in Iraq. The majority of our military, the majority of our experts, *did not* want to go to war with Iraq. We were pushed into it by weakness of some of our people, but mostly by lying and by the fact that the Bush Administration was in charge of the government. And, of course, Blair was equally responsible.

There is no reasonable motive, there is no interest, of the type that ordinary people understand, for having these wars. We are on the verge of the greatest financial crisis in modern history. That's our big problem. But the fact that we're in a financial crisis, causes, as it did during time of the 1920s and 1930s with the rise of fascism, it creates the circumstances in which some maniacs begin to play upon the insecurity of the situation, and get us into adventures in the way that Mussolini and Hitler did.

Maalouf: Mr. LaRouche, about Iraq: You said that America has 150,000 troops and thousands of spies who form the biggest "spying concentration" globally, despite having failed to find the Iraqi insurgents. What do you mean in that proposal?

LaRouche: Well, there's no sense in the war in Iraq in the first place. We had made a mess earlier, with the Afghans war, we made a mess of Afghanistan. We now have made a hopeless mess of Iraq. For example, if I were President of the

United States, I know the only way to get out of Iraq is very simple: You go to the people who were formerly part of the government in Iraq, and you negotiate. You can negotiate your way out of Iraq, but not on George Bush's terms. You have to be more imaginative, to realize that our objective in that area is to have stability and peace. The entire area is ready to blow up. We must have stability and peace in Southwest Asia.

I'm convinced that if you have the right government in the United States, with our friends in Europe, we can go to people in the Middle East (so-called), we can negotiate peace. We're going to have to listen to what they have to say, not just what we say. But, if we're willing to cooperate, I'm convinced we can get peace.

The problem is, these guys don't want peace.

Maalouf: Mr. LaRouche, it seems that the Bush Administration is trying to replace these 150,000 U.S. soldiers in Iraq, by these bombs, the new bombs. What do you think about that?

LaRouche: I don't know what they're going to do. You know, people have to take into account—I had a meeting with Abba Eban back in 1975, who had been formerly Foreign Minister of Israel: We were talking then, about my concern for trying to find a Southwest Asia peace, an Arab-Israeli peace, on the same kind of basis that Eisenhower had proposed earlier. And he said to me, in our discussion, he said, "You're overlooking one thing"—rebuking me for overlooking something—"you forget that some heads of state in the world are clinically insane." And that's the problem we have to take into account here, now.

From the standpoint of the governments and people of the region, what is happening in the region is insane. Reasonable people would work to find ways to avoid the worst. Reasonable people in the United States would accept that, as in Europe. The problem is, you have some people who are either personally, or politically, insane. And that's what our problem is in this whole region.

Maalouf: We go back to Iran, and we have to ask you about the Mujahideen-e-Khalq, about the article on July 26, 2005 in *EIR*. There is indication that the Bush Administration is deploying Mujahideen-e-Khalq to carry out provocations against the regime in Iran? What are the provocations here?

LaRouche: There's no provocation—they want it. There's no reason for this, from the Iran side. There are certain people in London and in the United States, who want it! That's the only reason. To them, it's a strategic move for destabilizing the world, in order to bring about, shall we say, "undemocratic governments" in the United States, Europe, and elsewhere—that's the purpose. There's nothing—Iran has nothing to do with it. Nothing Iran has done has anything to do with this problem.

There is, of course, a general concern—as they keep talk-

ing about it—about the spread of nuclear weapons in more and more parts of the world. And the concern is, of course—legitimately—is Iran going to develop a nuclear weapon? But that is not the reason for this thing, even though it's *said* it's the reason.

The reason is, *people want a war!* And they want to *get* a war. They don't have to have a reason.

Maalouf: You said the war, or the plan, is not going to be immediately military. What are its oil and strategic factors—

LaRouche: There are none!

Maalouf: In attacking Iran?

LaRouche: There are none in the area! There are *no* strategic factors in Iran, or in the region, which warrant or provoke this kind of threat.

It's like Hitler invading Poland: Hitler wanted to invade Poland. Not because Poland was a threat to Germany, but because Hitler wanted to start World War II. What he did, is, he got some people, dressed up as Polish activists, to commit an incident, a border incident, which was then blamed on Poland. On the basis of that pretext, World War II started with the invasion of Poland, at that point, to get the British involved in a war! There was no "Polish" reason, there was no threat to Germany, there was no reason of state, for starting that war. The war started, because some people wanted it.

Maalouf: Only fake arguments, yes. What about attacking Lebanon. Michele Steinberg in *EIR* also said that Bush is using Lebanon as a "strategic ground to launch a military strike against Syria, with the objective of changing the Syrian regime." What do you think?

LaRouche: Well, that is absolutely the threat. The point is, as you know, I have had some concern with Lebanon since I was in Iraq back in 1975, in April. And I warned people there, at this meeting—it was a Ba'ath Party convention where I was invited to be as a guest—and I warned them. I said, that Henry Kissinger was about to start a civil war in Lebanon. And it happened.

Now, as we know, there was no reason for that to occur. It was provoked, because it was a geopolitical move, by Kissinger, as part of his role in government; contrary to the policy of William Rogers, who had been Kissinger's predecessor as Secretary of State, who had worked for the opposite thing.

The destabilization of Lebanon was used to produce an entire, new chaotic situation throughout the region. The same thing is true, now. They want to destabilize Lebanon all over again, as a way of getting forth with their operation for the entire region. We're trying to stop it.

Maalouf: So you think that there's not going to be any invasion in Lebanon, by U.S. or by international forces, to ulti-

mately install a puppet leader in Lebanon, who will back a U.S. invasion of Syria?

LaRouche: Well, I think at this point, the United States *has* no military capability for invading much of anything. We have pretty much tied down or exhausted our capability in this Iraq War, which is one of the reasons why the picking on Iran has occurred. Because what's planned is not an invasion of Iran, but a bombing of Iran, a destructive bombing, including nuclear weapons. There is no reason for it.

I think there's no one in Europe with any brains, who would not do everything possible to try to prevent an intervention in Lebanon at this time. If Lebanon goes, it would be a factor of instability in the region—this would involve Turkey; it would involve every part of the region, in a new kind of a Middle East war, beyond anything we've seen before! We all know that *we must have peace in Lebanon*, and we must accept whatever the Lebanese people decide are the conditions that they're going to have for internal peace. We must support it. Anyone who wants to do the opposite—

Maalouf: At the end, Mr. LaRouche, on Feb. 25, 2005 in *EIR*, there was an article, entitled "Hariri Assassination in Lebanon Marked a Clear Break." Who killed Prime Minister Hariri, in your opinion?

LaRouche: Well, Mr. Hariri of course, was a very positive figure connected to the Saudis, and was involved heavily in the financial work in the rebuilding of Lebanon, in the attempt to recover from the effects of the previous conditions. The point is, I think that Hariri was a target, because killing him would tend to destabilize Lebanon, at a time that a negotiation was in process. I don't think there was anything he was doing, as such, which provoked an attack from international forces. The point was, that he was a target, because killing him made it possible to set forth an attempt at destabilization of Lebanon.

Maalouf: Mr. Lyndon LaRouche, we thank you. We end our conversation with you here, and we thank you a lot for your participation, and with our TV program. We had Mr. Lyndon LaRouche, the head of *EIR* and LaRouchePAC, and the ex-Democratic candidate for the American Presidential election, from Washington. Thanks a lot.

LaRouche: Thank you.

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Satanic Subversion Of the U.S. Military

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Reprinted from EIR, July 2, 1999.

On Feb. 5, 1999, in U.S. District Court in Lincoln, Nebraska, an extraordinary hearing occurred in *Paul A. Bonacci v. Lawrence E. King*, a civil action in which the plaintiff charged that he had been ritualistically abused by the defendant, as part of a nationwide pedophile ring linked to powerful political figures in Washington and to elements of the U.S. military and intelligence establishment. Three weeks later, on Feb. 27, Judge Warren K. Urbom ordered King, who is currently in Federal prison, to pay \$1 million in damages to Bonacci, in what Bonacci's attorney John DeCamp said was a clear signal that "the evidence presented was credible."

During the Feb. 5 hearing, Noreen Gosch stunned the court with sworn testimony linking U.S. Army Lt. Col. Michael Aquino (ret.) to the nationwide pedophile ring. Her son, Johnny, then 12 years old, was kidnapped off the streets of West Des Moines, Iowa, on Sept. 5, 1982, while he was doing his early-morning newspaper deliveries. Since his kidnapping, she has devoted all of her time and resources to finding her son, and to exposing the dangers that millions of children in America face from this hideous, literally Satanic underground of ritualistic deviants.

"We have investigated, we have talked to so far 35 victims of this said organization that took my son and is responsible for what happened to Paul, and they can verify everything that has happened," she told the court.

"What this story involves is an elaborate function, I will say, that was an offshoot of a government program. The MK-Ultra program was developed in the 1950s by the CIA. It was used to help spy on other countries during the Cold War because they felt that the other countries were spying on us.

"It was very successful. They could do it very well."

Then, the Aquino bombshell: "Well, then there was a man by the name of Michael Aquino. He was in the military. He had top Pentagon clearances. He was a pedophile. He was a Satanist. He's founded the Temple of Set. And he was a close friend of Anton LaVey. The two of them were very active in ritualistic sexual abuse. And they deferred funding from this government program to use [in] this experimentation on children.

"Where they deliberately split off the personalities of

these children into multiples, so that when they're questioned or put under oath or questioned under lie detector, that unless the operator knows how to question a multiple-personality disorder, they turn up with no evidence."

She continued: "They used these kids to sexually compromise politicians or anyone else they wish to have control of. This sounds so far out and so bizarre I had trouble accepting it in the beginning myself until I was presented with the data. We have the proof. In black and white."

Under questioning from DeCamp, Gosch reported: "I know that Michael Aquino has been in Iowa. I know that Michael Aquino has been to Offutt Air Force Base [a Strategic Air Command base, near Omaha, which was linked to King's activities]. I know that he has had contact with many of these children."

Paul Bonacci, who was simultaneously a victim and a member of the nationwide pedophile crime syndicate, has subsequently identified Aquino as the man who ordered the kidnapping of Johnny Gosch. In his Feb. 5 testimony, Bonacci referred to the mastermind of the Gosch abduction as "the Colonel."

A second witness who testified at the Feb. 5 hearing, Rusty Nelson, was King's personal photographer. He later described to *EIR* another incident which linked King to Aquino, while the Army special forces officer was still on active reserve duty. Some time in the late 1980s, Nelson was with King at a posh hotel in downtown Minneapolis, when he personally saw King turn over a suitcase full of cash and bearer-bonds to "the Colonel," whom he later positively identified as Aquino. According to Nelson, King told him that the suitcase of cash and bonds was earmarked for the Nicaraguan Contras, and that "the Colonel" was part of the covert Contra support apparatus, otherwise associated with Lt. Col. Oliver North, Vice President George Bush, and the "secret parallel government" that they ran from the White House.

Just who is Lt. Col. Michael Aquino (ret.), and what does the evidence revealed in a Nebraska court hearing say about the current state of affairs inside the U.S. military? Is the Aquino case some kind of weird aberration that slipped off the Pentagon radar screen?

Not in the least.

Aquino, Satan, and the U.S. Military

Throughout much of the 1980s, Aquino was at the center of a controversy involving the Pentagon's acquiescence to outright Satanic practices inside the military services. Aquino was also a prime suspect in a series of pedophile scandals involving the sexual abuse of hundreds of children, including the children of military personnel serving at the Presidio U.S. Army station in the San Francisco Bay Area. Furthermore, even as Aquino was being investigated by Army Criminal Investigation Division officers for involvement in the pedophile cases, he retained highest-level security clearances, and was involved in pioneering work in military psychological



U.S. Army Lt. Col. Michael Aquino (ret.) and his wife. Aquino was at the center of a controversy in the 1980s over Satanic practices in the military.

operations (“psy-ops”).

On Aug. 14, 1987, San Francisco police raided Aquino’s Russian Hill home, which he shared with his wife Lilith. The raid was in response to allegations that the house had been the scene of a brutal rape of a four-year-old girl. The principal suspect in the rape, a Baptist minister named Gary Hambright, was indicted in September 1987 on charges that he committed “lewd and lascivious acts” with six boys and four girls, ranging in age from three to seven years, during September-October 1986. At the time of the alleged sex crimes, Hambright was employed at a child care center on the U.S. Army base at Presidio. At the time of Hambright’s indictment, the San Francisco police charged that he was involved in at least 58 separate incidents of child sexual abuse.

According to an article in the Oct. 30, 1987 *San Francisco Examiner*, one of the victims had identified Aquino and his wife as participants in the child rape. According to the victim, the Aquinos had filmed scenes of the child being fondled by Hambright in a bathtub. The child’s description of the house, which was also the headquarters of Aquino’s Satanic Temple of Set, was so detailed, that police were able to obtain a search warrant. During the raid, they confiscated 38 videotapes, photo negatives, and other evidence that the home had been the hub of a pedophile ring, operating in and around U.S. military bases.

Aquino and his wife were never indicted in the incident. Aquino claimed that he had been in Washington at the time, enrolled in a year-long reserve officers course at the National Defense University, although he did admit that he made frequent visits back to the Bay Area and to his church/home. The public flap over the Hambright indictment did prompt the U.S. Army to transfer Aquino from the Presidio, where he was the deputy director of reserve training, to the U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Center in St. Louis.

On April 19, 1988, the ten-count indictment against Hambright was dropped by U.S. Attorney Joseph Russoniello, on the grounds that, while there was clear evidence of child abuse (six of the children contracted the venereal disease, chlamydia), there was insufficient evidence to link Hambright (or the Aquinos) to the crimes. Parents of several of the victims charged that Russoniello’s actions proved that “the Federal system has broken down in not being able to protect the rights of citizens age three to eight.”

Russoniello would later be implicated in efforts to cover up the links between the Nicaraguan Contras and South American cocaine-trafficking organizations, raising deeper questions about whether the decision not to prosecute Hambright and Aquino had “national security implications.”

Indeed, on April 22, 1989, the U.S. Army sent letters to the parents of at least 56 of the children believed to have been molested by Hambright, urging them to have their children tested for the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), because Hambright, a former daycare center worker, was reported to be a carrier.

On May 13, 1989, the *San Jose Mercury* reported that Aquino and his wife had been recently questioned by Army investigators about charges of child molestation by the couple in two northern California counties, Sonoma and Mendocino. A 9-year-old girl in Santa Rosa, California, and an 11-year-old boy in Fort Bragg, also in California, separately identified Aquino as the rapist in a series of 1985 incidents, after they had seen him on television.

Softies on Satan

When the *San Francisco Chronicle* contacted Army officials at the Presidio to find out if Aquino’s security clearances had been lifted as the result of the pedophile investigations, the reporters were referred to the Pentagon, where Army spokesman Maj. Greg Rixon told them: “The question is whether he is trustworthy or can do the job. There is nothing that would indicate in this case that there is any problem we should be concerned about.”

Indeed, the Pentagon had already given its de facto blessings to Aquino’s long-standing public association with the Church of Satan and his own successor “church,” the Temple of Set. This, despite the fact that Aquino’s Satanic activities involved overt support for neo-Nazi movements in the United States and Europe. On Oct. 10, 1983, while travelling in West Germany on “official NATO business,” Aquino had staged a Satanic “working” at the Wewelsburg Castle in Bavaria. Aquino wrote a lengthy account of the ritual, in which he invoked Nazi SS chief Heinrich Himmler: “As the Wewelsburg was conceived by Heinrich Himmler to be the ‘Mittelpunkt der Welt’ (‘Middle of the World’), and as the focus of the Hall of the Dead was to be the Gate of that Center, to summon the Powers of Darkness at their most powerful locus.”

As early as April 1978, the U.S. Army had circulated A

Handbook for Chaplains “to facilitate the provision of religious activities.” Both the Church of Satan and the Temple of Set were listed among the “other” religions to be tolerated inside the U.S. military. A section of the handbook dealing with Satanism stated, “Often confused with witchcraft, Satanism is the worship of Satan (also known as Baphomet or Lucifer). Classical Satanism, often involving ‘black masses,’ human sacrifices, and other sacrilegious or illegal acts, is now rare. Modern Satanism is based on both the knowledge of ritual magick and the ‘anti-establishment’ mood of the 1960s. It is related to classical Satanism more in image than substance, and generally focuses on ‘rational self-interest with ritualistic trappings.’ ”

Not so fast! In 1982, the Temple of Set fissured over the issue of Aquino’s emphasis on Nazism. One leader, Ronald K. Barrett, shortly after his expulsion, wrote that Aquino had “taken the Temple of Set in an explicitly Satanic direction, with strong overtones of German National Socialist Nazi occultism. . . . One fatality has occurred within the Temple membership during the period covered, May 1982-July 1983.”

The handbook quoted “Nine Satanic Statements” from the Church of Satan, without comment. “Statement Seven,” as quoted in the handbook, read, “Satan represents man as just another animal, sometimes better, more often worse than those that walk on all fours, who, because of his ‘divine and intellectual development’ has become the most vicious animal of all.”

From ‘Psyops’ to ‘Mindwars’

Aquino’s steady rise up the hierarchy of the Satanic world closely paralleled his career advances inside the U.S. military. According to an official biography circulated by the Temple of Set, “Dr. Aquino is High Priest and chief executive officer of the Temple of Set, the nation’s principal Satanic church, in which he holds the degree of Ipissimus VI. He joined the original Church of Satan in 1969, becoming one of its chief officials by 1975 when the Temple of Set was founded. In his secular profession he is a Lieutenant Colonel, Military Intelligence, U.S. Army, and is qualified as a Special Forces officer, Civil Affairs officer, and Defense Attaché. He is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College, the National Defense University and the Defense Intelligence College, and the State Department’s Foreign Service Institute.”

Indeed, a more detailed *curriculum vitae* that Aquino provided to *EIR*, dated March 1989, claimed that he had gotten his doctorate at the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1980, with his dissertation on “The Neutron Bomb.” He listed 16 separate military schools that he attended during 1968-87, including advanced courses in “Psychological Operations” at the JFK Special Warfare Center at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and “Strategic Intelligence” at the Defense Intelligence College, at Bolling Air Force

Base in Washington, D.C.

Aquino was deeply involved in what has been called the “revolution in military affairs” (“RMA”), the introduction of the most kooky “Third Wave,” “New Age” ideas into military long-range planning, which introduced such notions as “information warfare” and “cyber-warfare” into the Pentagon’s lexicon.

In the early 1980s, at the same time that Heidi and Alvin Toffler were spinning their Tavistock “Third Wave” utopian claptrap to some top Air Force brass, Aquino and another U.S. Army colonel, Paul Valley, were co-authoring an article for *Military Review*. Although the article was never published in the journal, the piece was widely circulated among military planners, and was distributed by Aquino’s Temple of Set. The article, titled “From PSYOP to Mindwar: The Psychology of Victory,” endorsed some of the ideas published in a 1980 *Military Review* article by Lt. Col. John Alexander, an affiliate of the Stanford Research Institute, a hotbed of Tavistock Institute and Frankfurt School “New Age” social engineering.

Aquino and Valley called for an explicitly Nietzschean form of warfare, which they dubbed “mindwar.” “Like the sword Excalibur,” they wrote, “we have but to reach out and seize this tool; and it can transform the world for us if we have but the courage and the integrity to guide civilization with it. If we do not accept Excalibur, then we relinquish our ability to inspire foreign cultures with our morality. If they then devise moralities unsatisfactory to us, we have no choice but to fight them on a more brutish level.”

And what is “mindwar?” “The term is harsh and fear-inspiring,” Aquino wrote. “And it should be: It is a term of attack and victory—not one of rationalization and coaxing and conciliation. The enemy may be offended by it; that is quite all right as long as he is defeated by it. A definition is offered: Mindwar is the deliberate, aggressive convincing of all participants in a war that we will win that war.”

For Aquino, “mindwar” is a permanent state of strategic psychological warfare against the populations of friend and foe nations alike. “In its strategic context, mindwar must reach out to friends, enemies and neutrals alike across the globe . . . through the media possessed by the United States which have the capabilities to reach virtually all people on the face of the Earth. These media are, of course, the electronic media—television and radio. State of the art developments in satellite communication, video recording techniques, and laser and optical transmission of broadcasts make possible a penetration of the minds of the world such as would have been inconceivable just a few years ago.” Above all else, Aquino argues, mindwar must target the population of the United States, “by denying enemy propaganda access to our people, and by explaining and emphasizing to our people the rationale for our national interest. . . . Rather it states a whole truth that, if it does not now exist, will be forced into existence by the will of the United States.”

LaRouche Drive Spreads Against Cheney's Iran War

by Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

If Vice President Dick Cheney's planned war against Iran is stopped, it will be as a result of the worldwide mobilization launched by U.S. Democratic leader Lyndon LaRouche. His July 27 release, on the "Cheney's 'Guns of August' Threaten the World," was the opening salvo in a series of interventions by LaRouche, his wife, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, who is a candidate for Chancellor of the Civil Rights Solidarity (BüSo) Party in the upcoming German elections, and his movement and supporters throughout the world. By now, the release has been translated into most major languages, and has become one of the most widely discussed documents among leading circles around the world today.

Zepp-LaRouche has been campaigning virtually non-stop from Germany, since an Aug. 4 Berlin press conference inaugurating her campaign. On Aug. 12 she issued a mass leaflet entitled: "A New War Against Iran? Immediate Orderly Withdrawal of the German Army from Afghanistan."

The first significant breakthrough in Europe on the war question came on Aug. 13 and 14, two weeks after Zepp-LaRouche had launched her campaign to stop the war. On those dates, Chancellor Gerhard Schröder introduced the Iran war threat as a top political issue in his own Social Democratic Party (SPD) campaign. He did this first, in an electoral rally speech in Hanover, and then in interviews published in the Sunday edition of the mass tabloid *Bild am Sonntag* and *Superillu*. He told a cheering crowd in Hanover: "We're all concerned about the developments in Iran. We don't want nuclear weapons to proliferate further." But, he said, diplomacy was the answer.

"I've read that military options are on the table," Schröder said. "My answer is: Dear friends in Europe and America, let's develop a strong negotiating position towards Iran, but take the military option off the table. We have seen that it is

no damn good." He was referring to President Bush's statement on Aug. 12, that "all options are on the table."

In his Sunday interviews, Schroeder stated that "the situation is grave" and that a "military option is extremely dangerous." As long as he remained Chancellor, he said, he would "categorically exclude any support or participation" by Germany for military action against Iran. Iran must not have nuclear weapons, but "patient diplomacy" is the only option to achieve this. A military option would be "highly dangerous."

The fact that the Chancellor had spoken out categorically against the Bush-Cheney military option, provoked headaches among the Christian Democratic Union-Christian Social Union (CDU-CSU) opposition figures, who remember only too well, how Schröder's principled stance against the then-looming Iraq war in the 2002 elections, had turned out the vote for his party. Thus, after Schröder's rejection of an Iran war, CDU neo-con Wolfgang Schäuble (who would probably become Foreign Minister or a key foreign policy advisor in a CDU government under Chancellor candidate Angela Merkel) and Friedbert Pflüger (also a key foreign policy advisor of Merkel) both attacked Schröder for using the Iran issue in the election.

Schäuble, as well as other opposition figures, found themselves in a dilemma, desiring to maintain their good relations to their U.S. neo-con friends and sponsors, on the one hand, but aware of the historically shaped rejection of war in the German population. In an event in Berlin on Aug. 17, Schäuble was confronted by two BüSo activists, who raised the issue of Cheney's new war plans. His response was to stutter about how committed he has always been to "peace." He added that, when he had been in Washington recently, Bush personally had assured him that there would be no war "before Sept. 18," the date of the projected German elections. But, in



EIRNS/Renate Löffek

BüSo party candidate Helga Zepp-LaRouche and fellow candidate Michael Weissbach hold up proposed new Deutschemark in front of Germany's Bundesbank. The BüSo's program emphasizes war avoidance, through global economic development and the re-assertion of national sovereignty.

an interview to the *Frankfurter Rundschau*, Schäuble said that Bush had made clear to him that his main concern was precisely Iran.

At the same time, the widely read German weekly, *Der Spiegel* ran a story Aug. 8 expressing growing concern, that, on orders from Cheney, the Pentagon was working on a plan for nuclear air strikes against Iran. The *Frankfurter Rundschau* covered the issue of Cheney's war plans as well.

Opposition to such threats also surfaced in Britain. Circles opposed to a new Iran war made their voices heard through a declaration issued by a British Foreign Office spokesman, on Aug. 14: "Our position is clear and has been made very, very clear by the Foreign Secretary [Jack Straw]. We do not think there are any circumstances where military action would be justified against Iran. It does not form part of British foreign policy."

Moscow Weighs In

LaRouche's "Guns of August" alarm was picked up broadly in the Russian media, as a sampling on Aug. 14 showed: In addition to coverage of the statement on Russian-

language web sites based in Russia and Ukraine, other Russian-language websites monitored Cheney's intentions towards Iran, as well as Bush's reiterated threats. For example, MIGnews news agency reported on an interview with Fox News by Sen. John McCain, supporting Bush's threat of military action against Iran, while Regnum.ru headlined the German Chancellor's opposition, "Schröder Rules Out German Participation in a U.S. War Against Iran." Media in Latvia on Aug. 10 carried a story titled, "The Bomb, or the Peaceful Atom?" about Iran's nuclear program, which reported that Cheney's plan to hit Iran includes both conventional and nuclear weapons.

The news site Inforos.ru on Aug. 3 ran an item headlined, "War with Iran Will Be Nuclear," which repeated the story outlined in LaRouche's release, without mentioning LaRouche.

In the wake of the press coverage, and the intervention by Schröder, the Russian government made its first official declarations, blasting any such military option. On Aug. 17, Foreign Ministry spokesman Mikhail Kamynin released a statement: "We favor further dialogue and consider the use of force in Iran counter-productive and dangerous, something which can have grave and hardly predictable consequences."

Furthermore, the statement said: "We consider that problems concerning Iran's nuclear activities should be solved through political and diplomatic means, on the basis of international law and Tehran's close cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency. We see a solution to the problems related to the Iranian nuclear program exclusively in the field of consultations and diplomatic talks, without fanning propaganda or political confrontation."

This was followed the next day by a statement issued by a high-ranking Kremlin official, who reaffirmed Moscow's commitment to continue cooperation with Iran on its nuclear program.

Russian President Vladimir Putin intervened personally Aug. 17, with an indirect response to Washington's saber-rattling: "I think that lowering the threshold for use of nuclear arms is a dangerous trend," he said, "because somebody may feel tempted to use nuclear weapons. Speaking to journalists aboard the cruiser *Peter the Great*, while observing military exercises in the Barents Sea, Putin added: "If that happens, the next step can be taken—more powerful nuclear arms can be used, which may lead to a nuclear conflict. This extremely dangerous trend is in the back of the mind of some politicians



EIRNS

BüSo youth call for pulling German troops out of Afghanistan and stopping Cheney's war on Iran.

and military officials," he said.

A more dramatic expression of Russia's rejection of any new U.S. military adventures, came in the form of highly symbolic muscle-flexing by Putin. In an unprecedented move, Putin took part personally in the opening exercises of a week-long joint Russian-Chinese military maneuver. He flew aboard a Tu-160 strategic bomber, together with Maj. Gen. Anatoly Zhikharev, deputy commander of the Strategic Air Force. During the flight cruise missiles were launched from this and one other plane. "A new, high-precision, long-range cruise missile was tested today," Putin announced, "and it hit the target. This is a good result." Prior to this spectacular event, a submarine-launched strategic missile, SSN 23, had been launched, also hitting its target in Kamchatka.

Significantly, in addition to the Defense Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states, there were observers also from Pakistan, India, and *Iran*. And, in parallel, a high-level military delegation from China started an official visit to Tehran, for negotiations on developing military relations and cooperation.

Targetted Nations Respond

It is only lawful that the nations in the volatile Southwest Asian region should respond to a new war threat with highest alarm, and spread the warning issued by LaRouche wide and far. Major dailies, including official government press, carried the "Guns of August" release. There was coverage, for example, in *Al Watan* and the *Oman Daily*, both in Oman, in *All News Syria*, and in *The Arab Situation* in Egypt, as well

as Egyptian national television. The leading Arabic daily *Al Hayat* carried editorial comments three days running, on Cheney's war threat. And, on Aug. 17, LaRouche was interviewed live on the Lebanese New TV station, for a half hour, in depth on the war threat. (See interview, page 16.)

In Egypt, the issue has become the hottest political potato, largely because of the indefatigable efforts of Cairo University professor and strategic analyst, Mohammad Selim, who recently participated in a seminar with LaRouche, in Berlin. Prof. Selim is very well known in Egypt and the Arab world more broadly, as he is frequently interviewed on explosive issues. He appeared for one hour on Aug. 9, on Channel 1 of Egyptian TV, at prime time (9:45 p.m.), and denounced Cheney's war plans. After he had read out the LaRouche "Guns of August" statement, his host attempted to deny the credibility of the

report, and to claim that Iran had nuclear weapons. Selim countered this by reminding his viewers that the same line had been circulated about Iraq, which turned out not to have weapons of mass destruction. He challenged his interviewer either to present the evidence, if it existed, or to "shut up." Since this appearance, Prof. Selim has been besieged by media requests, and has continued interviews, most recently with Nile TV, on Aug. 20.

In Iran itself, the most directly endangered nation, LaRouche's "Guns of August" release spread like wildfire. It went out immediately in Farsi to the press, and this author was interviewed on three separate occasions by Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), on the matter. No one in the country has any doubt that Cheney were capable of mounting a nuclear attack.

The response of the government, which is in a process of transition to a new cabinet, led by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has been firm but measured. In essence, the authorities have reiterated their commitment to avail themselves of the nuclear technologies explicitly allowed by the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which Iran has signed. This explains the decision to restart a uranium-conversion plant in Isfahan, and the intention to negotiate an agreement on uranium enrichment at its facility in Natanz.

In response to Bush's renewed provocations, uttered in an interview with Israeli TV on Aug. 11, in which he declared "all options" to be on the table, and recalled that he had used force once before (in Iraq), the Iranian leadership has been predictably defiant.

Helga Zepp-LaRouche Statement

No New War Against Iran! Withdraw From Afghanistan!

On Aug. 12, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the Chancellor candidate of Germany's Civil Rights Movement Solidarity (BüSo) party issued this statement, which is also being circulated as a mass leaflet. The full title is "A New War Against Iran? Immediate Orderly Withdrawal of the German Army From Afghanistan!"

There is unfortunately little doubt, that the government of Cheney and Bush is energetically preparing a military attack against Iran, for which a new terrorist attack on the U.S.A. is supposed to provide the pretext. In the *American Conservative* magazine, the former CIA officer Philip Giraldi wrote, that U.S. Vice President Cheney has directed the U.S. Strategic Command (STRATCOM), to draw up an attack plan against Iran for such a case, in which conventional and tactical nuclear weapons, so-called "mini-nukes," should be used. At the same time, the *Washington Post* reported that the Pentagon is preparing the deployment of the U.S. military in the U.S.A. itself for "homeland defense," which under the prevailing circumstances evokes the danger of a military dictatorship.

Cheney's war plans have nothing to do with the decision of Iran to resume the reprocessing of nuclear fuel at the facility in Isfahan. Iran is completely justified to do this according to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the more so as this facility is supervised by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In addition: The National Intelligence Council (NIC), the umbrella organization of the U.S. security services, has just affirmed—in clear opposition to the White House—that Iran is at least ten years away from the technical capacity to be able to produce nuclear weapons, and that that nation is also not pursuing a secret military nuclear program. And, as in the case of Iraq, naturally the planned attack also does not depend on whether Iran actually participated in a terrorist attack on the U.S.A.

In his war plans, Cheney—President Bush is on vacation, as is so often the case—is not proceeding from a position of strength. Domestically, he has his back to the wall: In the U.S. Senate and in the House of Representatives, preparations are being made at full speed for impeachment proceedings, despite the Summer recess. The indictment of persons from the immediate circle of Cheney, for exposing the identity of undercover CIA officer Valerie Plame, is expected any day. Mrs. Plame is the wife of former U.S. Ambassador Joseph Wilson, who exposed some of the lies which led to

the Iraq War.

But above all, the imminent collapse of the U.S. real estate market, as the possible trigger to a worldwide financial crash, determines the dynamic for war. The neo-conservative financial forces fear the collapse of the global financial system. A new war against another "Outpost of Tyranny," as U.S. Secretary of State Rice has called Iran, could subject the world once again to the logic of war.

But a war against Iran would not be a re-enactment of the Iraq War. The use of "mini-nukes" against Iran—the first time atomic weapons would be used since Hiroshima—would not only lead to massive counterattacks against U.S. facilities in the Near and Middle East, but also to an asymmetric war on a world scale. Such a war would mean the descent of mankind into a New Dark Age.

This danger can only be stopped in the U.S.A. itself. The mobilization of the Democratic Party by Lyndon LaRouche and the LaRouche Youth Movement is the most important factor in accomplishing this.

What Can Germany Do in This Situation?

We may not allow ourselves to participate in "ultimata" towards Iran, and thus to contribute to providing the Cheney/Bush Administration with a pretext to bring the Iran question before the UN Security Council. There, Mr. Bolton would then demand sanctions against Iran, which Russia and China would reject with a veto, whereby the U.S.A. would then "unfortunately" once again be forced to launch a unilateral attack—as against Iraq.

At all events, we must set into motion an immediate, orderly withdrawal of the German Army from Afghanistan, which, in the case of an emergency, would be trapped in Afghanistan. Already the mandate of the German Army, to guarantee protection for the economic and governmental reconstruction of the nation, has collapsed. Since the economic reconstruction has stopped, the drug barons control 80% of the territory of Afghanistan, but now the U.S.A. wants to take action against the cultivation of drugs with military means. The sentiment in Afghanistan is turning increasingly against the German Army, which until now was treated in a friendly manner, or neutrally. The security of Germany is not defended in Hindu Kush!

But the war danger will only be permanently eliminated, if its more profound cause, the global financial and economic crisis, is overcome. Only if we place on the agenda a new Financial Architecture—a New Bretton Woods System in the tradition of Franklin D. Roosevelt and his New Deal, can the danger be averted.

Actively support my candidacy for Chancellor and the election campaign of the BüSo, the only party, which brings the "existential themes" to the table. Have you ever asked yourself why the media have apparently agreed not to cover us? Exactly for this reason! Help us to make Germany a sovereign Republic!

Cheney's Paraguay Caper Is Intended To Produce 'A Splendid Little War'

by Dennis Small

U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld arrived in Paraguay on Aug. 16, with the principal mission of putting the final touches on Vice President Dick Cheney's scheme of establishing a U.S. military base in that country, in the heart of South America. The proper response to that development, advised U.S. statesman Lyndon LaRouche, is to issue the following urgent security advisory across South America:



DoD/R.D. Ward

"The objective of Cheney's (left) Paraguay caper, is to launch a British-style 'Splendid Little War' in the region," between nations and as civil wars. Donald Rumsfeld (right) visited Paraguay on Aug. 16 to put the finishing touches on the scheme.

Redouble the guards at the cemeteries and the morgues, and put a special watch on all university anatomy classes. Those psychopathic policy twins, Cheney and Rumsfeld, the "Burke and Hare" of Washington, D.C., are on the loose in South America.

William Burke and William Hare—who inspired Robert Louis Stevenson's famous tale, *The Body-Snatcher*—were 1820s Scottish entrepreneurs of sorts, who set themselves up as procurers of fresh corpses to satisfy the lively demand of Edinburgh's medical schools' anatomy classes. When demand outstripped the supply available from digging up the graves of the recently departed in the dead of night, the two free marketeers turned to supply-side economics, and started murdering people directly. They weren't caught until they had produced 16 victims.

In the 21st-Century Cheney-Rumsfeld re-run of Burke and Hare's antics, most of the corpses are intended to be Brazilian.

What is the actual intent behind Cheney's Paraguay caper? Locate the regional South American developments in the context of the documented short-term drive for pre-emptive war against Iran, including nuclear strikes, which has been launched by Dick Cheney and his allied gang of "spoon-bender" Utopian lunatics within U.S. military and intelligence circles. And locate them, as well, in the framework of a rapidly disintegrating global financial system, which Cheney et al. have been deployed to salvage, at all costs.

Here are the principal South American elements leading into the dangerous Paraguay caper:

On Feb. 24, 2005, the Argentine government of Nestor Kirchner successfully negotiated a 60% writedown of \$82 billion of public debt, over the violent opposition of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the world's financial oligarchy.

On March 29, 2005, the heads of government of Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, and Spain gathered in the Venezuelan city of Ciudad Guayana, to discuss the details of regional great infrastructure projects to pull their economies out of poverty, and to lay the foundations of lasting, regional peace. This surprise development was a significant setback for the international financial interests that Cheney and Rumsfeld speak for, whose regional objective is both to ensure their control over strategic raw materials, and to sink the entire

The U.S. Military Base at Mariscal Estigarribia, Paraguay



region into chaos such that no unified opposition to the dying IMF system can be mustered.

In April 2005, a further political blow was dealt to Cheney and the neo-cons, with Washington's inability to impose their preferred candidate as the next Secretary General of the Organization of American States. Cheney and his Wall Street friends were not amused.

So, on May 5, 2005, the United States induced the Paraguayan government to sign an agreement authorizing joint military training activities over the 18-month period running from July 1, 2005 to Dec. 31, 2006, which accord can be extended indefinitely. The base for the maneuvers is to be the Mariscal Estigarribia military base and airfield—which was built by the U.S. to be able to handle large military transport planes, and house up to 16,000 troops—located in the middle of the largely uninhabited Chaco region of northwestern Paraguay. This is the very region which was the scene of the bloody Gran Chaco War of 1932-35 between Paraguay and Bolivia (see map).

On May 26, 2005, the Paraguayan Congress granted the participating U.S. troops legal immunity from prosecution for

crimes committed while in Paraguay, an exception that the Bush-Cheney government had previously also demanded of Brazil, Argentina, and other South American countries, and had been firmly rebuffed.

And then came the most revealing development:

On June 10, 2005, Paraguayan Vice President Luis Castiglioni travelled to Washington, D.C., where he held private meetings with Cheney, Rumsfeld, and neo-con hatchetman Roger Noriega, then Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs. The totally disproportionate attention paid to Castiglioni—in particular the private meeting with Cheney—indicated that the scheme had gone live, and that Cheney was hands-on.

On July 1, 2005, the first 500 American troops began to arrive in Paraguay. On July 7, the U.S. Embassy in Paraguay issued a public disclaimer stating that they had no intention of establishing a permanent military base in the country. But in late July, an unconvinced Brazilian Army launched military maneuvers along that country's border with Paraguay, parallel to the arrival of the U.S. troops.

Short-sighted regional and other commentators have focussed on diverse explanations for the Paraguayan U.S. military base—or Cooperative Security Location (CSL), as it is known in Pentagon lingo—in the heart of South America (the only other such CSL in South America is located in Manta, Ecuador):

- To control the giant natural gas deposits in Bolivia, which is only 250 kilometers from the Mariscal Estigarribia base.
- To deploy against purported Iranian terrorist capabilities, including money-laundering facilities, located in the Triple Border area of Paraguay-Argentina-Brazil.
- To deliver a body-blow to the South American Common Market (Mercosur) project, which Brazil has led against the free trade diktats coming from Washington and the IMF. Paraguay is a member of Mercosur, along with Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay.
- To seize the giant Guarani Aquifer, one of the world's largest reserves of fresh water, covering an area of 1.2 million square kilometers—of which an estimated 70% is located in Brazil, 19% in Argentina, 6% in Paraguay, and 5% in Uruguay.
- To gain access to the immense riches of the strategically important Amazon region of Brazil.

There is an element of truth in each of these explanations, but all overlook the two determining strategic considerations cited at the outset: the global financial meltdown, and the lunacy of the Bush-Cheney Administration. In fact, the policy objective of Cheney's Paraguay caper, is to launch a British-style "Splendid Little War" in the region—both among nations and as civil wars within today's existing nation-states, such as the drive to split Bolivia in two—to thereby sink the region into a New Dark Age of chaos and genocide.

Cheney and Rumsfeld want *corpses*. So South Americans beware, of the new Burke and Hare.

Iraq Is About to Get A Political Deal

by Hussein Askary

“For the lack of horses, they put saddles on dogs.”
—*Iraqi saying*

Although scouts can be helpful sometimes, you do not entrust them with such an important mission as running a major hospital, where there are a great number of seriously ill people and complicated operations to carry out. Likewise, with the mission of drafting a new constitution for Iraq: A gaggle of former guerrilla leaders, theology juniors, and “five-star-hotel” exiles from London were told to draft the constitution. On top of that, they had a miserable U.S. Ambassador blowing hot air down their necks, day in and day out. This Ambassador’s latest great achievement is helping create one of the most spectacularly failed states in this century: the Afghanistan which this year became the source of 90% of the world’s opium.

But, wait a minute! Why should anyone be so imprudent as to try to reinvent the Iraqi nation, which has a 5,000-year historical identity? Moreover, Iraq already had a constitution from 1959, after the liberation of Iraq from the puppets of the British Empire. All one needed to do, is to add some new clauses, and make amendments to remove the dirt that has accumulated during the tragic years of Saddam Hussein’s dictatorial rule.

At the time this article was being written, the Iraqi National Congress (Parliament) gave the Constitution Drafting Commission one more week beyond the Aug. 15 deadline, to come up with a finished draft of the constitution. The Commission had missed the U.S.-instilled deadline, spoiling George Bush’s already besieged vacation in Crawford, Texas. It is unlikely that the Drafting Commission will make it to the next deadline of Aug. 22.

Flashback

From the beginning of the planning of the invasion of Iraq by the neo-con cabal under Vice President Dick Cheney’s direction, the idea was to achieve two main objectives: 1) dismantling the concept of the sovereign nation-state, by force; 2) inaugurating the era of pre-emptive warfare, which was revived by Cheney in the early 1990s, after a long death in Hitler’s burned bunker.

This and nothing more was the motive behind the war. It had little, if anything, to do with Iraq per se. The virus, which has become the cause of the current constitutional disease, is

called the Transitional Administrative Law (TAL). It was planted in Iraq’s political body following the 2003 invasion, by U.S. Viceroy of Iraq Paul Bremer. This was done after the dismantling of all Iraqi national institutions, such as the Army, security forces, police, government ministries, and administrative bodies. National archives were torched, and historical records, monuments, and artifacts were destroyed or stolen. The Iraqi political groups that are in power now had to sign on to that Transitional Administrative Law in order to be handed the formal political leadership they occupy today.

Some of the leading Iraqis who followed in the wake of the massive bombardment of Iraq, being the sons of this nation (although many have British passports), have tried to get the best out of this virus to heal the wounds of Iraq. But others, like Prof. Albert Wohlstetter’s protégé and neo-con asset Ahmad Chalabi, very consciously intended to destroy this nation, and later reshape it as something else, not a nation-state.

What Is the TAL?

Drafted with the help of Noah Feldman, Professor of Law at the New York University School of Law, under Bremer’s Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), the TAL had its foundations established in a December 2002 conference in London, attended by the same Iraqi groups mentioned above. The conference was held under the auspices of the U.S. State Department and British Foreign Office. That was the time when both the Bush Administration and Blair’s government in Great Britain had made up their minds about launching the invasion of Iraq. It was in that conference that the idea of an Iraqi “federation” was introduced, but it only became “law” after the invasion.

Unless the Iraqi people tear down and outlaw that “law,” there will be no future for Iraq. Article 4 of the TAL states: “The system of government in Iraq shall be republican, federal, democratic, and pluralistic. . . .” The TAL banned the idea of a centralized government. Although it states that the basis for federation should be “geography and historical realities,” and not ethnicity or religion, the TAL rejects the former non-federal system of 18 geographically defined provinces, which were based on geography, and not nationality or religion.

This “law” also makes it impossible to change its content. Article 3-A states: “This Law is the Supreme Law of the land and shall be binding in all parts of Iraq without exception. No amendment to this Law may be made except by a three-fourths majority of the members of the National Assembly and the unanimous approval of the Presidency Council.” Therefore, for the political groups in Iraq to be approved by the occupation power, they had to sign on to this recipe for mass-suicide.

Iraqi Aristotelian Syllogism

What made it possible for a great number of Iraqis to unconsciously accept such a destruction of their nation, is



U.S. Army/Pfc. Ferdinand Thomas

“Let them eat political promises?” Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Iraqi Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jafaari at a press conference in May 2005 discussing “improvements . . . for the Iraqi people.”

a strange form of Aristotelian syllogism, spread through a massive brainwashing campaign in Iraqi and Arab media. An example of this Aristotelian syllogism is: Saddam Hussein’s criminal regime was a centralized government. From this follows: Centralized government is *b-a-d*. Another example: Regulated centralized economic programs of Saddam Hussein’s criminal regime are the cause of Iraq’s economic catastrophe. From this follows: Regulated, centralized economy is *b-a-d*. Privatization, deregulation, and decentralization are *g-o-o-d*.

One can also add: Saddam’s criminal regime wasted Iraq’s resources to provide clean drinking water and electricity for air-conditioning during the hot Summer season. From this follows: Clean drinking water and air-conditioning are *b-a-d*. Any and everything could be blamed on Saddam, to justify the destruction and looting of this nation.

For historical and cultural reasons, there has been an implicit agreement among Iraqis that the Kurds in Iraq should have a kind of special status, reflected in limited autonomy. What the Kurdish leaders demand now, is semi-independence, with control over a great share of Iraq’s national raw materials. The Iraqi Shi’a and Sunni Arabs have never accepted such an independent status. More important, they never demanded a similar status for themselves as a sectarian group.

However, in the final, dramatic days of the drafting of the constitution, on Aug. 11, Abdulaziz al-Hakim, the leader of the Supreme Council of Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), the largest Iraqi Shi’a political-military faction, dropped a political bomb. Using the same insane syllogism, he addressed a big crowd in the holy city of Najaf, demanding that the Shi’a region in southern Iraq be given a similar status to that of the Kurds.

Why? In order not to repeat the oppression of the Shi’a that was carried out by the Sunni Saddam Hussein. This does not make sense, because what it implies is that every Sunni in Iraq is a potential Saddam, a mass murderer of the Shi’a. The actual guarantee for the Shi’a, who are a majority in the country, and in the government and parliament today, is to lead a united-national government, and establish a covenant of reconciliation and honor with the other groups.

Just read what Article 52 of the TAL says: “The design of the federal system in Iraq shall be established in such a way as to prevent the concentration of power in the federal government that allowed the continuation of decades of tyranny and oppression under the previous regime.”

Al-Hakim’s move raised suspicions that the intention behind it is to strike a deal in order to solve the constitutional dispute. What Iraq would get is a “political deal,” not a constitution. The Kurds sensed that al-Hakim’s move is to destroy the whole issue of “federation” for the Kurds, which would also give them control of the oil-rich city of Kirkuk. But they know that the ransom is, accepting the demand by the majority of Shi’a groups to establish a “religious state” in Iraq, and putting that in the constitution. It would be worded that “Islamic Sharia [religious law] is the source of all legislation.”

In return, the Kurds will have their independent status and thus avoid the religious-state status, because then they can have their own secular legislation within their separate utopia. The Sunni forces in Iraq are also inclined to accept a religious state, but cannot accept separate regions. The majority of the Shi’a clergy would accept such a division of the country, if they are allowed to keep control over the huge revenues of pilgrimage to the holy cities, and the charities that follow. These are huge funds.

Horrifying Conditions

More than two year after the war of “liberation” of Iraq and of “reconstruction” efforts, living conditions in Iraq are even worse than the most horrifying conditions during the 1990s era of United Nations sanctions.

The talk about “contracting” to “rebuild” Iraq is a big lie. Most of the building that has taken place is in and around U.S. military bases and airports, and the largest share of “contracting” is with foreign private security firms (mercenaries) to protect Iraqi officials and installations and foreign contractors active in Iraq. According to a July 29 report in the *Washington Post*: “the Pentagon estimates there are 60 private security firms with as many as 25,000 employees in Iraq. Some elite personnel make \$33,000 a month”—a large sum, by Iraqi standards.

Many projects related to the rehabilitation of Iraq’s electricity grid were dumped by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to save money for security for other existing electricity stations. Security contracts cost billions of dollars each year.

A June 2005 United Nations Development Program (UNPD) survey of living conditions in 2004 was correctly described as “tragic” by an Iraqi minister. In short, the report indicates that the Iraqi people are suffering from a threatening shortage of jobs, housing, health care, electricity, and clean water. The situation in 2005 is even worse than in 2004, but no statistics are yet available.

The UNDP survey reveals that 85% of Iraqi households lack stable electricity. This means they have electric power about 3-6 hours per day. Only 54% have access to clean water. In other words, 46% of Iraqis have to use polluted river and well water. Only 37% of Iraqi households had access to sewage treatment. This was almost unthinkable during the 1980s and most of the 1990, despite two devastating wars.

A ‘Major Deterioration’

“If you compare this to the situation in the 1980s, you will see a major deterioration of the situation,” said

Barham Salih, Minister of Planning in the current Iraqi government, pointing out that 75% of households had clean water two decades ago. The survey put the unemployment figure at 18.4%, but Salih explained that “underemployment” topped the 50% mark. The truth of the matter is that unemployment has reached 70%, but people get paid little sums of money in U.S. dollars to keep the statistics pretty.

The survey estimates that the number of Iraqis who have died since the U.S.-led invasion of 2003 is somewhere between 18,000 and 29,000. Of those deaths, 12% were children under 18 years of age, meaning that between 2,100 and 3,500 children have been killed in the war thus far. According to the description in an IPS news service report on the survey, “In a country where almost half the population of 27.1 million people is less than 18 years old, some of the most startling findings relate to youth.”

Nearly one-fourth of Iraqi children aged between six months and five years are chronically malnourished, meaning that they have stunted growth, the report says. Among all Iraqi children, more than one in ten suffers from general malnutrition, meaning they have a low weight for their age. Another 8% have acute malnourishment, or low weight for their height. In some areas of the country, acute malnourishment reaches 17% and stunting reaches 26%, the report says.

Both infant and child mortality rates appear to have been steadily increasing over the past 15 years. At present, 32 babies out of every 1,000 born alive die before reaching their first birthday.

In addition, 37% of young men with secondary or higher education are unemployed, and only 83% of boys and 79% of school-age girls are enrolled in primary school. The UNICEF reported in 2003 that, “the education system in Iraq, prior to 1991, was one of the best in the region, with over 100% Gross Enrollment Rate for primary schooling and high levels of literacy, both of men and women. The Higher Education, especially the scientific and technological institutions, was of an international standard, staffed by high quality personnel.”

—Hussein Askary

This is what the dispute within the Iraqi circle was about: making deals, not drafting a lasting constitution. It is not clear what the American Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad was upset about. Is it that the glorious deadline of Aug. 15 was not met, that would have given the Bush Administration a reason to rejoice? Or is it that he lost control over the discussions, which could result in turning Iraq into “another theocratic state” in the region?

On Aug. 14, the Arabic daily *Al-Hayat* cited Kurdish representative in the Constitution Drafting Commission Mahmoud Othman as saying, “The Americans presented a copy of a detailed and complete draft of a constitution.” *Al-Hayat* also reported from sources, that Khalilzad was present during the discussion in order to know the latest developments. According to these sources, Khalilzad demanded that the Aug. 15 deadline should be met even if the constitution



DOD/Petty Officer 2nd Class Robert M. Schalk, U.S. Navy

U.S. soldiers handing out food, water, and supplies in Um Shababit, Iraq. Living conditions in Iraq are worse now than under the UN sanctions in the 1990s. Forty-six percent of Iraqis now don't have access to clean water, and malnutrition and mortality rates among children are climbing.

draft is not completed. He argued that the unresolved issues should be postponed to a later date.

Another side of the sudden shift of SCIRI head al-Hakim, is that he was intending to thwart a major escalation towards an uprising in Shi'ite southern Iraq, by promising bribes to the population there. His statement included a promise that if a federation is established in southern Iraq, oil revenues from that region would be used to develop the region. The populist argument is that the population in this area should enjoy the oil money pumped from their region, rather than doing as Saddam did: sending the money to Baghdad to enrich his Sunni supporters in the northwest.

Potential for Uprising

The day after al-Hakim's statement, Aug. 12, mass demonstrations were to be held after the Friday Prayers all over southern Iraq and in Baghdad. These demonstrations were called for by Shi'a factional leader Muqtada al-Sadr to protest the unbearable living conditions (see box). Al-Sadr demanded from the government a swift reaction to change these conditions and provide basic services—or else! Al-Sadr, who is described as “hard-liner” in Western media, is a leading Shi'a personality and a member of a family of political-religious leaders with strong patriotic sense. He has opposed the U.S.-British occupation, and his followers often clashed with U.S. and British troops. Al-Sadr, who enjoys respect and support among the Sunnis in western Iraq, is totally opposed to the

idea of a federal Iraq.

Of course, the government has no means of improving these conditions, and therefore Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari visited al-Sadr personally to ask him humbly to postpone these demonstrations. Al-Sadr then issued a statement asking for the demonstrations to be postponed ten days, to give the government a chance to improve public services. Of course, nothing will be resolved in ten days, and an uprising is in the wings.

A small-scale uprising (Intifada) took place in Samawa on Aug. 9. Massive demonstrations were organized, urging the city's mayor to deal with the deteriorating condition of public services, especially the supply of water, electricity, and health care. The mayor's police guards were ordered to shoot at the demonstrators. Later in the day, armed groups came back and took over the mayor's headquarters.

These groups immediately got support from other cities in the region, and the situation was about to blow up in the entire south of the country. This kind of escalation is expected to break out soon, as the failure of the current Iraqi elite manifests itself more and more, and a united Shi'a-Sunni insurgency could turn the deal-making table upside down.

The Solution Lies in Washington

The solution to Iraq's problems will not come from inside Iraq. The level of irrationality among its political elite is unbelievable. The Iraqi people, haunted by barbaric suicide bombers, roadside bombs, and terrified U.S. soldiers, are totally desperate. However, the reasons and causes of this crisis did not come from Iraq. The battle is fought in Iraq, Afghanistan, and potentially Iran—but the war is in Washington. It is from there that a solution should come.

With a sane policy from the United States, a free Iraqi people would be able to rebuild their nation. Even at this late hour, restoring the Iraqi sovereign nation-state is still possible. The discussion about the Iraqi constitution should be turned into a discussion of the U.S. Constitution. Only when a change in U.S. policy is made, will it be possible for Iraqis to calmly turn to rebuilding their country.

If the parties involved in this constitution-drafting process come with anything on Aug. 22, it would be a political deal at best. Constitutions are written by statesmen, not by political mavericks and intelligence assets.

Japan in Chaos Over Privatization Effort

by Kathy Wolfe

Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Aug. 8 called elections for Sept. 11, after the Diet (parliament) rejected his "postal privatization," a set of bills similar to George Bush's Social Security deregulation. Koizumi's plan, written by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and referred to by critics as "surgery without anesthesia," would privatize \$4 trillion in postal savings. This would put a chunk of Japan's \$14 trillion in savings within reach of Goldman Sachs, Citibank, and Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan, who want it to bail out their global debt.

But, as in the 1997 "Asia crisis," Japan's nationalist "Meiji reflex" kicked in, and 81 members of Koizumi's own ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) refused to vote for the bills. Koizumi summarily dissolved parliament and called for a public referendum on privatization. Years ago, Koizumi vowed to destroy the LDP, and party leaders warn that he's doing just that, as the divided LDP could be smashed. Of the LDPers who voted against the postal bill, Koizumi tossed 37 rebels off the party slate, and is running anyone he can find against his former colleagues.

Unlike the back-room boys, who know Japan has already been forced to buy up almost \$1 trillion in U.S. debt with its savings, Japan's apolitical citizens are apathetic about the postal issue. Polls, however, suggest that two-thirds of voters oppose Koizumi's deployment of troops to Iraq—not to mention the furor were Dick Cheney and George Bush to demand that Japan join a nuclear war against Iran on the 60th anniversary of Hiroshima.

The platform of the main opposition, the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), includes pledges to withdraw troops from Iraq by December—following Spain, Poland, and Italy. Japan's elite is strongly opposed to war with Iran, numerous diplomats have told *EIR*, off the record. A new leader is likely to mend fences with China and both Koreas, with which Koizumi has destroyed relations. If the six-party talks with North Korea fail, and Washington seeks coercive sanctions, "we may not get a leader who is as cooperative as Koizumi," Thomas Berger, a Japan expert at Boston University, told Reuters Aug. 16.

'Anything Could Happen'

"The good news is that opposition to the neo-cons is growing in Japan, as shown in the revolt against postal privatization." This is similar to the revolt" which Lyndon LaRouche

catalyzed inside the United States, a Japanese analyst linked to anti-Cheney networks in the Tokyo defense establishment told *EIR*. "But the bad news is," Japan in chaos, in a world in chaos, is prone to fascism. "The election crisis is hyper-unstable, anything could happen."

To form a government requires a 241 majority in the 480-seat Diet Lower House. On Aug. 8, the LDP and its Buddhist Komeito coalition partner, combined, had 283 seats; but Koizumi just fired 37 of them, and more may quit. Looked at the other way, the opposition DPJ had 176 seats. If it could win as few as 35 new seats and form a coalition with the 37 rebel LDPers, it would have 241 seats. The DPJ will field 290 candidates. Although it has ruled out a coalition with the rebels or the Buddhists, anything can happen. The polls show Koizumi and the DPJ neck and neck.

"Because a revolt is growing, we should expect the neo-cons to stage some incident," the source warned, either a financial scandal or even terrorism. In May, the source had warned of a serious incident such as the sarin gassing in 1995, which injured over 3,000 in the Tokyo subway. Now, he says, this is not as likely, because of the extensive exposure of the threat by him, *EIR*, and other networks this Summer. Although either could occur, he thought it more likely that financial scandals against Koizumi's opponents would be cooked up, a frequent method in Japan to cripple politicians. "DPJ President Katsuya Okada is almost as bad as Koizumi," he said. "His policies don't really differ much. Okada is close to Tony Blair, and he has said he wanted to model the party on Tony Blair." The DPJ, in fact "is entirely neo-con in basic orientation."

It's far from clear whether the DPJ can take power, or whether its economic policy is any better than Koizumi's, although after all this public exposure, it could not hand the public savings right over to Citibank as Koizumi planned to do. The DPJ platform, unveiled Aug. 16, does have a plan to halve the postal system balances during this decade, by lowering the limits on individual deposits, in the name of "smaller government." Their platform calls for expenditure cuts of 10 trillion yen (\$100 billion) by 2008.

The source said that the "old guard LDP," which is revolting against Koizumi, would be better, because it has a wider variety of people, including anti-neo-cons such as former Foreign Minister Makiko Tanaka, an advocate of strong trade ties with Russia and China. But Tanaka has also cussed out George Bush in public, so she can't take a high-profile role yet in conservative Japan.

Former lower house Speaker Tamisuke Watanuki and former LDP Policy Research Chair Shizuka Kamei, leaders of the 37 rebels, announced Aug. 17 the formation of the New People's Party, but so far, they have convinced fewer than a dozen of the 37 to join them. Kicked off the LDP slate, rebels without a party are prohibited from buying TV time and many other activities. Many other rebels have gone instead to their local LDP chapters, leading them in revolt against Koizumi, which could further fracture the LDP.

Two Koreas: 'Silk Road And Sunshine,' Not War

by Kathy Wolfe

The Six-Power Talks on North Korea's nuclear crisis, which recessed in Beijing Aug. 8 to resume Aug. 29, were "inconclusive," because the American side continued Dick Cheney's deliberate "deal-breaker" demands, a South Korean diplomat told *EIR*. U.S. negotiator Christopher Hill, he said, is "charming," but so far, he has only repeated Cheney's demands that North Korea unilaterally disarm before receiving any security guarantee; give up all nuclear programs, including electric power plants; and "surrender up" a uranium enrichment program which Pyongyang says does not exist.

But, as these demands have failed repeatedly, the question is whether Hill can now wrangle a new negotiating position out of the White House before he returns to Beijing. A *New York Times* editorial Aug. 6, titled "Glimmer of Hope," said that Hill might be able to offer a security guarantee when talks resume, which could swing a deal. Hill told a Washington forum on Aug. 17 that he has signalled to Pyongyang his desire for a peace treaty to end the Korean War, to replace today's unstable cease-fire. "We are not just talking about denuclearization," said Hill. "The hope is that this six-party process can be a sort of embryonic structure for Northeast Asia," a security structure to finally end the war.

The chance for such changes, however, depends on whether Cheney's hand can be removed from the White House steering wheel before he provokes nuclear Armageddon in Iran, making events in Korea moot.

Meanwhile, the two Koreas are moving full steam to cement peace at home, building up economic ties by moving to open the New Silk Road—as Lyndon LaRouche has consistently advised—and other initiatives of the "Sunshine Policy." One day after President Bush demanded in public that North Korea give up all nuclear power plants, Seoul Unification Minister Chung Dong-Young said Aug. 10, "We think differently from the United States on this." The South, he said, which depends on nuclear power for almost 50% of its electricity, will back the North's right to power plants if it allows UN inspections.

Rail and Diplomacy

Seoul's Unification Ministry said Aug. 17 that South and North Korea would proceed Aug. 18-25 with a week of joint inspections of rails and roads across the demilitarized zone (DMZ). This concretizes plans, announced July 31, to run a "test train" across the DMZ in late October, for the first time

since 1950, from Seoul to the ancient capital Kaesong in the North. This would connect Korea to the New Silk Road, the final link in a rail system across China and Russia, "from Pusan to Paris." A July 29-30 meeting created a joint management committee to run the rail lines. Seoul agreed to pay for construction of three train stations on the northern side, now well under way. "Once trains start making test runs on the railway linking the two countries in October, full service could take place by year end," an official said.

Speculation is—supposing there is no disruption at the Six-Power Talks in September, which again makes the major assumption that Cheney is muzzled—that after North Korea's Workers' Party Day on Oct. 10, head of state Kim Jong-il may finally visit Seoul for a second Inter-Korean Heads of State summit. This would pave the way for a train to run that month.

South Korea announced Aug. 4 that tourists will soon be able to travel across the DMZ from Seoul—"by rail as well as road"—to Kaesong, an historic site, Korea's equivalent of Colonial Williamsburg. This first tourist package near Seoul, a drive of less than an hour, will cost \$100 a day for up to four-day stays at Northern guest houses. Such "popular pricing" could lead hundreds of thousands of Seoul's more than 13 million citizens to visit. A population flow of that magnitude—presuming North Korea would allow its citizens such extensive contact with southerners—would make today's constant threat of war look absurd.

On Aug. 12, military officials from both Koreas announced at Panmunjom, inside the DMZ, that all propaganda posters, loudspeakers, and tons of hostile equipment have been removed along the length of the DMZ from east to west, and the area de-mined. On Aug. 13, North and South began operation of a military hotline.

To mark the 60th anniversary of the Aug. 15 surrender of Japan in World War II, the two Koreas held a giant "One Korea" Liberation Day festival Aug. 14-17 in Seoul, with 180 North Korean guests and 20,000 South Koreans celebrating. Seoul's 12-lane boulevards were closed to traffic so people could jam the streets under giant block-long signs displaying the "Unification Flag" of the peninsula in blue, labelled simply, "One Korea."

The Northern delegation "made history" as South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun told them, with a number of "breakthroughs in normalization." North Korean Worker's Party Secretary Kim Ki-nam, Pyongyang's No. 2 leader, surprised the South by doing the unthinkable: visiting the National Cemetery in Seoul, where 54,000 military leaders and war dead are buried, including 1970s dictator, Park Chung Hee. The northern delegates bowed their heads in memory of their fallen enemies. "It was a difficult decision to pay homage there," said Lim Dong-ok, North Korea's Unification chief. "But we should transcend everything in the era of reconciliation."

Other breakthroughs included a first-ever North Korean visit to the South Korean National Assembly.

Jewish Fundamentalism's 'Errant Weeds' Threaten Israel and Palestine

by Michele Steinberg and Neil Martin

"I am shamed over the disgrace imposed upon us by a degenerate murderer. You are not part of the community of Israel. You are not part of the democratic camp which we all belong to in this house, and many of the people despise you. You are not partners in the Zionist enterprise. You are a foreign implant. You are an errant weed. . . . Sensible Judaism spits you out. You placed yourself outside the wall of Jewish law. You are a shame on Zionism and an embarrassment to Judaism."

Thus spoke Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in 1994, shortly after Baruch Goldstein, the U.S.-born Israeli settler, had gunned down 29 Muslim worshippers and wounded 100 others during services at the Tomb of the Patriarchs holy site in February 1994, near the West Bank town of Hebron. Goldstein, a physician who had served in the Israeli Defense Forces (where he refused to treat non-Jewish patients), was a follower of Rabbi Meir Kahane, the FBI/Air Force intelligence agent-turned-religious fanatic, who founded the terrorist Jewish Defense League in the United States, the Kach Party in Israel, and who vowed to purge Israel of every non-Jew. Goldstein came from the West Bank settlement of Kiryat Arba, which since the 1980s, has functioned as a terrorist training camp and indoctrination center. Goldstein was wrestled down, and killed by an angry mob at the scene of the attack.

Kahane's movement has been banned in Israel for years because of its terrorist belief structure and actions. The U.S. affiliates, Jewish Defense League, Kach, and Kahane Chai, have been on a State Department terrorist list for more than a decade, and are banned from raising funds. But its members travel with ease between the United States and Israel, are able to maintain armed camps in Israel, and even run entire settlements on the West Bank. They are "above the law," and enjoy flows of money from the United States.

One reason for this privileged position is certain: the Kahane/Baruch Goldstein ideology had protectors—especially the two rival bulls of the Likud Party, Benjamin Netanyahu and Ariel Sharon, who fanned the flames of mass protests, where protesters demanded the blood of those who made deals with the Palestinians, and demanded that Israel be purged of all Arabs and Palestinians after the 1993 signing of

the Oslo treaty. As documented by Michael Karpin and Ina Friedman, in the book *Murder in the Name of God: The Plot to Kill Yitzhak Rabin*, these two even fanned the flames of the frenzy that covered for the assassination of Rabin on Nov. 5, 1995, by a radical "settler."

Indeed, 20 months after Baruch Goldstein, Rabin was slain by settlement fanatic Yigal Amir, who shot the Prime Minister just after the Oslo Accords for peace with the Palestinians, had been ratified in the Knesset (parliament). By the time that Goldstein went on his bloody killing spree, and Amir gunned down Rabin, Kahane was dead, but as his followers, whose flag is a Star of David with an assault rifle imposed on it, say, "Kahane Chai"! Kahane lives.

The heirs of Baruch Goldstein are alive in Israel's illegal settlements today, and are in full activation—against both Jews and Palestinians—as Sharon, now Prime Minister, carries out the evacuation of Jewish settlers from the Gaza Strip, the first roll-back of the illegal settlements on Palestinian land since 1967, when Gen. Ariel Sharon protected the zealots who set up illegal camps and seized Palestinian land, across the "Green Line." Now, Sharon has been called a "Nazi" and a killer of Jews, and has been targeted by the "Golem" that he himself created.

In Jewish folklore, the Golem is a being fashioned out of clay by an ambitious rabbi, to do the menial labor and dirty work—who then turns on the people it serves.

But just because Sharon is the father of this settlement movement, does *not* mean that he is not a target for assassination. Indeed, the Aug. 8 resignation of Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from Sharon's government (see accompanying article) has given the radical fascists of the Israeli right a new leader, and a new boldness.

Just the Beginning

On Aug. 4, 2005, a massacre of Israeli Arab civilians by a Jewish soldier on a bus shocked the Israeli nation. A member of the Kach movement, Eden Natan Zada, a 19-year-old soldier in the Israeli Defense Forces, perpetrated a deliberate act of mass murder, in keeping with his beliefs as a member "Kahane Lives" cult. Zada, who had gone AWOL, and was living in a radical settlement run by Kachists, boarded a



www.gamla.org

Settlers demonstrate against the disengagement from Gaza. Israeli sources fear that the relative calm of the near-completion of the Gaza withdrawal was a mere interlude to more violence.

cramped bus, filled with Arabs, in Shfaram, and killed four and wounded a dozen with his IDF rifle. Like Baruch Goldstein, Zada was killed at the scene of the attack. Both Goldstein and Zada are being revered as martyrs by the Kach/Kahane followers.

Then, on Aug. 17, as the Gaza settlements were being evacuated by the Israeli police and army, a West Bank settler, Asher Weissgan from the settlement of Shvut Rachel, executed four Palestinian workers in cold blood. Asher was employed as a driver, who transported every day, the Palestinians who worked in a Jewish-owned industrial zone. The Palestinians were “lucky” to have the job, given that the miserable situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, with as much as 60% unemployment. After his arrest, Weissgan said that he wishes that Sharon would be assassinated also.

These two individual rampages are an escalation of an ongoing campaign, occurring against the backdrop of month-long mobilizations, and build-up of hysteria among the religious fundamentalists, who believe that it is Biblical *law* that all of current Israel, Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, must be a Jewish state. In fact, the leaders of the “anti-disengagement protests” are long-time leaders of the messianic cults that want to destroy the Islamic mosque, the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, and build the “Third Temple.” After Gaza, they plan to escalate.

For months, the settlers’ movement, now calling themselves “the Orange camp,” in an attempt to cash in on the “Orange Revolution” in Ukraine, have been blocking major Israeli highways with demonstrations and barricades formed with burning tires; and putting out posters and propaganda branding Prime Minister Sharon as a Nazi. But in June, the violence escalated, first with the attempted lynching of a Palestinian youth by a mob of Kach movement thugs, who took

over sites in the Gaza strip, and were painting the walls with racist hate slogans such as “Mohammed Is a Pig,” and hunting down Palestinian civilians. On July 15, one Israeli member of the Kach movement, Shimshon Citron, was charged with attempted murder for the incident. But others in the gang were not charged.

Then, in July, Israeli police were faced with a campaign designed to instill fear and panic, when suspicious packages, parcels, and backpacks (similar to those used in the London subway bombings) were found in major population centers, like bus stations. This was the campaign of “dummy bombs,” some of which had a note attached which warned that “Gaza withdrawal will blow up in your face.” So far, two Orthodox Jewish soldiers from the IDF have been arrested for planting such bombs.

Then, on July 18, in a dry run, about 10,000 protestors loaded into buses in an attempt to infiltrate Gush Katif, the major Jewish settlement in Gaza. Police blocked their access, preventing a major showdown.

“I fear that the violence from the Jewish fundamentalists is only beginning,” stated a senior Jewish scholar to *EIR* on Aug. 17, as Day One of the settlements’ evacuation was under way.

The same day, senior military affairs expert for *Ha’arezt* newspaper, Ze’ev Schiff, described the situation as follows, in the Aug. 17 edition:

“‘Goldsteinism’ returned yesterday with the murder of four Palestinian laborers near the settlement of Shiloh in the West Bank. The murder was committed by a settler—not in a search for revenge, but rather out of anger against the Israeli government for evacuating the settlers of the Gaza Strip and the northern West Bank.

“Now comes the revenge of the Palestinian organizations, and the blood of the Israeli casualties will be on the head of yesterday’s killer, and on the heads of his friends who support the act, and on his leaders. . . .

“The tragedy of this conflict is that there are many like the murderer from Shvut Rachel. The new murderer is another of the wild grapes produced by Israel’s extreme right. Under the circumstances, it is almost impossible not to generalize. It cannot be forgotten that the murderer of a prime minister also came from those extremist circles. From there sprang the AWOL soldier, Eden Natan Zada, who murdered four people he encountered on a bus in Shfaram.

“Baruch Goldstein, who killed dozens of worshipers in a mosque in Hebron, also came from these groups. And for those who have forgotten, the hand that threw the grenade that killed Emil Grunzweig during a peace demonstration in front of the prime minister’s office in Jerusalem in 1983 also came from these circles.

“The extreme right has been a hothouse for these killers. All of them, including Asher Weissgan, bring shame on Israel.”

Almost ten years after the tragic assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, *finally* another well-known Israeli, Schiff, is echoing the words of Rabin to the fundamentalist killers: “You are a shame on Zionism, and an embarrassment to Judaism.”

It is not as though the “centers” and the “leaders” about which Schiff speaks are unknown. To the contrary. For more than 20 years, Israelis such as the late poet and writer, Maxim Ghilan, editor of *Israel & Palestine* magazine, have exposed the fascist ideology of the Jewish fundamentalists, and the operations of the Kachists. Leaders of Israeli intelligence services, Mossad and Shin Beth—after retirement—have suggested, but failed, to shut down the religious schools (yeshivas), training camps, and settlements that spawn these killers. Pro-democracy organizations, created after the murder of Yitzhak Rabin, such as Keshev, have published detailed reports, in Hebrew and English, naming the names of the controllers and leaders of these splinter groups that use terrorism as its voice.

In the United States, *EIR* has taken the lead for those same 20-plus years in exposing these networks, and tracing the support that they receive to high levels of finance and extremist religious circles in the United States. *EIR*’s record is thorough—and unique, including:

- Early 1980s coverage of the “Temple Mount plot,” which exposed how the networks of Kahane, and other religious fundamentalists, both Christian evangelicals and Jewish fundies, had plotted to blow up the Dome of the Rock mosque in Jerusalem—the third most holy site of Islam, in order to build the “Third Temple of Jerusalem.” Various Christian fundamentalist sects believe that only after the Third Temple is built, will the Second Coming of Christ be at hand;

- A 1986 Special Report of 126 pages, *Moscow’s Secret Weapon: Ariel Sharon and the Israeli Mafia*, detailed four aspects of the Israeli extremists’ operation: the plot to blow up the Muslim holy sites on Temple Mount to make way for the Third Temple; an illegal “land-scam” that acquired properties on the West Bank for settlement expansion; a profile of the Kach movement and its integration with professional Israeli intelligence hit teams; and the profile of Jonathan Jay Pollard, the American citizen who spied for Israel against the United States;

- Early 1990s coverage of the U.S. financial networks and organizations behind the anti-Oslo peace movements, including California/Florida mega-millionaire, Irving Moskowitz, U.S. businessman Meshulem Riklis, and Christian networks such as those of Rev. Jerry Falwell;

- A December 2000 Special Report, *Who’s Sparking a Religious War in the Middle East?* featuring the incendiary role of Sharon’s September 2000 march on the Temple Mount/al-Haram al-Sharif, with thousands of Israeli soldiers for security, in setting off the current Israeli-Palestinian war;

- A March 8, 2002 review of the book *Murder in the Name of God*, by Israeli authors Michael Karpin and Ina Friedman,

which detailed the involvement of radical rabbis who allegedly told Yigal Amir—before he shot Rabin—that his action would be in line with Jewish law.

- In 2001, *EIR* published the report by Keshev, the Israeli pro-democracy institute, called “Targeting the Temple Mount: A Current Look at Threats to the Temple Mount Group by Extremist and Messianic Groups.”

With this current report, *EIR* continues to expose the leaders of extremism, in the hopes of achieving peace.

A Close Look at the Anti-Disengagement Crowd

After the near-lynching of the Palestinian teenager in Gaza, IDF Gen. Dan Harel described the attack as “an attempted lynching by hooligans with no regard for human life.” What is even more disturbing is that the lynching was caught on film, showing that even while army medics were attending to the badly beaten Palestinian, the hooligans were throwing stones at him. One of the thugs even threatened to assault the medic if he attended to the Palestinian.

It was reminiscent of the Ku Klux Klan attacks and murders of African Americans.

But rather than being shunned, these right-wingers have been portrayed as activists and romanticized by Israeli media such as Israeli National Radio, which interviews Moshe Feiglin, a member of the Likud Party, who also heads the umbrella for the “anti-disengagement” radicals, the Manhigut Yehudit (Jewish Leadership) movement, on an almost daily basis.

Feiglin feigns to shun violence, but he applauds the bravery of those Israeli fighters who stand up against Palestinian “terrorists.” Feiglin is also a key organizer of some of the groups that seek to purge Jerusalem’s Temple Mount of all Muslims, and to build the “Third Temple.” He says, Israel should not be a democratic state—only a Jewish state—and *not one parcel* of land should be given up to non-Jews.

On Aug. 15, Feiglin said on Israeli National Radio, while giving marching orders on how to run the roadblocks to prevent settlers from being moved out of Gaza, that Jews should take *also* take over the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. “He who controls the Mount, controls the country,” said Feiglin.

In an earlier interview, Feiglin was asked what he thinks about the dummy bombs, planted inside Israel, in the name of opposing the Gaza pullout. He conveyed that he did not care about such things.

But to really understand the structure of the anti-disengagement protestors have operated, and why they are dangerous, it is useful to go back to *EIR*’s 1986 Special Report, in which a member of the Kach movement in the United States described how Kahane followers organize terrorist operations, under the cover of legitimate protests.

“There’s three levels,” said the Kach veteran, describing how the Jewish Defense League operated in the United States,

using a variety of tactics from protests, to car-bombings, to assassinations, in the name of fighting anti-Semitism in America.

“There’s cadre. . . . They will do an action and take credit by name. . . . Some people only take credit under very specific circumstances. . . . I can’t say why, I can’t say. . . . The real serious stuff nobody takes credit for. . . .” He also described how a propaganda apparatus is set up to “applaud the actions” taken by Kach, while denying any involvement in violence, or terrorism.

A similar layered structure is at play for the “anti-Gaza disengagement” movement. It is on the propaganda and coordination level that Manhigut Yehudit and Feiglin operate.

Feiglin boasts that “the new generation is unstoppable,” and the age bracket for the anti-disengagement demonstrators begins as early as 12 years old. Feiglin’s young fascists-in-training are funneled into sessions run by a group called Bayit Leumi (National Home), to get them ready for road blocks, dismantling fences, and at a higher level, sabotaging bulldozers and other vehicles. When Israeli police raided the offices of Bayit Leumi, it turned out the group was actually paid for by Manhigut Yehudit.

These out-in-the-open protesters who practice “civil disobedience” are diversionary. They can distract and divert police, and provide cover (whether they know it or not) for the serious, trained terrorists.

What’s Next?

Blocking roads, burning tires, sabotaging police vehicles, had been going on for the three months before the Gaza withdrawal. Well-placed Israeli sources now fear, however, that another phase has begun, with the Aug. 4, and Aug. 17 murders of Palestinians by radical settlers. These sources see the relative calm of the near-completion of the Gaza withdrawal as a mere interlude.

On Aug. 19, after three days of confrontation, the Sharon government was congratulating itself for the removal of settlers and protestors from nearly all of Gaza. There were no deaths of IDF soldiers, or settlers, and only minor injuries, including in two showdown situations where young messianic fanatics, accompanied by their rabbis, had barricaded themselves into synagogues, forcing the IDF soldiers to lay siege to the temples. It was an ugly scene, with the young yeshiva students, pouring acid on the soldiers trying to remove them.

Eventually, most of the protestors backed down. Aryeh Yitzhaki, one of the most violent of the settler leaders in Gaza, finally evacuated his barricaded house, proudly declaring, “I could have launched the second Masada in Shirat Hayam, but I decided to negotiate, so as to avoid loss of life.”

A close look at the leadership of Manhigut Yehudit reveals, however, that this group’s identity is *not* about the Gaza withdrawal. Rather, these individuals have functioned in the milieu of Jewish extremism and violence for decades, often

working closely with the Kahane forces, and with convicted spy Pollard, whose wife, Esther, is an active participant in Manhigut Yehudit.

Feiglin himself is rabidly opposed to the Oslo Accords. In 1995 he founded the far-right-wing Zo Artzeinu (“This Is Our Land”), which ran chaos operations such as street riots, and traffic blockades, in the months preceding the assassination of Rabin.

According to the investigation by the democracy group Keshev, Feiglin also leads one of the “first circle” of “Temple Mount” organizations. Rabbi Feiglin’s group is Lechatchila (“To the Beginning”), Keshev reported.

Similarly, a founder of Manhigut Yehudit is Prof. Hillel Weiss, who created Shocharey HaMikdash, the umbrella group that unites most of the Temple Mount organizations, whose idea was to “unite separate fingers into one fist.” Keshev also reported that a major activist in this movement is Rabbi Baruch Kahane, son of Meir Kahane, founder of Kach.

In late July, Israeli peace leader and author Uri Avnery compared this anti-withdrawal “Orange camp” to Benito Mussolini’s “Black Shirts,” who marched on Rome and overthrew Italian democracy. Avnery warned that the failed Orange camp’s march to Gush Katif is the foretaste of a march on Jerusalem.

Avnery also says that a spade must be called a spade. He gives a definition of fascism, referring to the protestors: “The belief in a superior people, master folk, chosen people, superior race, a complete absence of moral obligations toward others, a totalitarian ideology, the negation of the individual except as a part of the nation, contempt for democracy and a cult of violence.”

There is no question that Israeli institutions of law, and the state, have all the information necessary to shut down the killer cults, like Kach, and the Temple Mount fanatics, who have long threatened Palestinian civilians, holy sites, and daily life, and now also threaten civil strife and terrorism inside Israel.

The question is whether the political protection and funding for these organizations from leading U.S. elected figures, like Rep. Tom DeLay, the right-wing Republican Majority Leader of the U.S. Congress, and from financiers like Jack Abramoff and Irving Moskowitz, and organizations such as the National Unity Coalition for Israel (NUCI) and the International Christian Embassy of Jerusalem (ICEJ), are allowed to continue. If the political protection of these extremists—which goes all the way up to the White House—is ended, the Jewish extremist terrorist threat can be virtually shut down; if not, it will escalate after the Gaza withdrawal into full-scale religious war.

The choice of the Avnerys and Ghilans and Rabins of Israel is economic development as the road to peace, the same policy which *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche wrote for his Israeli and Arab friends in 1975, as “The Oasis Plan.” The time for that peace is now.

Netanyahu As Israel's Generalissimo Franco

by Dean Andromidas

Finance Minister Benjamin “Bibi” Netanyahu’s Aug. 7 resignation from the Cabinet of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, indicates that his intention is to topple Sharon’s government, which, according to Israeli sources, he would carry out by leading a fascist movement in the tradition of the Falange of Spanish dictator Generalissimo Francisco Franco and the Fascist Benito Mussolini.

Netanyahu hopes to capture the ferment of the tens of thousands of settlers, right-wing activists, and messianic Zionist fascists who have taken to the streets of Israel, to protest Sharon’s disengagement from Gaza.

The latest poll of members of Sharon’s and Netanyahu’s Likud party, revealed a dramatic shift toward support of Netanyahu. If an election were to be held today for the chairmanship of the Likud, according to the poll, Netanyahu would receive 47%, and Sharon only 33%. Commenting on the potentially disastrous situation Sharon faces in the Likud, the Israeli daily *Ha’aretz* on Aug. 10 warned that Sharon might consider going to war, since “it seems as if only a political miracle could change the situation [for Sharon]. A successful disengagement [from Gaza], or alternatively a major military operation, might do the trick. . . .” Since the Bush Administration is committed to an attack on Iran, it cannot be ruled out that Sharon would order an Israeli pre-emptive attack on Iran’s nuclear facilities.

In Israel, it is being taken as a foregone conclusion that Sharon’s government will fall after the completion of the disengagement from Gaza. The Knesset could fail to pass the 2006 national budget, which would automatically lead to new elections. Sharon would then be expected to put any further withdrawals from the occupied territories on political ice, to devote his energies to winning the elections. A political advisor of Sharon told the Aug. 10 *Ha’aretz*, that if Sharon lost the leadership of the Likud, he would run in an “alternative framework.” “Once upon a time, Sharon created the Likud,” said Sharon’s advisor. “Now, he can create a new Likud.”

Commentators are saying this could signal the so-called “big bang,” in which Sharon’s faction would join with parts of the Labor Party and the neo-liberal Shinui party, to form a “centrist party,” leaving the right wing of the Likud, the settlers, and the lunatics for Netanyahu. This new formation would not be committed to a peace process, but to the comple-

tion of Sharon’s Berlin Wall, and concentrating on the so-called “existential threat of a nuclear-armed Iran.”

‘The Lost Cause’

In the press conference announcing his resignation, Bibi admitted that stopping the disengagement was a “lost cause,” but, casting himself as the hero, declared, “I am not willing to be party to a move that ignores reality and blindly advances toward the establishment of an Islamic terrorist base that threatens the state.” He went on to say, “A stone has been lifted from my heart. Now I feel at peace.” Referencing his father, the historian Benzion Netanyahu, an expert on Zionist revisionist Ze’ev Jabotinsky, Netanyahu said, “I am the son of a historian. In another 10, 50, or 100 years, I want people to say unequivocally: He was not party to this.”

It was not for his place in “history” that Netanyahu made such populist statements, but to play up to the Israeli right. In its editorial commenting on Netanyahu’s resignation, on Aug. 8, *Ha’aretz* declared: “Benjamin Netanyahu’s resignation from the government right before disengagement places him, finally, in the spot that suits him—as the leader of the extreme right in Israel. Netanyahu crowned himself as the leader of the [secular] nationalist and nationalist religious camps.”

Ha’aretz then warned that his resignation could make him leader of the ultra right, transforming Israeli politics: “Perhaps” Bibi’s resignation “will also signal the beginning of a reform of the political system, and the reorganization of political parties, based on their genuine, updated platforms. On the one side will be the camp of the entire occupied Land of Israel, and on the other side will be the parties that support democracy in an Israel with redrawn borders.”

The ‘Orange Falangists’

With this new political offensive, Netanyahu is making a bid to become Israel’s own Generalissimo Franco, who came to power in Spain in 1939 at the head of his Falangist storm-troopers.

This comparison was made by Israeli commentator Gideon Samet, who wrote in the Aug. 10 *Ha’aretz*: “Likud Member of Knesset Benjamin Netanyahu offered himself this week as the leader of the orange Falangists.” The fanatic opponents of Gaza disengagement adopted the color orange, unlike the Spanish Falangists who wore black shirts. Samet went on to note that Netanyahu “has placed himself at the head of the action of a widespread subversive rebellion of which we are now seeing only the beginning.” He called Netanyahu’s resignation a “putsch-like move” and only a “narcissistic Napoleonchik” like Netanyahu would think that “history” will even remember his name 50 or a 100 years hence.

“Generalissimo” Bibi’s Orange Falangists will be a combination of revisionist Zionists loyal to the teaching of Ze’ev Jabotinsky, who was an open admirer of Mussolini, and the messianic religious Zionism which has been predominant in the settlers’ movements in the West Bank and Gaza. He will

draw spiritual and monetary support from the Christian Zionist allies in the United States among the tens of millions of Christian fundamentalists.

The orange-shirted stormtroopers will be drawn from the right wing of the Likud, which takes inspiration from Jabotinsky as well as the nationalist Jewish terrorist Stern gang, whose leaders in 1948 were thrown into prison by Israel's founding father David Ben Gurion. They would be joined by several right-wing factions now in the Knesset, which have been mobilizing against the disengagement plan. These include the Renewed National Religious Zionism party, led by Effie Eitam, a "newly religious" former Israeli military officer, who is often referred to in the Israeli press as a "fascist" or "kook." Others would include the National Union party and its two factions; one, the Moledet party, led by Rabbi Benny Elon, who provided spiritual inspiration for Yigal Amir, the assassin of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. This party calls for the "transfer" of the Palestinian population out of the "Land of Israel."

The other faction is the ethnic Russian Party, Yisrael Beiteinu. The latter's leader, Avigdor Lieberman, was Netanyahu's campaign manager and chief of staff when Bibi was Prime Minister, at the end of the 1990s. Lieberman then left the Likud to form his party, in order to build support for Netanyahu within Israel's Russian immigrant community. One of Lieberman's financial supporters is the notorious Russian tycoon Michael Cherney, who lives in Israel because he is wanted by the Russian government for a number of mob-related crimes.

Netanyahu, along with these other factions, enjoys close connections to the Christian Zionists in the United States. For example, Knesset member Yuri Stern of the Yisrael Beiteinu is the founder and leader, along with Rabbi Benny Elon, of the Knesset Lobby group, the Christian Allies Caucus. On Sept. 2-5, the Caucus will be sponsoring a conference in Fort Worth, Texas, whose speakers' list reads like a Who's Who of the U.S. Christian Zionist movement. It could very well become a rally for Netanyahu.

Draconian Austerity Policy

Netanyahu is not only a would-be Generalissimo, he is also a modern-day Hjalmar Schacht—Hitler's Economics Minister, and the man who helped Bank of England Governor Montagu Norman organize the financial backing to put Hitler in power. As Finance Minister in Sharon's government, Bibi implemented radical free-market reforms and brutal austerity that has deeply scarred the Israeli population. The day after he resigned, the fruits of this policy were exposed in an official report of the Israeli National Insurance Institute on poverty in Israel, during the first two years of his policy. In 2003, poverty went from 18.1% of the population to 19.3%, and in 2004 it increased to 20.3%. There are now 1.534 million Israeli poor, including 700,000 children: a rise of more than 100,000 people in a population of 6 million.

"Nobody has caused so much suffering to so many people, and nobody has inflicted such a moral disgrace with his policy on all of us as Netanyahu has," said Member of the Knesset Yossi Sarid, of the Yahad-Meretz party.

The chairman of Israel's Histadrut Labor Federations, Amir Peretz, declared, "This is a stain which Netanyahu cannot escape from even if he escaped from the Finance Ministry. This report is an indictment against the entire government."

Like Schacht, Netanyahu is only implementing the policies of his controllers in the Anglo-American financial oligarchy, especially George Shultz, the architect of the Bush Administration. Shultz, descended from the Wall Street financial circle that put Hitler in power, has been Netanyahu's political godfather for more than 20 years.

Having lived many years in the United States in the 1970s and 1980s, Netanyahu has built strong bonds with such neo-cons as Daniel Pipes, Richard Perle, and those in the Bush Administration like John Bolton. A few days after his resignation, Netanyahu reportedly headed for New York and Washington, where he was no doubt huddling with his neo-conservative friends, and soliciting money for his political campaign.

The big question is, whether Dick Cheney will change Israeli horses, dumping the gangster Sharon for the Falangist Netanyahu.

COVERUP EXPOSED!

The Israeli Attack On the 'USS Liberty'



"The Loss of Liberty," a video by filmmaker Tito Howard, proves beyond any doubt that the June 8, 1967 Israeli attack against the *USS Liberty*, in which 34 American servicemen were killed and 171 wounded, was deliberate. The video includes testimony from Liberty survivors, many Congressional Medal of Honor winners, and from such high-ranking Americans as Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, Adm. Arleigh Burke, Gen. Ray Davis, and Secretary of State Dean Rusk.

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Was There a Foreign Hand In the Moro Assassination?

An Interview With Giovanni Galloni

Hon. Giovanni Galloni participated in the Resistance movement against Nazism and Fascism during World War II, and became a leader of the majority party of the Italian post-war period, the Christian Democracy (DC). He was a very close collaborator of former Italian Prime Minister and DC leader, Aldo Moro, who was kidnapped on March 16, 1978 and eventually assassinated.



Galloni is a jurist and university professor, specializing in juridical aspects of agriculture-related issues. He was a Member of Parliament; Minister of Education in the center-left governments of 1987-89; and editor of the DC's daily newspaper, Il Popolo, in 1984-85. In 1991, he was appointed president of the state institution that supervises the entire Italian legal and magistracy system. EIR published an interview with him on Dec 12, 2003, titled "The Theory of Preventive Wars Has Always Been Groundless."

Paoli Raimondi conducted this interview, which has been translated from Italian.

EIR: Recently you gave an interview to the national TV program "Rainews," in which you focussed attention on certain issues related to the kidnapping and assassination of Aldo Moro. You said that the Red Brigades were infiltrated by sections of the American and Israeli intelligence services, but that those intelligence services did not provide their Italian counterparts with the information necessary to intervene.

Galloni: Yes, I had already said these things in 1998, when

I was questioned by the official Commission on Terrorist Massacres of the Italian Parliament, which held hearings on the Moro assassination. I also spoke about it on various other occasions at conferences, seminars, and in interviews with various national and international papers.

EIR: But this time, differently than in the past, your revelations drew extraordinary media coverage and provoked debate throughout the country. Could it be that your statement was used by certain sectors of the Italian institutions to issue an international warning about the possibility of a new "strategy of tension"?¹

Galloni: This is possible, because, on the one hand, Francesco Cossiga, who was Interior Minister at the time, came out very strongly against me, accusing me of inventing everything; but on the other hand, I accused some people of having violated Italian sovereignty. We agree that there are some parts of the Bush Administration that are against certain policies of the present government, and particularly against the center-left opposition and its policies; I hope the center-left

1. The events of the 1970s show how a "global strategy of tension" functioned, and still functions. At that time, orchestrated terrorist actions were used by covert intelligence networks to justify constitutional changes, restrictions of civil liberties, and other political decisions intended to usher in a dictatorial process. At that time, the majority of the Italian population and political institutions did not fall into the trap, and defended the Constitution—unlike what happened in Greece some years before, where sectors of the army took over, with the pretext that democracy was threatened.

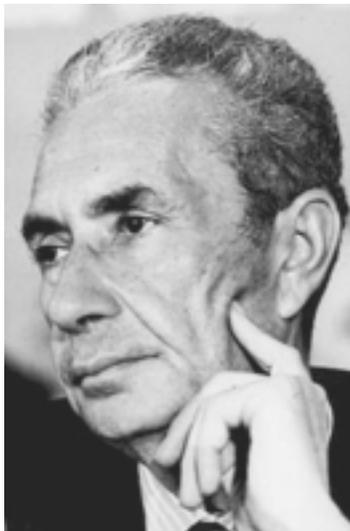
With 9/11, a gigantic "strategy of tension" has exploded in the United States and globally, as Dick Cheney's neo-con networks have launched an assault against the Constitution. This strategic situation brings into focus the importance of the earlier Italian experience. See also the LaRouche in 2004 campaign Special Report, "The Synarchist Resurgence Behind the Madrid Train Bombing of March 11, 2004," available at www.larouchepac.com.

wins the coming elections in April 2006 and is able to form a new government.

Originally, the Moro issue was not the main focus of the interview. Actually, it focussed on recent developments in which American authorities kidnapped a person of Islamic religion in Milan, who was allegedly under investigation for possible involvement in terrorism; this action was in clear violation of Italian independence and sovereignty. The Italian government has demanded an explanation from the American Ambassador, who has only provided answers whose contents have not yet been made public. This subject reminded me of another situation that was somewhat similar: something Aldo Moro said to me about 6-8 weeks before he was kidnapped. The two of us, he as president and I as vice-secretary of the Christian Democracy party (DC), spoke about the continuous attacks of the Red Brigades, who used kidnappings, assassinations of magistrates, “knee-capping” of political leaders, etc., and the difficulties our intelligence services had in finding the terrorist hideouts where the attacks originated.

Moro uttered a statement which surprised me a little bit. He said, our countermoves would be more efficient if the American and Israeli intelligence services, which have more information than we do, shared their information and knowledge with us, because then we could more easily discover and dismantle the terrorist hideouts. I did not insist on knowing how he found out about these things; I was a bit perplexed, because if Moro said such things, then he definitely must have had specific sources. Moro was not a person to say such things without any basis.

This is not the first time I have dealt with these things. I mentioned them for the first time on July 22, 1998, when I was questioned by the Special Parliamentary Commission on Massacres, chaired by Sen. [Giovanni] Pellegrino. On that occasion, I reported on what Moro had said. So I was surprised that Senator Pellegrino, reacting to my recent interview, asked why I had not reported this before, during the hearings of the Parliamentary Commission. I told him that if he reads the transcript of the meeting he chaired, he'll find my statements on that discussion with Moro. Maybe the terminology was a bit different, because now I am speaking not only of information but also of infiltration of the Red Brigades by the intelligence services. . . . But as we know, intelligence services do not have any other means to get information except by infiltrating these groups. I am surprised that someone could be surprised by my statements. My statements are not too late



Aldo Moro (left), Italy's former Prime Minister, was kidnapped and assassinated by the Red Brigades in 1978. Several weeks before the kidnapping, he told Galloni that the American and Israeli intelligence services had information about the terrorists that they were not sharing with the Italian government. On the right is Communist Party chairman Enrico Berlinguer, with whom Moro was in a dialogue about how to govern Italy in the national interest. Berlinguer wanted to distance himself from Moscow—but Galloni's CIA interlocutors didn't believe it.

in coming. I do not have any way to further investigate these matters, and it is not my task to do so; I have given some indications, but other authorities should be in charge, and have the task to investigate further.

Contradictions in the Official Story

After my recent statements, there was some follow-up. First of all, Hon. Falco Accame, former president of the Defense Commission of the Chamber of Deputies and president of the National Association of Armed Forces Victims, contacted me. For many years, Accame has been investigating on behalf of the five policemen who were escorting Moro, who were killed during the kidnapping of March 16, 1978. Accame just sent me an impressive amount of material he has collected, which I gave to the Carabinieri of the ROS department [Special Operations Unit], who are still investigating Moro's assassination, under the authority of the Italian magistracy. Apart from these contacts and the documents received from Accame though, there were inconsistencies in the declarations of the so-called repentant terrorists during the four “Moro trials.”

There are many obvious contradictions. These terrorists, even when they made their statements so that their sentences would be reduced, never made clear who really participated in the Moro kidnapping of March 16. These Red Brigaders have often contradicted themselves, because they reported that their members did not have serious military and firearms training; but persons with expert training definitely took part in the March 16 attack, because to be able to hit and kill five

policemen who were very close to Moro without wounding Moro himself, can only be done by highly trained professionals. None of the Red Brigades terrorists had such capabilities.

Secondly, although the magistrates did not further investigate this, a high-level member of the Italian intelligence services was apparently on the scene on March 16, with the excuse that he was visiting some friends. He was there at 9:00 that morning, and said he was there because he had been invited to lunch; but as far as I know, nobody gets invited to lunch at 9:00 A.M. He was on the scene and followed the event and knew about it.

There are other suspicious aspects which Aldo Moro's brother looked into; he is a magistrate and also wrote a book in which he challenged the story that Moro was kept in the prison indicated by the terrorists during the trials. He uses very strong arguments to reject this version of the story, saying that if his brother had been kept in a very small room for over 50 days, then the corpse would not have been found in such good condition. Aldo Moro was used to walking over two miles each day. Additionally, sand was found in Moro's trousers; the same type of sand was also found on the tires of the car in which Moro was found. According to Moro's brother, the terrorists never revealed the real location of the prison.

Another aspect: The center of all the terrorist operations in the Moro kidnapping turned out to be in Florence, where there was a house used for meetings of the Red Brigades' leaders. So far, nobody has identified the house or its owner. In this house, there was certainly a person who was in command of the entire operation and who has never been identified. The terrorist Moretti, who received orders from this individual, never gave the name to the investigators. DC leader Flaminio Piccoli made some allusions to these questions during hearings of the Commission on Massacres. Piccoli said that the "brains" of the Red Brigades was in Florence and this person must have had high-level capabilities. Who is this person? We do not know him yet.

Then, again from the Commission on Massacres chaired by Senator Pellegrino, it turns out there were contacts between the Mossad and the Red Brigades. This emerged in the hearings of March 18, 1999. It also came out in the interrogations of repentant terrorist Fabrizio Peci, who said that the Red Brigades had contacts with the Mossad from the very beginning.

Operation Gladio and the Moro Case

So there were grounds for what Moro told me. But the most astonishing things were provided by Falco Accame. He showed me this letter I have in my hands, which is an order from the Defense Ministry, General Directorate for Military Personnel of the Navy. According to Accame, Giulio Andreotti did not tell the full truth about Gladio.² What Andreotti

2. Operation Gladio was the Italian name for Stay Behind, an underground network of military people and civilians created by NATO immediately after

said was true, and it's true that Gladio was created throughout Europe after 1951, but it was created for internal aims. I was provided with evidence about the origin of Gladio during my trips to the United States: Gladio was based on the Pentagon's fear that the Soviet Union could start World War III, and since the Soviets had strategic superiority in Europe, they could occupy Europe in about one month, the way Hitler did. Gladio was therefore to be the instrument used to organize resistance in case of Soviet military occupation. Originally, Gladio drew on elements from the Catholic-inspired partisan movement, but also took people directly from the fascist organizations. However, this type of Gladio organization was practically inoperational.

In reality, there was also a second Gladio involved in operations abroad and more directly in contact with the CIA. This second Gladio was formed by three columns: the first one included elements of the Army, particularly from the Folgore division and the fascist Decima Mas of Valerio Borghese, who also was involved in an attempted coup d'état; the second was called the Wolves, with elements of the Navy, which had a point of reference in the Ministry of the Navy here in Rome; the third formation, called the Doves, consisted of civilians.

One of these individuals, who was a member of the Wolves, Antonino Arconte, number G-71, was called to the operational center in the city of La Spezia on March 2, 1978, and was told to leave for Beirut with a letter, a copy of which I have here with me. In this letter, Arconte "was authorized to obtain information of the third degree or higher, if useful for operations to contact Middle East terrorist groups with the aim of obtaining collaboration and information useful for freeing Aldo Moro." In Beirut, he was to make contact with Col. Stefano Giovannone, who was responsible for the Italian intelligence services in the region. This was at the very beginning of March, while the kidnapping of Moro took place on March 16; this man left for Beirut, where he arrived about six days before the terrorist assault against Moro, and delivered this document to a person named Ferraro, who gave it to Giovannone.

All this was before the kidnapping, so it is evident that the kidnapping had been already planned and that this section of the intelligence services was already informed of the coming event. Why did they not inform Moro, his security, and the

World War II, with the aim to prepare for resistance and guerrilla warfare in case of a Soviet invasion of Western Europe. Stay Behind networks existed in all European countries, and were coordinated by secret service sections that responded, not to the elected governments and Constitutions, but to parallel intelligence forces under the command of NATO or sections of the CIA. But these Gladio networks turned into political operations for internal and external "insurgency and counterinsurgency" on behalf of specific political groups and interests involved in coups d'état, assassinations of political leaders, and a variety of other dirty tricks that had nothing to do with the Soviet threat. These networks became instruments of what was known as the "strategy of tension."

Italian intelligence services? Not the “Italian” ones that took orders from the CIA, but the true Italian, patriotic services.

Arconte did not destroy the paper, but later, to protect his life, he gave it to a notary. Now, either this is a fake document—and if this is demonstrated, then those responsible must be convicted—or it is not fake, and then we must start all the investigations into the Moro kidnapping over again, from the very beginning. Because the statements Moro made to me in 1978 had a real basis.

We also do not know where Moro’s bag ended up. It contained highly classified documents, and was taken by the terrorists. Moro always had three bags: one with his medicine, one with his university papers, and a third with very sensitive and classified documents which he always had with him. The terrorists said there was nothing important in this third bag and that they destroyed it.

These are some of the issues and problems that arose after my recent interview. I have already told the Carabinieri about these questions.

EIR: What about Francesco Cossiga?

Galloni: Francesco Cossiga made very direct accusations against me. He claimed that I invented everything; that Moro was against me, and that Moro would never have said such things to me. To the contrary, I can say that at that time Moro intended to name me head of the DC Secretariat to replace [Benigno] Zaccagnini. I was very close to Moro’s political line, because others in his faction tended to isolate themselves, while I tried to establish dialogue and cooperation with other factions of the party. I got this ferocious reaction from Cossiga, who also said many things which were not true and groundless. . . .

EIR: Let us come back to the new “strategy of tension.”

Galloni: In my view, the conditions for a repeat of the strategy of tension are no longer present. The strategy of tension, as I realized during my visits in the U.S.A., was implemented as a function of the danger that the Italian Communists could enter the Italian government. I remember what representatives of the Pentagon told me very clearly, and which was also very clearly repeated in three subsequent discussions I had at the State Department—the first with the Italian desk, then with the European desk, and finally with the Western World desk. Everyone repeated their total opposition to the entry of the Communists into the Italian government, for ideological reasons. They completely rejected this possibility, as they had done in France. In the end, they were less disturbed with France, because there was a very large Socialist party in France that could limit the Communist influence; but they said they were very disturbed by similar developments in Italy.

They told me very serious things: “We are troubled, because this is a question of life and death for us.” I remember these words; this expression remained in my head. “Because once the Communists are in the government, they will move

to prevent the installation of military bases. And without these bases in Italy, we lack the means to react in the event of a Soviet land offensive.” For us, they said, it is a question of life or death. This made me shiver, because I then made the direct connection between the strategy of tension and this problem, which was managed then, as today, by the Pentagon. The way that the operation in Iraq is totally managed by the Pentagon today; it was the same then, in regard to the possibility of World War III.

I then became aware that the entire strategy of tension was aimed in this direction, a direction that the Soviet Union also foresaw. This was a strategy of tension that was born of the necessity, in the event that there were a government with Communist participation in Italy, to turn Italy into a new Greece: that is, a coup d’état. The strategy of tension was functional for a coup d’état.

When I was Deputy in the Chamber of Deputies and I saw all the papers related to the failed coup by Valerio Borghese, I realized that it was a serious operation and not a joke. The putschists even had a written declaration to read to the public after the occupation of the television headquarters. I read it: It said, among other things, that we finally put an end to this system of political parties, etc. When I had contacts with the Washington CSIS [Center for Strategic and International Studies], I realized that all the coups d’état carried out in South and Central America, etc., had been prepared first with a policy of a strategy of tension, to create tensions and fear in public opinion; a true military takeover came later. In Italy, the atmosphere was different, because the Italian people reacted better to this strategy of tension. With this strategy of tension, they succeeded in establishing contacts with extreme right and extreme left groups.

EIR: I was speaking of a new “strategy of tension,” which is not related to the Soviet question. Let me explain: In the U.S. Administration there is presently a group of so-called neo-cons around Dick Cheney in particular, who say, “With us or against us.” And all the other countries, including Italy, are told to get in line with their policy, now and in the future. We know—and there are ongoing investigations on this—that false stories and lies were fabricated ad hoc to justify the military attack against Iraq—

Galloni: Yes, I agree.

EIR: —such as the story of the uranium from Niger supposedly used for an Iraqi nuclear bomb. Rome—not coincidentally—played a role in this story. There is currently a big debate and an investigation into these matters in the United States. Recently there was also what we might call a “white coup” led by Cheney, to destroy the Constitution and the special role of “checks and balances” played by the U.S. Senate; the coup was defeated. There are also indications that a new imperial strategy is being implemented by these neo-con groups through wars and destabilization operations—

Galloni: I am presently not in a position to say if behind all this, there is also a maneuver, here in Italy for example, to save the Berlusconi government, which is actually in serious difficulty, if for these American interests it is essential to keep the Berlusconi government alive. It could be that a new strategy of tension in Italy could have these aims.

EIR: I believe that today there is a growing necessity to understand the “strategy of tension” of the past decades, to explain it more thoroughly, because it has not been fully understood, as the Moro assassination has not been yet fully understood and explained.

Galloni: I understood it very well. Because the hostility of certain American sectors against Moro’s policy was in this context. When I would go to the U.S.A., I would say that the discussions with the Communists were being carried out in agreement with Enrico Berlinguer, who wanted to distance himself from Moscow. They told me that this was an illusion. “Moscow also says the same thing, because it wants to facilitate the entry of the Communists into the government.” I said that my impression was the contrary: that Moscow was strongly against Berlinguer’s policy. Those American forces were convinced that it was Moscow that was actually pushing Berlinguer to act as a sort of submarine, to get into the Italian government and stop the military bases.

This was the great difference that came out in the three meetings I mentioned before. There I realized that from the standpoint of *thinking*, they were really weak. I have to admit that from an organizational standpoint they were greatly superior. I had these three meetings, and each of the people knew exactly what I had discussed with the others, down to the last word. And then all the discussions had to be summarized for a briefing to the President. We in Italy cannot imagine being organized in this manner. I admired their organizational capability, but not their intelligence. They were not able to carry out intelligent reasoning. In the end, they always said, “No, no, no.”

And after a few years, they had the same attitude toward Andreotti. I saw some people close to Ray Cline, who was working with the CIA or something similar, who came to me in 1985 and told me that they had the sense that Andreotti was moving to the other side, Moscow’s side. At that time, Andreotti was beginning a dialogue with Gorbachov. They abruptly took the same attitude against Andreotti as they had taken with Moro earlier. In my view, the organization of the trial against Andreotti, which originated from the American mafia, with false statements, etc., was started for that reason, around 1985-86.

I remember very well that when I was a government minister, there was a government meeting in which we discussed removing our ambassador in Moscow, who did not follow our policy but openly represented the American line. He continuously gave us reports saying that Gorbachov was still following the old Soviet line.

EIR: Today, this intellectual smallness in the present Administration—

Galloni: It is the same. What the U.S. President has done, inspired by these groups, is clearly wrong. They follow that same line. We have to shake up America starting from the universities, from the intellectual layers.

EIR: That is what *EIR* and the LaRouche movement are doing.

Galloni: This is what my son Nino³ tells me, and I fully agree with this effort. This is the direction to pursue. It is very difficult, but it is the only way.

EIR: On the present strategy of a “clash of civilizations,” of preventive wars—

Galloni: It is a clear manifestation of intellectual smallness, because there is no clash of civilizations. The real problem is to gradually lead the Arab world and Islamic religion to overcome fundamentalist tendencies, and for this we need dialogue, not animosity.

EIR: Next year, an important election will take place here in Italy, which will be decisive both in terms of programmatic content and in terms of the new alliances that will be responsible for formulating and implementing the programs.

Galloni: We must go back to a proportional electoral system, similar to what Alcide De Gasperi conceived. He suggested that before elections, parties should decide on their alliances, within the proportional system. Ten years ago, we made a mistake in moving from a proportional to a majority system. It is true that the way the proportional system was used during the period of [Bettino] Craxi’s leadership provoked a crisis in the Italian political system. This came after the death of Moro, whose idea was to reach what he called “full democracy,” which Italy never experienced. Until then, one could not imagine a government led by those who were in the opposition; that is, a government led by the Communists. This was not possible; both Palmiro Togliatti and Stalin knew it. [Pietro] Nenni told me that when he went to Moscow to receive a peace prize, he was told that on the eve of the elections of April 18, 1948, Stalin personally told Togliatti: Don’t be so crazy as to believe you can win the elections in Italy, because I will not fight World War III over Italy. You have some freedom and power in the trade unions and other institutions, and you should be satisfied with that. Togliatti answered that he had no such intentions.

Moro wanted to reach a “full democracy,” in which “alter-

3. Dr. Nino Galloni is an economist who has served in several Italian government ministries, and is currently the auditor of INPDAP, the main institute coordinating pension funds for public-sector retirees. An interview with him appeared in *EIR*, Feb. 18, 2005. A staunch advocate of Lyndon LaRouche’s proposal for a New Bretton Woods system, he has been a participant in numerous *EIR* conferences and seminars.

nation” was possible; a situation possible only with a deep change in both the DC and the Communist Party [PCI]. The DC, with Zaccagnini, would become more and more open to social questions, and the PCI would break with Moscow. Moro wanted to have a step-by-step process without dramatic breaks on either side. And he once told me that we should do everything to win the elections, but in the event that we lost, we should be ready to accept the results in a democratic way. It is not true that Moro wanted to have an “historical compromise”; you cannot find one sentence of his in this direction. Once Moro was killed, Fanfani also told me that the project was no longer possible, and that the only possibility was a deal with the Socialists. At that point, Craxi no longer accepted a simple center-left coalition, but said that he first wanted to see the results of the election, and then he would make the decision about which coalition he wanted to build. Italy has followed this sort of opportunism right down to the present time. The Socialists claimed the rights of the majority, like the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (the Prime Minister), even if they had just 10% of the vote. The Socialist [Giuliano] Amato, on behalf of Craxi, even presented this concept at one of the CSIS conferences in which I took part. They wanted to become the determining factor with just 10%. The Americans laughed at this. This attitude has ruined democracy in Italy.

EIR: Italy in the international arena: What treaties and alliances should be promoted?

Galloni: I am for a great commitment to Europe, to make it able to represent a point of autonomy. India and China are asking us to strengthen Europe in order to create a better strategic equilibrium. Not in an anti-American way, but friendship with America in a new dialectical relationship. It is the strategy implicit in Article 11 of the Italian Constitution, which nobody has really analyzed in depth yet.⁴

Article 11 represents a real modern revolution, because it implies that to abolish war as a means of settling international disputes is not simply a question of discussing just or unjust wars, as has been done in the past. Abolishing war means creating international communities: the UN, Europe, etc., such that all the problems that arise among states must be resolved by these communities. These communities must have their own army, as every country has its own police force, to repress potential conflicts. That is, no war anymore, but police actions. This is the strategy. We will certainly need decades to reach this objective.

4. Article 11 reads: “Italy repudiates war as an instrument offending the liberty of peoples and as a means for settling disputes; it agrees to limitations of sovereignty where they are necessary to allow for a legal system of peace and justice between nations, provided the principle of reciprocity is guaranteed; it promotes and encourages international organizations furthering such ends.”

The Bologna Bombing

‘Strategy of Tension’ 25 Years Ago, and Now

by Claudio Celani

Twenty-five years ago, on Aug. 2, 1980, a bomb went off in the Bologna central train station, provoking the largest massacre of innocent civilians in the history of Italian post-war terrorism. Along with terror incidents in Piazza Fontana (1969), Brescia, and the Italicus train (1974), Bologna has become the symbol of the so-called “Strategy of Tension”—the use of blind terrorism to create conditions for a reactionary shift in the government.

Investigations of the Bologna massacre have identified the perpetrators, neo-fascists Giusva Fioravanti and Francesca Mambro, and some of the higher circles involved in the coverup of the terror act. This has led to a conviction against Licio Gelli, grandmaster of the conspiratorial P-2 freemasonic Lodge, his buddy Francesco Pazienza, and three top officers of the Italian military secret police (SISMI), all members of P-2.

The investigations and the numerous trials concerning the Bologna massacre have cast light on how the secret P-2 association, a product of Anglo-American synarchist circles, has played a role in the coverup of the massacre, and in the destabilization of Italy. However, as Bologna mayor Sergio Cofferati stated in his speech for the 25th anniversary, “the string-pullers are still in the dark.”

On Aug. 2, 2005, thousands of citizens of Bologna gathered in a public ceremony to commemorate the victims, as they have every year since 1980. And as in every other year, the head of the association of families of the victims, and the Bologna mayor gave speeches calling for truth and justice, interrupted several times by applause. As every other year, the government representative was met by boos, usually directed by radical leftists.

But it is not only the radicals protesting. Informed Italians see that a powerful faction in government circles represents a continuity with those conspiratorial forces which have been involved in the coverup of the Bologna investigation. In this context, former Italian President Francesco Cossiga, as spokesman of that cover-up faction, intervened on the eve of the commemoration, to propose reopening the Bologna trials. “New evidence,” he said, would suggest that it was not Italian neo-fascists, but “Palestinian radical organizations” which planted the Bologna bomb in 1980.

This suggestion was rejected. The central issue of the

speeches in Bologna, this year, as every year, was the request that the government should lift the state embargo on intelligence papers concerning the 1980 massacre.

This year, the LaRouche movement in Italy intervened at the demonstration with a leaflet that was grabbed up like hot cakes by the participants. Entitled "Dick Cheney and George Shultz's New Strategy of Tension," the leaflet said: "After 25 years, many shadows still cover the massacre which we are today commemorating, as well as other massacres of the so-called Strategy of Tension. . . ." The leaflet explained how the strategic context is defined by the economic-financial crisis, in which the oligarchy and its servants, like Dick Cheney, want to maintain their imperial design known as "globalization." "The aim is to create false confrontations, in order to pull the strings from the outside and prevent any attempt to re-establish the sovereignty of modern nation-states."

Currently Cheney, like Hitler in his bunker, is planning a war against Iran, the leaflet stated. The LaRouche movement in the U.S.A., and in the world, is leading the fight to stop this

madness and bring about a reform of the world financial and economic system, called "the New Bretton Woods."

'Terror on Trains'

On Jan. 13, 1981, Italian police found a bag on the Taranto-Milan train, containing the same kind of explosive used in Bologna, along with two guns, ammunition, newspapers, and plane tickets, all pointing to French terrorist Raphael Lagrange and German terrorist Dimitris Martin. The head of the military intelligence services (SISMI) declared that it was a bonanza of forensic evidence to help find the Bologna perpetrators.

But in 1985, all this was discovered to be false: The bag had been planted on the train by two SISMI officials, under orders by SISMI head General Santovito and his "advisor" Francesco Pazienza. All four were members of the secret P-2 Lodge. The bag had the purpose of setting investigators on the track of "international terrorists," which led to Falangist circles in Lebanon, and of detouring them from a probe of P-2

A Profile of Gelli And the P-2 Lodge

We reprint here an excerpt from "Gelli 'Comeback' Exposes Synarchists, But Threatens To Destabilize Italy," in EIR Oct. 17, 2003.

In his youth, "puppet-master" Licio Gelli was a member of the Fascist Party and participated in the Spanish Civil War on the side of the Falangists. After Sept. 8, 1943, he joined Mussolini's separatist Italian Social Republic and founded a party section in the city of Pistoia, working as a military officer in connection with the SS. Soon after, however, he established contacts with factions in the Resistance, and participated in a military action against the German occupation forces.

Later, in 1950, a report sent by American Embassy sources to Italian intelligence characterized Gelli as a Communist International agent. Thus, he fits the profile of those characterized as "nazi-communists" or "Synarchists" in wartime American intelligence files. These files described a conspiracy to establish Falangist-type regimes in continental Europe and Great Britain in the period immediately preceding World War II.

Gelli was picked up, with hundreds of "former" fascist military, intelligence, and police officials, by James J. Angleton's CIA, and recycled into the "anti-communist" government security structures of post-war Italy. . . .

Gelli was mandated by his international masters to create the P-2 project in 1965. He was introduced into Italian Freemasonry and in a few years became head of the P-2 secret lodge, supported by Grand Orient leaders Salvini and Gamberini. Gelli enrolled an incredibly large section of the national anti-communist elite, especially military and intelligence officials, but also politicians, bankers, and corporate leaders.

The P-2 also has affiliates abroad, especially in South America. It met strong opposition within Freemasonry; anti-P-2 factions tried to stop Gelli by publishing leaks on his Fascist past, and his Cominform ties. But Gelli's backing was too powerful, and with dossiers on everybody, he silenced the opposition.

In 1976, the P-2 strategy shifted after general elections saw an impressive advance of the Italian Communist Party (PCI) to 32% of the votes, only one point behind the ruling Christian Democratic Party (DC). Furthermore, Christian Democrat Aldo Moro's strategy of breaking the PCI from Moscow and involving it in a pro-Western national coalition government, was proving successful. Gelli's masters now tasked P-2 to conquer government centers of power and promote key institutional reforms, according to the guidelines described in a paper entitled "Plan for a Democratic Rebirth."

On Feb. 16, 1978, Aldo Moro was kidnapped (and killed three months later) by the terrorist Red Brigades. . . . Henry Kissinger's two-year-old threat, that Moro's attempt to nationalize the PCI "would have a bad end," was realized.

When the list of the members of the P-2 Lodge was

connected Italian neo-fascists.

Another detour attempt was made through a P-2 controlled neo-fascist, Elio Ciolini, who “revealed” to prosecutors that the string-pullers of the Bologna massacre were to be found in a secret Masonic Lodge based in Montecarlo, whose members included, among others, former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti. Eventually, Ciolini corrected his version to accuse “American billionaire Lyndon LaRoche” (sic) of being the organizer of both the Bologna massacre and the assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme!

Prosecutors spent months of valuable time going after the Lebanese connection, which proved to be false. After his first “revelations” proved to be false, prosecutors did not bother going after his second allegations, and Ciolini now sits in jail.

Today, one should ask whether the bombs found in London on July 27, which did not go off, were part of an attempt to influence investigations by planting false evidence, similar

discovered in 1981, Italians learned that the heads of *all* of the agencies which were supposed to find Moro’s prison and arrest the terrorists, were P-2 members. The Lodge’s *international* connections were merely indicated by the documented association between Michael Ledeen—a leading U.S. neo-conservative today with the American Enterprise Institute—and the P-2-controlled leadership of the SISMI military intelligence service. Francesco Cossiga, then minister of police, was Gelli’s good friend.

Despite his resignation after Moro’s death, Cossiga became Prime Minister two years later, and Italy’s President in 1985. In 1991, he launched a populist “anti-corruption, anti-organized crime” campaign against his own party, the DC; this was the starting point of the “Clean Hands” investigations and purges which dissolved all the post-war political parties and let new, populist parties fill the gap: the neo-fascist MSI (now the “post-fascist” Alleanza Nazionale); Berlusconi’s new Forza Italia; and the chauvinist Lega Nord.

In an interview with *La Repubblica*, on Sept. 28, 2003, Gelli said about Moro: “I went to Moro to present my credentials, when I was the consul for a South American country. He told me: You come in the name of a dictatorship, but Italy is a democracy. He explained to me that democracy is like a bean soup: To cook them, you must be very patient. I answered: Take care that your beans are not left without water, Signor Ministro.” The threat is clear, not only against Berlusconi, Fini, and Bossi, whom he named, but also others in the opposition, and Italian leaders opposing Cheney’s gang’s policies: You can end up as Moro did.—*Claudio Celani*

to the 1981 “Terror on Trains” operation. Interestingly, the German radio station Deutschlandfunk dedicated its early morning program Aug. 2 to a background report on the Bologna massacre, interviewing Bologna prosecutor Libero Mancuso, who referred to the “Terror on Trains” episode as a key piece of evidence against the P-2.

The program then briefly discussed the nature and history of the P-2 secret lodge as a leftover of fascism, organized by U.S. CIA head Allen Dulles, and his operations chief James Jesus Angleton, as an operation to rescue thousands of radical fascists and Nazi SS members, and to recycle them into the Western intelligence and military structure as “anti-communists.”

It is refreshing that such reports, which until now could only be found in publications associated with Lyndon LaRouche, are now beginning to be broadcast by public radio, like Germany’s Deutschlandfunk.

The Resurgence of International Fascism

Another angle of importance in the Bologna 1980 massacre concerns some neo-fascists who were indirectly involved, and who now play a role in the current reorganization of international fascist organizations: Roberto Fiore and his German ally Udo Voigt. In 1980, Fiore was a member of “Third Position,” one of the many organizations of the neo-fascist swamp, with contacts to Giusva Fioravanti, the Bologna-sentenced terrorist. At the same time, Fiore’s group had contacts with intelligence circles connected to P-2, who are suspected of having steered Fioravanti’s actions.

Fiore was forced to flee Italy after the Bologna bombing, for two reasons: One, to avoid questioning, and two, to conduct for the P-2 an “evidence-cleanup,” including assassination of embarrassing witnesses. Fiore fled to London, where he enjoyed protection by British intelligence’s MI-6, according to Italian security sources; as a result, 25 all extradition requests from Italy were turned down.

Fiore was also able to set up a business in London which made him a millionaire in a short period of time. When the statute of limitations for his crime (belonging to a terrorist organization) expired in 1996, Fiore came back to Italy. In the meantime, he had founded and directed from London a new organization, “Forza Nuova,” modelled after the Spanish Falangist organization of the same name, which was founded and led by former minister in the Franco government, Blas Piñar.

With his new organization and his new money, Fiore became a key organizer of the European alliance of neo-fascist groups, including Blas Piñar’s Fuerza Nueva, Jean Marie Le Pen’s National Front in France, and Udo Voigt’s National Democratic Party (NPD) in Germany. In the 2004 European elections, Fiore put together his Forza Nuova and other neo-fascist groups, and managed to elect their candidate, Benito Mussolini’s granddaughter Alessandra, to the European Parliament.

‘Neurotic’ Scheme for ‘Lighter’ Euro Targets Italy

by Claudio Celani

While the agony of the European Monetary Union is becoming more and more visible, some factions in the European elite are playing with the idea of trying to prolong the life of the doomed euro by making it “lighter.” That is, they would reduce the monetary union to a core group composed of Germany, France, Luxembourg, and a few smaller countries, excluding other major EMU members, notably Italy. Such a “core-euro” would keep Germany on a leash, which was the real purpose of the euro in the first place.

As this scheme is being cooked up in synarchist pots, Italy’s well-known budget difficulties and political crises are being dramatized, helping to create an “Italy case” that will be useful for the supporters of the “core Europe” strategy.

This scenario was confirmed in an interview given to the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* on Aug. 8, by Morgan Stanley economist Joachim Fels. “I hold it as relatively improbable that Italy will go out of the EMU by itself,” he said. “A more probable scenario is that the stability-oriented countries one day will say: We introduce a new, hard currency, the neuro—or whatever one wants to call it. Then the Italians and the others, who dilute the quality and the stability of the euro, will be left out.”

While Fels and his “Neurotic” faction are engaged in planning a further monetary catastrophe, allied quarters are dramatizing the current Italian budget and political crisis, in a way that recalls the 1992 “Britannia plot.” Let’s review that sordid affair. On June 2, 1992, a group of bankers from the City of London and Italian businessmen, technocrats, and politicians met onboard the Queen’s yacht to discuss privatizations and other reforms of the Italian financial and political system, in order to fit it into the new reality defined by the Maastricht Treaty (signed at the beginning of 1992). That meeting was exposed by *EIR* a year later, and since then has been associated

with the financial speculation that forced Italy out of the EMS in the Summer of 1992.

Not accidentally, Italian Deputy Prime Minister Giulio Tremonti, returning from a European tour a few weeks ago, compared the current phase of financial warfare to the 1992 Britannia plot. “Sometimes,” Tremonti said, “I think that this period has affinities with the early ’90s. Do you remember the meeting on the *Britannia*, in Summer 1992? Well, that was an elite operation, which ignored the people,” said Tremonti. “I do not think that they can try that again, ignoring popular will.” The interviewer then explained: “That cruise on the *Britannia* in the summer of 1992 is still, in the imagination of many, a metaphor for the political change which was accomplished at the expense of a piece of Italian sovereignty.”

Tremonti went on: “Today, the climate of those years is no longer there. At least, the elements of the drama are not there. We are in the euro, and a crisis similar to ours is being lived through in Germany, as well as in France. The *Britannia* cruise symbolized the price the country paid to both ‘modernize’ and to stay in the club.” The “club” Tremonti referred to is the EMU. In 1992, the Maastricht Treaty established a timetable for the introduction of the EMU, and the deflationary policy dictated by its infamous budget “parameters.”

Today, as in 1992, international rating agencies are now paying unwarranted attention to the Italian debt titles. On Aug. 8, Standard & Poor’s downgraded its economic outlook on Italy from “stable” to “negative,” a prelude to a downgrading of its bond ratings. S&P argued that both the ruling political coalition and the opposition are judged unable to enforce the so-called “structural reforms,” which the financial markets consider necessary to “stabilize” the budget. Addition-

ally, the City of London's mouthpiece, *The Economist*, on Aug. 13, called on central banker Antonio Fazio to resign, in a blatant interference in Italian affairs.

The Fight Around the Central Bank

The Economist is backing a campaign started by a coalition of international and Italian pro-globalization forces, who recently lost a banking battle against a group favored by Fazio. The issue involved the hostile takeover of a middle-sized bank, Banca Antonveneta, by the Dutch ABN-Amro group. Parallel to that, a Spanish bank launched a bid for another Italian bank, Banca Nazionale del Lavoro. Such bids aim at winning a foot-in-the-door in Italy's still large family-savings market, which some estimate at more than 140 billion euros.

Fazio organized a counter-bid to ABN-Amro, through a group of businessmen and private funds around Banca Popolare di Lodi, run by Fazio's close family friend Giampiero Fiorani. Banca Popolare's bid was higher, and ABN-Amro lost the battle. The next day, however, prosecutors in Milan started a spectacular action, which included freezing Banca Antonveneta's shares at the pre-bid situation, and opening an investigation of Fiorani and his partners. Additionally, papers from the Prosecutor's office were leaked to the press, including wiretapped conversations between Fazio and Fiorani, and Fiorani and Fazio's wife. Although such tapes contain nothing legally incriminating, they show a level of compromising familiarity among the three, which has brutally damaged Fazio's political image and prestige.

In the wake of this campaign, calls for Fazio to resign have mounted from several political quarters, including from Fiat chairman Luca di Montezemolo, who is also head of the Industrialists' association. Ironically, the faction which is loudly demanding Fazio's resignation, last year backed him on the Parmalat and Argentine bond scandal. In that scandal, Finance Minister Tremonti had correctly insisted that the central bank had overlooked, or even concealed, Parmalat's real bankruptcy situation by allowing it to issue bonds which were eventually defaulted. Furthermore, Fazio defended Italian banks which had sold those bonds to retail customers, and had previously sold defaulted Argentine bonds.

The central issue here is not to take the side of one or another group of gangsters, but rather to expose and denounce the unconstitutional status of the Bank of Italy, which is owned by those same banks it is supposed to oversee! In fact, as a result of post-1992 privatizations, the Italian central bank is *entirely* owned by private banks. More than 65% of its shares are in the hands of three banks: Intesa group, San Paolo IMI, and Capitalia. Other banks and insurance groups own smaller percentages. On this basis, no one could believe Fazio when he insisted that he had moved to defend "national interests," even if that were true.

Such control over the central bank is not only illegal, but unconstitutional. As Lyndon LaRouche's representative in Italy, Paolo Raimondi, stated on Aug. 10, "Article 1 of the

[Italian] Constitution says that 'sovereignty belongs to the people, who perform it according to the forms and the limits of the Constitution.' Therefore, monetary sovereignty is integral to, and inseparable from, the sovereignty of the nation-state and cannot be entrusted to private banking interests, or even become their property." Raimondi called for nationalization of the Bank of Italy and a serious "exit strategy" out of the euro system.

Raimondi also blasted those politicians who are demagogically using such issues as electoral weapons, in view of the general elections upcoming next Spring. He referred to the Lega Nord party, whose leaders provocatively said, "we must go back to the lira" without seriously meaning it, and Prime Minister Berlusconi himself, who during a recent party meeting stated, "Prodi's euro has conned us," thus capturing European media attention.

LaRouche Euro 'Exit Strategy' Proposed

Raimondi supported Helga Zepp-LaRouche's proposal to re-establish national monetary sovereignty, and announced initiatives in the Italian Parliament for the nationalization of the central bank. As Parliament returns at the end of August, the Senate Finance Committee is supposed to discuss a reform of the Bank of Italy. This will be a test to see whether synarchist plans for Italy and Europe are going to be successful, or whether the "L" factor—the LaRouche factor—will derail them.

At least one member of Parliament who has backed LaRouche in the New Bretton Woods debate last April, Rep. Alfonso Gianni, has publicly intervened along the lines of Raimondi. In an article for his party newspaper, *Liberazione*, Gianni commented that the moral quality of the central banker had degenerated well before the latest scandal. "However, the question concerns the structure and the functions of the central bank. . . . the Bank of Italy is a subject of public law, with a totally private corporate structure, a singular hybrid." Pointing to the fact that the shareholders of the Bank of Italy have always been major Italian banks, Gianni remarked that since those banks have been privatized, actual and formal ownership of the central bank is in the hands of "a tangled web of private interests which besieges the central bank and its governor."

Even Governor Fazio, Gianni noted, "raised more than one doubt about the hybrid nature of the Bank of Italy, and the issue must be solved by establishing a fully effective public control."

Guido Crosetto, a member of Parliament from Berlusconi's Forza Italia party, also spoke out for reform, saying that "The question is not to introduce the limited mandate, but to deeply reform the Bank of Italy, in such a way that the State, and not the banks, are its main shareholders." However, others in his party are pushing for a reform which gives the central bank even more independence from the state.

Got Drought? Tend Man's Garden

by Franklin Bell

Is the multi-year drought across the American West and northern Mexico, spreading east? More than the primary U.S. water transport systems and the Corn Belt are under attack. What's the solution?

As with the other stuff, drought happens. Midwesterners recall 1997, 1988, and 1983. June 2005 was only the tenth-driest since 1895 in Illinois. Yet the drought now is bad enough to shut down barge traffic on the usually mighty Ohio River, at its confluence with the Mississippi, the heart of the nation's interior supposedly navigable waterways system. And even on the Mississippi—the river U.S. Grant proclaimed “too thick to drink, too wet to plow”—barges are having to lighten their loads to get through the channels. On the Missouri, it's a constant fight between *leaving* some water upstream, and *having* some downstream.

Worldwide Problem

The transport-disrupting, crop-destroying drought in the Midwest is but part of a world picture. Spain is in the midst of its worst drought in more than a half century. Portugal, and parts of France, Italy, and Greece are also afflicted. European Union officials say this year is on track to match the disastrous wildfire year 2003, when some 740,000 hectares (nearly 1,830,000 acres) were charred. Along Thailand's eastern seaboard, the Federation of Thai Industries in July said that water supplies would only last another month. Goats are dropping of thirst by the roadsides in western China, where drought has dried up 80,000 storage ponds. In India's northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, the Islamic Republic News Agency quotes the state's Agriculture Minister saying, “Rats in hundreds are destroying paddy fields, fruit farms, and even entering houses.” And drought, locusts, disease, and malnutrition threaten some 200 million people in the nations of sub-Saharan Africa, while the financial oligarchy and its Malthusian governments wring hands and tighten screws.

So who's doing what about it? In the United States, almost weekly, another Midwest governor announces that he's asking U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns for emergency disaster relief for his state's farmers. When Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich appealed to the Bush regime, he asked that every one of the state's 102 counties be declared “natural” disaster areas. Allen Baker, a USDA Economic Research Service corn analyst, is putting a happy farmer face on the destruction of the crop. Twenty-nine of the country's 33 corn-producing

states are going to have lower yields than last year. But prices remain low.

Overall the U.S. corn harvest this fall is expected to be 12% less than that of 2004. In Illinois, it will be down by one-third, contributing to a \$2 billion loss for the state's farmers. “Prices will be stronger,” Baker told the *Christian Science Monitor* recently. But last year was a bumper year for corn. Ample stored supplies mean that prices may not go up as much as farmers would hope. And, for its part, *The New York Times* has helped by writing drought copy that begins and ends with the plight of Harrah's on the Ohio—the Illinois riverboat casino forced to shut down for a couple of nights because the boat was more than figuratively stuck in the mud.

As the Aug. 18 U.S. Department of Agriculture Drought Monitor (**Figure 1**) shows, the Rocky Mountain West, the West Coast, and the High Plains are no longer the regions most severely ravaged by drought. But neither are they in danger of being declared wetlands. The drought of the past six, seven, eight, or more years there is still making havoc. Lake Meade and Lake Powell, the two huge reservoirs on the Colorado River that supply water to much of the West, are still below 50% of capacity. Lake Powell could be dry by 2007. South Dakota Secretary of Agriculture Larry Gabriel reports that some 190,000 acres of the West are currently ablaze. And millions of acres of drought-stressed forests in the 12 Western states are being killed by beetles. Last year, it was 8.6 million acres, according to U.S. Forest Service figures; in 1997, it was 1.4 million. This provides ready fuel for more fires.

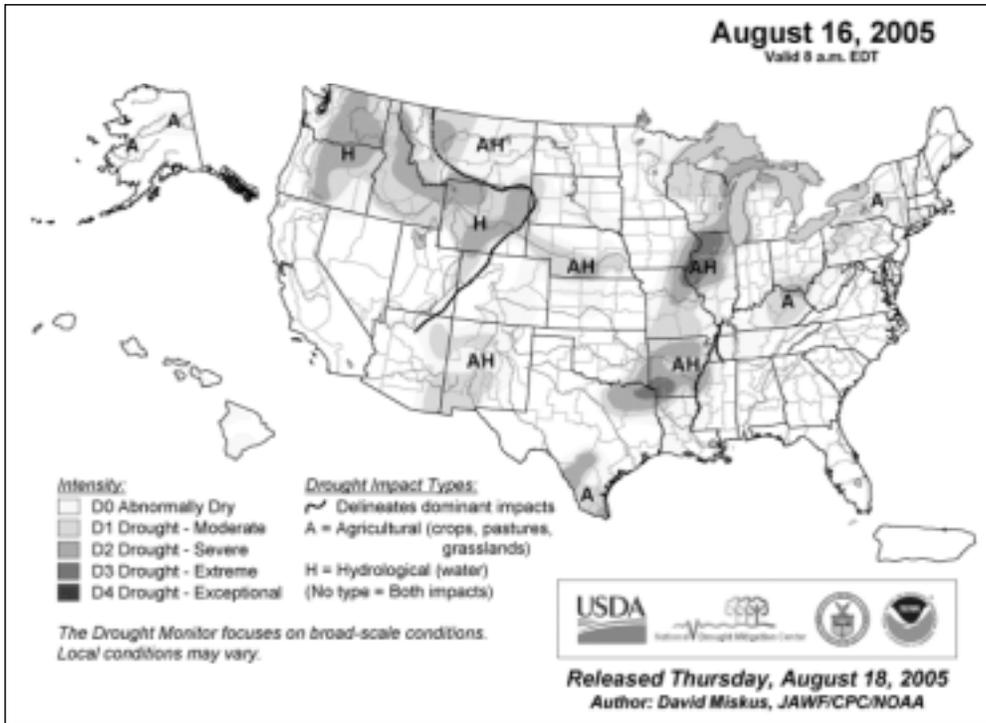
Ask Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld where the states' primary firefighters, their National Guards, are. South Dakota rancher Ron Wiczorek reports that cattlemen there are seeing flare-ups of endemic anthrax, caused in part by drought, but also by lax standards of vaccination in a de facto deregulated environment.

Not Just Mother Nature

Why do variants of these “natural” calamities sow their destruction time and again? The short answer is that we have not been tending man's garden. We've let existing infrastructure go to hell, and refused to build new. Example: along the bottlenecked Ohio at its confluence with the Mississippi are two decrepit relics, Locks 52 and 53. Built in 1929, and duct-taped since, they were long ago slated to be replaced by the Olmstead Locks and Dam. The Waterways Council now says when that will be completed “is not certain.” Continental water development projects, such as the North American Water and Power Alliance, which could augment river flows even during dry spells, have lain 40 years on the drawing boards. Safe, modern nuclear power plants, which could lessen the use of coal, are on Greenpeace's trophy room wall. And railroads, which once served as arterial alternates to barge transport, have been allowed to degenerate to trike paths.

FIGURE 1

Areas of Severe Drought, Harming Agriculture and Water Uses, August 2005



Barge Traffic Halted on Ohio River, Above Confluence with Mississippi, Due To Very Low Water Level



7-Mile stretch on Ohio River, closed in August

White House Hand Is Behind Labor's Troubles

by Anita Gallagher

The AFL-CIO's recent divisions, attributed to differences among member unions in organizing strategy, should instead be laid at the feet of those who run the George W. Bush Administration, who pre-planned an unparalleled assault on the labor constituency of the Democratic Party after November 2000. They "hit the ground running" to implement it within Bush's first 50 days.

Later, as planned, this assault on unions' ability to organize, would broaden through the Department of Labor, and its new General Counsel, Eugene Scalia, son of the Constitutional illiterate Antonin Scalia; it would include the imposition of staggering reporting requirements on all union locals, attempts to destroy overtime pay, and periodic boasts of indictments of union officials. When Bush achieved a majority on the five-person National Labor Relations Board, through expiration of the staggered terms of Bill Clinton's three Democratic appointees, the NLRB began to hand down far-reaching decisions in 2004: They denied the right to organize to temporary workers, the handicapped, and graduate students required to teach. Now, with the recent *Guardsmark* case, the NLRB—which was created under the the National Labor Relations Act in 1935, *not* to be neutral, but rather "to encourage[] the practice and procedure of collective bargaining"—has reached into America's living rooms to uphold employers' prohibitions against employee fraternization *on and off the job*.

As of June, American Rights at Work estimates that more than 10,000 workers had been fired in the first half of 2005 alone, for trying to organize unions.

Of course, labor's organizing prospects could be transformed by U.S. Senate-led legislation to retool the auto industry, re-regulate airlines, and create 20 million new jobs rebuilding America's infrastructure, as Democratic statesman Lyndon LaRouche has proposed in the face of the systemic world financial blowout that is imminent. Labor would immediately rally behind such a Franklin Roosevelt-type plan, if the Senate were to enact it. But labor has been targeted for destruction.

Blitz of Executive Orders

Five of the first eight Executive Orders—13201 through 13205—issued in the first 50 days of George W. Bush's Presidency attacked organized labor, demonstrating the intention

of Karl Rove and the other Bush brains. Two orders were so clearly in violation of existing laws, that they were quickly overturned and modified.

Bush's E.O. 13202 proclaimed that no government contractor or agency could any longer require contractors to enter into Project Labor Agreements (PLAs), specifying the pay scale, work rules, and no-work-stoppage agreements on any project. It threatened government action against any contractor who enforced PLAs. On March 9, 2001, Bush issued Executive Order 13205, establishing a Presidential Emergency Board to "investigate" a dispute between Northwest Airlines and its union mechanics. Such an Emergency Board, as the AFL-CIO has pointed out, takes the employer off the hook for any real bargaining for the 60 days provided by the governing Railway Labor Act, and bars the union from action.

Bush convened five more Presidential Emergency Boards through Executive Orders, "investigating" United Airlines and its mechanics, American Airlines and its Flight Attendants, the International Longshore Workers Union on the West Coast, and two against the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority's (SEPTA) unionized employees. The Clinton policy had been that labor and employers would bargain in good faith and settle their own disputes.

The Bush Administration also issued an Executive Order quietly opening the nation's air traffic control system to privatization, declaring in E.O. 13180, that air traffic control is not "an inherently governmental function," and in 2002, E.O. 13264, that air traffic is a "performance-based organization."

The Bush Administration's attempt to break the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE)—by exempting the Homeland Security Agency, the Department of Defense, the Transit Safety Administration, and more—targetted 850,000 Federal workers. U.S. District Judge Rosemary Collyer finally issued the first "recall" to this attempt on Aug. 15, 2005, ruling that the 160,000 workers of the Department of Homeland Security have a right to collective bargaining, and that White House rules have violated that right.

Department of Labor vs. Labor

The Department of Labor (DOL) has exercised real activism against labor, acting as the driver for an attack on overtime pay, and for Bush's proposed pension overhaul plan, that would cause most companies to abandon "defined-benefit" plans, were it enacted.

In December 2002, the Labor Department announced that it had changed the union reporting forms in effect since 1959 (called LM-2s), requiring far more extensive reporting, to "help union members . . . detect financial mismanagement and misconduct by union officials." The same press release boasts, "U.S. Labor Department investigations of union financial fraud result in an average of 11 criminal convictions a month, with a total of more than 640 convictions in the last five years."

Approximately 30,000 unions nationwide, representing private and Federal employees, must file annual LM-2 forms.



EIRNS/Stuart Lewis



SEIU

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney (left) and SEIU President Andy Stern. The split between them is the fault of the Bush Administration's assault on organized labor since the 2000 elections.

Labor officials have told *EIR* that officers must also file LM-30 forms, which report every transaction of \$25 or more that could be construed as a contribution to the union official or his family, by any entity doing business with the union. Other union officers submit forms detailing their activities every hour of the day. AFL-CIO President John Sweeney estimates that the Labor Department's new reporting requirements will cost labor unions \$1 billion a year, necessitating the hiring of armies of accountants.

Halliburton and its officers suffer no such oversight requirement.

NLRB and the Right to Organize

The NLRB was created by the Wagner Act in 1935 to encourage collective bargaining. Since 2004, when Bush appointees have been in the majority, the NLRB has made a series of shocking decisions—whatever its failings may have been in previous decades—that call into question the right to associate in a union by ruling out temporary workers, the disabled, and other large classes of workers, and threatening the “card check” procedure, increasingly used to win union representation in the face of employer pressure on representation elections.

- In November 2004, the NLRB ruled that temporary workers from an agency cannot join with permanent staff to form a union in the Oakwood Care Center case, reversing a Clinton-era precedent. At the end of 2004, there were 2.5 million temporary employees in the workforce, and the hiring of temps has accounted for nearly one-half the private jobs created between 2002 and the end of 2004, according to Amy Joyce of the *Washington Post*. The decision appears to make these workers non-organizable.

- In September 2004, when disabled and non-disabled janitors of Brevard Achievement Center petitioned for a

union representation election, the NLRB upheld Brevard's refusal, ruling that the disabled janitors were not employees because their relationship to their employer was primarily rehabilitative.

- In the case of Brown University's denial of a union representation election to teaching graduate students in July 2004, the NLRB upheld Brown, ruling that the graduate assistants' primary relationship with the University was “educational,” and reversing the precedent allowing unions.

In the Dana Corp. and Metadyne Corp. case, the NLRB is now reviewing whether to throw out the one-year period during which union representation cannot be challenged if a union wins a “card check” procedure (30% of the employees sign cards designating a union

and present them immediately). NLRB data show that employers are now winning 45% of secret ballot representation elections, conducted by the NLRB seven weeks after requested, precisely because they have seven weeks to intimidate employees through meetings, scare stories, etc. before the election is held.

In the Harborside Healthcare case, the NLRB invalidated a union election because a health-care supervisor had solicited a union authorization card. The NLRB said that supervisors do not have to make threats or promise benefits for pro-union conduct to be considered objectionable. Furthermore, the NLRB decided to make its ruling retroactive to 2000! Many health-care employees are not even aware that they are classified as supervisors, according to Erin Johansson of American Rights at Work.

The assault on labor is also waxing at the state level by Rove-brained Republican Governors. Missouri Governor Matt Blunt rescinded collective bargaining rights for state employees this year. Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels, the former Bush White House Budget Director, overturned a state executive order that, for the past 15 years, had allowed state workers collective bargaining. Maryland Gov. Robert Ehrlich suspended a 2% pay increase that state employees had negotiated with his Democratic predecessor. All three were copy-cattling the union-busting of California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Such conduct is, to put it simply, anti-American. As the National Labor Relations Act, or “Wagner Act,” signed by Franklin Roosevelt on July 5, 1935, proclaimed, “It is the policy of the United States to eliminate the cause of certain substantial obstructions to the free flow of commerce . . . by encouraging the practice and procedures of collective bargaining, and by protecting the exercise by workers of full freedom of association.”

Will Warren Buffett Be The New Samuel Insull?

by Paul Gallagher

When George W. Bush signed the new energy bill in an Albuquerque ceremony on Aug. 8, Omaha-based mega-billionaire Warren Buffett could take the most direct credit for the legislation's worst mistake: repeal of the 1935 Public Utilities Holding Company Act (PUHCA). Buffett, advisor and political controller of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, and a mover of the disastrous California "electricity deregulation" fiasco of 2000-01, had repeatedly told Congressional committees since then, that he had \$10 billion he would invest in electric utility infrastructure as soon as Congress repealed PUHCA. The so-called super-investor and "sage of Omaha" personally lobbied all the western states' governors on that idea, and his flunky George Sokol, CEO of the MidAmerican Energy Holdings subsidiary of Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Corp., lobbied former Congressman Billy Tauzin of Louisiana to first put PUHCA repeal in the House version of what's now the new energy act.

With Franklin Roosevelt's landmark PUHCA out of the way, Buffett thinks it will now be a simple matter for his MidAmerican to buy the major Oregon-based electric utility, PacifiCorp, triggering a wave of takeovers of utilities by financial companies, conglomerates, and larger utilities. Texas Pacific Group, backed by Berkshire Hathaway shareholder Bill Gates and Buffett, will buy Portland General Electric, a sale that was previously blocked. The big energy-marketing conglomerates Cinergy and Exelon, which have bought up half the nation's nuclear power plants between them, will merge, respectively, with Duke Energy and Public Service Enterprise Group. The 2000 purchase by American Electric Power of Central and Southwest Corp. created the country's biggest mega-utility, and was waved through by the passive Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)—but then *declared in violation of PUHCA* by the Securities and Exchange Commission this year. With PUHCA repealed and SEC chairman William Donaldson booted out by the White House, it will now be home free. The United States' 220 investor-owned public utilities will be up for sale, and "within the next five to ten years, could shrink to just 10," as one leading energy lawyer forecast.

With MidAmerican, Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway has formed a classic, nationwide, speculative public utility holding company of the 1920s type to which Roosevelt's PUHCA

gave the death sentence. It owns utilities and/or power plants in Nebraska, Iowa, California, and in England; is near adding one or more utilities in the Northwest; and has gotten control of North America's biggest gas pipeline networks (**Figure 1**) for sales to utilities in a period in which both electric usage and prices of natural gas have been, and are still, rising sharply. Using Berkshire Hathaway loans to distressed energy companies at rates of interest ranging up to 30%, Buffett assembled the gas pipeline complex, at bargain-basement prices, out of the self-destruction of Enron, Williams, Dynegy, and other "energy pirates" who roamed the high seas of deregulation. MidAmerican is also the second-largest residential real estate brokerage in the United States, through its HomeServices of America subsidiary, much of which is based in California.

Allow History To Repeat?

Before PUHCA, in the 1920s, the barons of the speculative public utility holding companies were Samuel Insull's Commonwealth Edison and J.P. Morgan's General Electric. Insull was an engineer who had worked with Thomas Edison, but by the "Roaring Twenties" became an ally of the Morgan financiers who had taken what was originally Edison General Electric, away from the great inventor and builder.

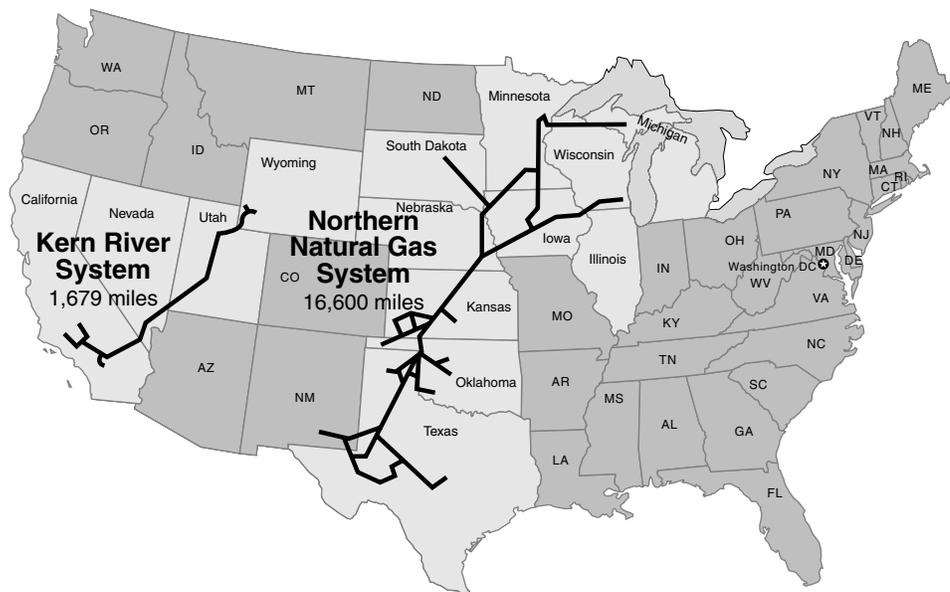
As *EIR*'s Richard Freeman described in a 2000 report, "Between 1922 and 1927, the utility holding companies swallowed more than 300 small to medium-sized private companies *per year*. The holding companies financed the takeover of the smaller companies by issuing either new debt or new stock. . . . During the 1920s, one-third of all corporate financing in America was issued by private power companies. . . . The private electric holding company was leading the speculative stock market boom." Why? The utilities they were buying up were ideal cash-revenue sources for diversion to other speculation. "In 1930, the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee held hearings in which it found that utility holding companies' servicing fees imposed upon subsidiary companies often 'milk[ed] the subsidiaries [so that] in many instances they yielded profits ranging from 51% to 321% of the cost of the services performed.'" Electricity rates, of course, rose considerably, while the spread of electrification out of the cities into rural areas, was blocked.

Samuel Insull's holding company empire controlled 10% of all electricity generation in America by 1929, with 18 major holding companies owning more than 175 operating companies. (Morgan's United Corp. supergroup of holding companies had far more control, 27% of all electricity-generating capacity in the United States; with General Electric as well, Morgan's control was near 40%.)

"Between January and August 1929, a share of stock of Insull's Commonwealth Edison more than doubled in price, from \$202 to \$450, while a share of stock of Insull's Middle West Utilities more than tripled in price, from \$169 to \$529." But in April 1932, denied loans by Morgan and the other New

FIGURE 1

Warren Buffett's Natural Gas Pipeline Empire



York banks, Insull's companies defaulted on \$200 million in obligations, hitting their investors with stock losses which may have reached \$2 billion. Insull fled the country.

Already in the first week of August 2005, a boom in utility stocks took off, in anticipation of the buyouts and mergers the new energy act will allow. Standard and Poor's research division forecast in a July report that stocks of the merged utilities would be "levered up to use the cash to invest in higher-risk, unrelated ventures" (the 1920s term was "watered" stock).

The 2005 Energy Act repeals PUHCA, modifies the New Deal-enacted Natural Gas Act, and weakens the 1935 Federal Power Act, which was passed to give the Federal government the power to ensure "reasonable pricing" in wholesale (interstate and inter-region) sales of electricity. That Act had already been deliberately unenforced since 2000, against the dereg looters like Enron, Reliant, etc., by the FERC which is supposed to enforce it.

The *Christian Science Monitor* noted on Aug. 1 that FERC "hasn't rejected a utility merger since 1994. When states' attorneys general recently requested a hearing by FERC on whether consumers might be harmed by the nation's largest proposed utility merger of Newark-based Public Service Enterprise Group and Chicago-based Exelon Corporation, FERC declined. It approved the merger in July without a hearing."

The legislation also stops the states from enforcing regulations which the Bush Administration has let lie fallow, and allows Washington, for example, to overrule the states' blocking of dangerous liquefied natural gas (LNG) ports and stor-

age terminals, which will further drive up the price of natural gas if they're widely built on the coasts. The feckless FERC will be able to bypass state licensing proceedings and streamline environmental review by other Federal agencies. Immediately, California's court challenge to a Buffett/CalEnergy LNG terminal proposed in Long Beach Harbor, will be trumped, as the Federal government will now control LNG siting.

The bill removes the major impediment to investment in the electricity and natural gas industries by non-utility businesses, from private equity funds, to large manufacturing companies, to investment banks. In addition, it removes

geographic limits to the size of electric and gas utilities.

Buffett and Wal-Mart

Fifty percent of the revenues and net profits of Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway empire come from ownership of insurance companies, and another full one-third comes from owning McLane Corp., the distribution company for all Wal-Mart goods. The third and fourth major areas, are residential real estate and natural gas fields and pipelines. Insurance company holdings are risky; the sector is currently using high premiums of all kinds to make up for Greenspan's low-interest-rate regime and for unpredictably surging disaster claims. Let the U.S. real estate bubble deflate—along with the consumer spending dependent on it—and Buffett would be facing low-to-negative returns in much of his empire.

Berkshire Hathaway has essentially been a high-interest bank to MidAmerican Energy Holdings, charging the latter 11.5% on nearly \$2 billion in loans since its acquisition by Buffett in 2001. Berkshire Hathaway charged Williams Corp. 30% for the loan by which Buffett eventually grabbed his biggest pipeline network; and he is trying to do the same to Nebraska Public Power, from whose Cooper nuclear unit MidAmerican buys power. For PacifiCorp, all his talk is of windpower, biopower, and investment in transmission systems. But *The Oregonian* on July 18 warned that Buffett wants a captive PacifiCorp primarily to lend to it—up to \$4.5 billion—at high interest rates (thus driving up its electricity rates), to develop it as a cash source for his other investments.

The utilities Buffett's buying up could become his cash cows—until they end up like Sam Insull's.

Abramoff Indictment Makes Bush Regime a Fat Target

by Anton Chaitkin

Following a Federal indictment by the Florida U.S. Attorney on Aug. 11, the FBI arrested and jailed lobbyist Jack Abramoff, the financial godfather for House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-Tex.). Now released on bail, Abramoff will face trial for fraud and conspiracy in the takeover and looting of the Florida-based SunCruz gambling casino cruise-ship line. SunCruz's former owner Gus Boulis was murdered in a mob-style killing on Feb. 6, 2001.

Abramoff has been an architect of the power cartel behind DeLay, feeding the Congressman money siphoned from the multi-billion-dollar empire of Indian gambling casinos and Pacific island sweatshops under Abramoff's sway.

Abramoff and his two behind-the-scenes career partners, Grover Norquist and Ralph Reed, organized the rise of "DeLay, Inc.," by coercing corporations and their lobbyists (the "K Street Project") and whipping up religious fanatics (the Christian Coalition) for the money and muscle that bought DeLay his dictatorship over Congress.

These same arrangements are at the heart of the political system sustaining the Bush-Cheney Administration. With multiple criminal and Congressional investigations now pursuing DeLay, Dick Cheney, Karl Rove, and their cohorts, Abramoff's fall opens a new window on the criminal underpinnings of the entire Bush regime.

Jack, Grover, and Ralph

Tom DeLay moved up fast in the Republican leadership in the 1990s, funded by Enron and other donors through Political Action Committees (PACs), with Abramoff as DeLay's leading fixer and solicitor. The climb to power depended on

Abramoff's personal ties to Grover Norquist and Ralph Reed, dating back to the trio's joint leadership of the College Republicans on behalf of radical-right financiers.

DeLay got plugged into money and influence among corporate representatives in what was known as the "K Street (home of Washington lobbyists) Project," run by political manager Grover Norquist.

Grover and Jack demanded that lobbyists work exclusively with the GOP and hire only Republicans into the lobbying firms, if they were to have access to DeLay and Congress. This became the apparatus of the Bush-Cheney Administration after 2000. Every Wednesday, Norquist presides over meetings of financiers' agents (Mont Pelerin Society/Heritage Foundation), lobbyists, herders of religious fundamentalists, and Bush/Cheney representatives.

Abramoff's first big client was the government of the U.S. Pacific territory, the Northern Mariana Islands. He got \$9 million for himself and donations for DeLay's PACs by pushing virtual slave labor in the Marianas' unregulated garment sweatshops. Norquist promoted these Asian-Pacific cheap-labor schemes, while DeLay forced legislation through Congress permitting labor-crushing conditions in the islands.

Abramoff made tens of millions as America's biggest lobbyist for Indian gambling casinos, funding DeLay's PACs. DeLay exulted: "Although American Indians were for many years identified almost exclusively as part of the Democrat coalition, that view has changed. People recognize that Jack Abramoff has been an important part of this transition." (DeLay to the *Wall Street Journal*, July 2000, quoted in Stephen Pizzo, "Tom DeLay's Axis of Influence," AlterNet, May 14, 2002.) DeLay put through a bill in June 2000, giving land to Abramoff's Choctaw tribe in connection with casino gambling.

Federal prosecutors and Senate investigators are now



Jack Abramoff

probing Abramoff's reported bilking of tens of millions of dollars from his Indian clients. The scams were aided by laundering of tribal monies through donations to Norquist's Americans for Tax Reform. (Norquist was also the paid strategist for the Internet gambling industry, working with Abramoff and DeLay to profit from and protect Internet casinos.)

Abramoff and Norquist passed along to Ralph Reed monies drained from tribal treasuries. Reed was the founding executive director of Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition—the hard-core support apparatus behind DeLay, and formulator of much of his rhetoric. The tribes paid Abramoff and his junior partner, former DeLay aide Michael Scanlon, for their influence in curtailing gambling enterprises by rival tribes. Reed took millions of this casino loot and paid his Christian Coalition networks to campaign against competing casinos.

Abramoff even took millions from the Tigua Indians to reopen their Texas casino after he and Reed had secretly schemed to shut it down.

The Enron Corporation funded the startup of DeLay's array of PACs. In the late 1990s, Enron hired Reed to push its energy-deregulation agenda through the political process. Reed took in about \$300,000, until Enron blew up and took the state of California into financial ruin with it. At the same time, the Karl Rove-directed Presidential campaign of George W. Bush hired Reed as a tactician and dirty trickster. By the 2004 election, Reed chaired the Bush-Cheney campaign in the southeastern U.S.A., and, with Rove, coordinated the Bush strategy for mobilizing religious mobs and demoralizing minority voters.

Interior and Offshore

The SunCruz takeover that led to Abramoff's arrest was only one of the ventures related to gambling enterprises in the complex of lobbying swindles run by the "DeLay, Inc." partners and their Administration accomplices.

The Interior Department has regulatory authority over American Indian tribes, with great potential for corrupt rewards and penalties in matters such as tribal casinos. Gale Norton, appointed as Bush's Interior Secretary in 2001, chaired the Council of Republicans for Environmental Advocacy (CREA), a corporate lobbying/influence front group set up in 1998 by Grover Norquist. CREA has reportedly received some \$250,000 in contributions from Abramoff's Indian tribes.

Abramoff also made Congressional arrangements such as with Sen. Conrad Burns (R-Mont.), who became chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Appropriations for the Interior Department.

In late January 2001, a few days after George W. Bush's first inauguration, Abramoff flew Burns's chief of staff Will Brooke to Florida for a gambling jaunt on Jack's just-acquired SunCruz line.

At the time of Abramoff's Florida trip with staff members for Burns and DeLay, former SunCruz owner Gus Boulis was strongly protesting having been shortchanged \$23 million by

Abramoff and his partner Adam Kidan. On Feb. 6, 2001, Boulis was gunned down in the street. Was there a connection?

Federal Election Commission records show that 16 days later, on Feb. 22, Abramoff and Kidan each gave \$5,000 contributions to Senator Burns's "Friends of the Big Sky" PAC. Some \$136,000 from Abramoff and his associates went to sponsor Burns's political machine in 2001-02.

Shawn Vasell, another Abramoff junior partner in the looting of Indians, went to work for Burns's staff in 2002, and then rejoined Abramoff.

Chairing the Interior Appropriation Subcommittee, Senator Burns rammed through a \$3 million grant for the casino-owning Saginaw Chipewas, Abramoff's clients, from Federal education funds earmarked for poor tribes.

In the sensation of Abramoff's Aug. 11 arrest, Democratic Party ads hit Conrad Burns as an Abramoff stooge. Vice President Cheney rushed out to Montana to speak on Aug. 15 at a Burns fundraiser, praising the Senator as a loyal supporter of the Bush-Cheney agenda.

Abramoff and Kidan have now been indicted on Federal fraud charges. To get \$60 million in loans for acquiring SunCruz, they allegedly forged documents and lied to the Foothill Capital firm and another lender. On Sept. 18, 2000, while closing the deal, Foothill Capital's vice president, Greg C. Walker, was treated to a seat in Abramoff's personal box at the Washington Redskins' stadium, where Walker was introduced to Tom DeLay, then the House Majority Whip.

Jack and Karl

The dubious 2004 elections, which returned Bush and Cheney to office, were conducted under provisions of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), which had been shepherded through the Cheney-DeLay-controlled Congress. It is noteworthy that the author of the HAVA election law, Ohio Republican Congressman Bob Ney, is implicated with Abramoff and his partners.

When Abramoff sought to pressure Gus Boulis to relinquish ownership of SunCruz, Ney took to the floor of Congress to denounce Boulis as unfit to run his Florida company. After Abramoff took possession of SunCruz (and a \$500,000 salary), but hadn't paid Boulis what he was owed, Ney spoke in Congress, praising Jack's partner Adam Kidan, now running SunCruz. Ney described him as a man of integrity, though Kidan was bankrupt, had been disbarred as an attorney, and was paying over \$100,000 in SunCruz funds to Anthony Moscatiello, a man identified by law enforcement as an associate in the Gambino crime family and the bookkeeper of the gang's boss, John Gotti.

In the audacious Abramoff/Reed swindle of the Tigua Indians, Ney promised to insert into the HAVA law a clause reopening the Tigua casino. It was a political support deal worked out for Ney between Abramoff and the Indians. Though Ney did get Abramoff-steered contributions, Congress balked, and the Tigua clause was never added to HAVA.

Ney is known as a loyal and close associate of Presidential advisor Karl Rove, part of the Rove team that nailed the show-down state of Ohio in the filthy 2004 elections.

Rove himself has recently come under intense scrutiny, in connection with the felonious leaking of Valerie Plame Wilson's identity as a covert CIA officer (the Cheney team hit back at Plame's husband, Ambassador Joseph Wilson, for discrediting their lies that started the Iraq War.)

Here again, the Abramoff indictment invites deeper inquiries that could help set off a rip-tide, pulling down the regime.

As the Bush-Cheney Administration began in 2001, Jack Abramoff was an official member of the Administration's transition team (for the Interior Department!). Abramoff recommended that Karl Rove should take, as his personal secretary, Susan B. Ralston, who was at the time the personal aide of Jack Abramoff. Ralston got the post as Rove's executive assistant, in charge of screening calls that went to Rove, and thus affecting access to the President.

When the Plame affair went before a Federal grand jury, Ralston was compelled to testify, and had to leave the job with Rove.

Salon online magazine reported that Ralston, while working for Rove, would call Grover Norquist to ask if callers should be put through to Rove; only if Norquist approved, would the call would go through.

So, anyone attempting to reach Karl Rove might have to pass through the Norquist-Abramoff channel.

President Bush has now nominated former White House lawyer Timothy Flanigan as Deputy Attorney General, one of the most powerful officials in the Justice Department. The Cheney team apparently hopes that Flanigan would have oversight and possible control over the Plame prosecution.

But the Flanigan nomination has run into a snag. It has been revealed that when Flanigan was general counsel for the Bermuda-based firm, Tyco International, he hired Abramoff to lobby against legislation that would have barred Federal contracts to companies like Tyco that are based in offshore tax havens. In 2003-04, Flanigan paid \$1.7 million to Abramoff's lobbying firm and another \$1.5 million to an Abramoff front company.

Abramoff reportedly told Flanigan that he would lobby Karl Rove about the matter.

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Is Rumsfeld Plan To Close Bases Crumbling?

by Carl Osgood

As the date for the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission's (BRAC) final deliberations comes closer, almost every day sees the emergence of more evidence suggesting that Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's base closing plan is in trouble. One such signal appeared in the Aug. 14 edition of the *New York Times*, which reported that eight of the nine members of the BRAC Commission were questioning the Pentagon's savings estimate of \$50 billion over 20 years. Most of the commission members interviewed by the *Times* said they agreed with a Government Accountability Office report which concluded that nearly half of the Pentagon's projected cost savings came from cuts in military jobs that would not actually be cut, but rather, relocated to other installations.

"I fail to see at this point how you could arrive at the figures they arrived at," said commission chairman Anthony Principi. "We're going through this effort to save money from excess capacity to modernize forces. If the savings aren't there, and it costs money to do this on top of all the economic upheaval, why are we doing this?"

While members of the commission are expressing more uncertainties, the anger in Congress continues to seethe. Senate Armed Services Committee chairman John Warner (R-Va.) is challenging the commission's apparent willingness to accommodate the state of Florida's attempt to poach the Navy fighter jets stationed at Oceana Naval Air Station in Virginia Beach. As reported previously by *EIR* (see *EIR* Aug. 12), the commission voted on July 19 to consider Oceana for closure, because of encroachment issues that impinge upon the training of Navy fighter pilots stationed at Oceana. That vote immediately brought forth proposals from Florida, Texas, and North Carolina for alternatives to the Oceana base. Only Florida succeeded in getting a hearing, scheduled for Aug. 20, to present its proposal to the commission, to reopen Naval Air Station Cecil Field, near Jacksonville, which was closed by the 1993 BRAC round.

Warner objected to that hearing, warning the commission, in an Aug. 12 letter, that holding such a hearing could put the commission in violation of the BRAC statute. Warner noted that the law states that the commission "may not take into account for any purpose an advance conversion planning undertaken by an affected community with respect to the anticipated closure or realignment of a military installation." Warner views the Florida proposal as "advance conversion

planning” for the potential relocation of Navy aircraft from Oceana, which is diverting the commission’s resources away from its statutory responsibilities of reviewing the Pentagon’s BRAC recommendations. He warned that further consideration of Florida’s proposal by the commission “threatens the integrity and the legality of the BRAC process and the final recommendations of the BRAC Commission.”

Could Congress Reject the BRAC Plan?

The Cecil Field proposal has the backing of Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (R) and the state’s Congressional delegation, giving it that divide-and-conquer quality that seems to characterize so many of the Pentagon’s recommendations. Nonetheless, the anger in Congress over the plan is such that some members are now discussing the possibility that Congress may vote to reject the report outright, assuming that the report gets out of the BRAC Commission, which is not yet a sure thing. The commission begins its final deliberations on Aug. 24, as it proceeds to produce its report, to be submitted to President Bush by Sept. 8. Assuming that happens as scheduled, and the report goes to the Congress with President Bush’s imprimatur, then the Congress would have to muster a veto-proof two-thirds majority vote to prevent the plan from becoming law, something that has never come close to happening in previous BRAC rounds.

On Aug. 17, Senators Chris Dodd (D-Conn.) and Joe Lieberman (D-Conn.) suggested that that might actually be possible, this time around, such is the anger in the Congress. Lieberman cited the amendment to the fiscal 2006 defense authorization bill, sponsored by Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.) and co-sponsored by both him and Dodd, as well as the hold placed by Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-Me.) on the nomination of Navy Secretary Gordon England to be Deputy Secretary of Defense, as two signs of the level of anger in the Senate over the plan. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) pulled the bill off the floor in order to avoid a vote on Thune’s amendment, as well as other amendments dealing with detainee policy. “We’re on the verge of a Congressional uprising,” said Lieberman. Dodd would not rule out the possibility that Warner might back such an uprising, because of the numerous concerns he has raised, in addition to the Cecil Field proposal. Dodd noted that the Pentagon did not bother to consult with state governors about its plan to close over two dozen Air National Guard flying units. “That kind of arrogance is what is bothering an awful lot of people,” Dodd said.

The Cost of Closing New London Sub Base

Dodd and Lieberman made their remarks during a conference-call press briefing which followed by one day the release by Rep. Rob Simmons (R-Conn.) of a Navy memo which shows that the Navy grossly underestimated the costs of shutting down the New London submarine base and moving to Kings Bay, Ga., most of its assets, which include 18 attack submarines and the Navy’s submarine school, Opponents of



DoD/Master Sgt. Reggie Sheppard, USAF

Many of the BRAC commission members agree with a GAO report which concluded that nearly half of the Pentagon’s projected cost savings came from “cuts” in military jobs that would actually be relocated to other installations. Shown here are airmen with the 175th Wing Maryland Air National Guard.

the closure are calling the June 8 memo a “white-hot smoking gun,” because it shows that the infrastructure needs for the school are much greater than the estimates the Navy developed for its BRAC proposal. The Navy used a baseline figure of \$211 per square foot for the school’s buildings, the average cost of building a high school, whereas Simmons maintains that the actual cost, because of heavier cooling, electrical, and lighting requirements, is at least \$325 per square foot, for a difference of \$47 million.

Dodd, Lieberman, and Simmons, with the help of experts such as John Casey, the president of Electric Boat, are still warning that the closure of New London would be a major mistake. Dodd noted that submarines are still performing critical missions, and that the need for them is growing. Simmons said that calculations by opponents of the closure show that, rather than saving \$1.6 billion over 20 years, as the Navy

claims, it will actually cost \$640 million, instead. He said that the personnel savings, alone, are overstated by \$84 million, in part, because the Navy counted the elimination of at least 200 vacant billets as savings, even though no money is presently being spent on those billets.

Casey warned that the closing of New London will have a dramatic impact on Electric Boat's shipyard, where new submarines are built. He pointed to the close relationship that exists between the two facilities, which are located only a short distance apart on the Thames River, which brings with it benefits that would be lost. In addition to building new submarines for the Navy, Electric Boat also repairs submarines, and that repair work helps maintain the overhead required for new construction. "I'd have to make a decision to either discontinue that line of work or uproot and try to relocate to where the work is," Casey said. So, closure of New London threatens as many as 2,000 jobs at Electric Boat, 500 workers who do intermediate maintenance at New London, and another 1,500 who do repair and overhaul at the shipyard.

Air National Guard Conundrum

The Pentagon proposal for closing down 29 Air National Guard flying units, leaving at least five states with no Air National Guard flying mission at all, is the one issue that has drawn the most heat, and appears the most difficult for the commission to deal with. The difficulty arises from the fact that only 5 of the Air Force's 26 recommendations regarding the Air National Guard, are closures of installations. The remainder are what the Air Force terms "enclaves," meaning that non-flying support units, such as firefighters, military police, civil engineers, medical, and so forth, are left behind without a flying mission to support. The Air Force argues that this is necessary because the number of aircraft in its fleet is declining, and so, in order to maintain efficiently sized squadrons, the number of flying units has to be reduced. For example, the Air Force maintains that a squadron flying C-130s has to have 12 aircraft in order to be efficient, whereas most Air National Guard C-130 squadrons have only 8. The process of consolidating squadrons has been under way in the active Air Force since the early 1990s, but has been held off in the Air National Guard until now, in order to maintain a flying mission in every state.

This plan, however, has created a firestorm of controversy in many states, as *EIR* has previously reported, and the BRAC Commission appeared no closer to resolving the issue after a four-hour hearing on Aug. 11, which took testimony from Defense Department and Air National Guard witnesses, than it had been before. During the hearing, commission members repeatedly pointed out that the BRAC statute deals only with installations and infrastructure, not the locations of particular aircraft, which is what the Air Force plan primarily deals with. Commission member Admiral Harold Gehman (ret.) did manage to wring one concession on that issue out of Air Force

Maj. Gen. Gary Heckman, who was chief of the Air Force's Base Closure Executive Group. Heckman told the commission that the Air Force would accept a commission recommendation that did not specify the movement of aircraft, if it provided the same result as the Air Force recommendations.

The Air National Guard's response, however, was to recommend that the commission toss out all of the proposals that deal with the movement of aircraft. Maj. Gen. Roger Lempke, the Adjutant General of Nebraska and the president of the Adjutants General Association of the United States (AGAUS), testified that "through our recommendations, we seek to protect the nation's interests by eliminating programmatic moves that do not save money, yet may severely diminish capabilities needed for homeland security and homeland defense." He added that not only do the AGAUS recommendations bring flying squadrons to a size considered optimal for the Air National Guard but "More importantly, adapting our set of recommendations will permit the adjutants general, the National Guard Bureau, and the Air Force to work together to transform to a modern and more lethal Air Force."

Lempke also refuted the notion that larger squadrons are more efficient, explaining the manner in which the Air Guard has been able to put together multiple-aircraft task forces to meet Air Force deployment requests, by taking three each from three different squadrons. "If you're going to rely on volunteerism with any reserve component force," he said, "you need to spread the pain, if you will. By reaching out . . . and spreading the call-ups among three different communities is far better in many cases than going to one location and tapping heavily on that community to provide resources to support those seven or eight aircraft." Conversely, if units are left without aircraft, recruitment and retention will suffer. Lempke told the commission that informal surveys have shown that if that happens, "you're probably talking in the 70-85% range of losses. . . ." He reported that some full-time Air Guard members in units slotted for closure are already exploring the job market.

Near the conclusion of the hearing, commission member Lt. Gen. Lloyd Newton (ret.) expressed skepticism that, if the commission did give the Air National Guard the time to work out a new plan with the Air Force, that the open channel of communication that Lempke described would ever materialize. Maj. Gen. Thomas Maguire, the Adjutant General of New York, replied that the problem is not that the adjutants general are unwilling to talk to the Air Force. "Our frustration has been when we've tried to move forward . . . and come up with that dialogue with the Air Staff, the door has been closed in the name of BRAC. . . ." Lempke added that the dilemma is what Gehman had referred to earlier: "Do we allow BRAC to make these force structure changes, and they become law?" Newton, in concluding his questions, expressed frustration that the Air Force and the Air National Guard still had not been able to find a solution. He vowed that, since the commission still has to deal with the problem, "We will deal with it.

I can assure you of that.” He concluded that “It is unthinkable where I find ourselves now, at a point where we’ve spent this much time . . . with trying to get us together and deciding what is the right path ahead.”

Keep Air Force Institute in Ohio!

by Judy DeMarco

“The evidence clearly illustrates that keeping AFIT open and operational at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base is the best alternative for the Air Force, the Department of Defense, and certainly the taxpayer.”—Ohio Sen. Mike Dewine

“Moving AFIT out of the Dayton community would destroy the unique opportunities AFIT students now have to learn from and work with leaders in the Air Force, scientific, and procurement communities, with no conceivable offsetting gain in educational value.”—Former Air Force Secretary F. Whitten Peters.

The Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC), on Aug. 10, heard testimony from, among many others, those speaking for the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. The Commission was considering consolidating the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT), located at Wright-Patterson, with the Naval Postgraduate School and Defense Language Institute, both in Monterey, Calif.

The AFIT is the Air Force’s graduate school and professional continuing-education institution. It provides responsive education, research, and consulting programs through its three resident schools: the Graduate School of Engineering and Management, the School of Systems and Logistics, and the Civil Engineer and Services School. It also manages educational programs of Air Force officers at civilian universities through its Civilian Institution Program.

The results of a number of studies were submitted on that day to the Commission, detailing not only the amazing cost-effectiveness of the AFIT at its current, Dayton, Ohio location, but also the phenomenal increases in expenses for, first, moving the operation to Monterey, paying West Coast real estate and building prices, and second, maintaining its operations there, in terms of housing costs, and in terms of the privatization of services that would be necessary.

Republican Rep. Michael Turner testified, “The annual additional cost, just of basic housing allowance by moving AFIT to Monterey, would be about \$12 million.” Dan Curran, President of the University of Dayton, said, “privatizing AFIT is not worth the initial cost because . . . the scenario for privati-



Here, more than 230 scientists and engineers are receiving graduate degrees from the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, in Ohio. AFIT produces first-rate labs, engineers, and scientists. University of Dayton President Dan Curran pointed out that “the scenario for privatizing AFIT’s graduate programs will take more than 100 years to produce savings.”

zing AFIT’s graduate programs will take more than 100 years to produce savings.”

The relocation and privatization of AFIT would direct a lot of taxpayer’s money into the housing and real estate bubble of California. In addition, taking the Institute away from its current location rips it away from the partnerships and affiliations with military and civilian institutions of unique capacities in the nation.

Senator Dewine testified: “The Air Force research labs are positioned right next to AFIT, giving AFIT students access to about 3,000 of the brightest, most experienced scientists and engineers in the world, more than any single location in the world. This location also offers students the ability to receive instruction about classified technology, which cannot be done in a civilian institution.”

Dan Curran pointed out, “I think if you look at the labs—just taking one area—research conducted at the base in nano materials and nano characterization, I don’t think you see the quality of labs anywhere else in the country that they have at the base. And again, AFIT students have access to that, have access to the composite labs. It’s a significant research initiative there.”

And about the strong center of excellence of private universities in the Dayton area, Curran said: “It is the University of Dayton; it is Wright State. But also, in the research area, you’re talking about Ohio State, one of the top ten research institutions in the country in areas like fuel cells and so on; you’re talking about Cincinnati, one of the leading medical universities. So that synergy is very important. It helps the universities move forward and challenge our students to go into the sciences, to go into engineering. And certainly it benefits the AFIT students and the Air Force.”

The Super-University of Our Planet

As we mobilize all our political and mental resources to defeat the evil that the degenerates who seek nuclear warfare represent, it is all the more important that we keep our mind's eye on the future for which we are fighting. One very positive and appropriate image of that future is embodied in the United States' recent return to manned space flight, with the successful mission of the Space Shuttle *Discovery*.

EIR founder and economist Lyndon LaRouche has a long history of promoting space exploration, including the Space Shuttle, as part of man's essential mission to develop both the Earth, and himself. In his article on "Cauchy's Infamous Fraud," published in *EIR*, April 1, 2005, LaRouche put it this way:

"The notion of developing capabilities for putting men and women into indispensably human functions of exploration of the space of the inner planets of our Solar System . . . subsumes every problem mankind can touch from within the orbits of Jupiter and Saturn during the foreseeable future.

"Science today means space science, from the top down, down to the little things that happen, or might happen, on some part of the surface of our planet. The practice of space exploration and space-related science becomes the super-university of our planet, to which all matters of exploring the Biosphere and Noösphere may be profitably referred. This mission, contrary to the implications of the frauds promoted by Cauchy et al., is to increase the potential relative population-density of the human species, and to define physical margins of profit of national economies as, essentially, the realization of the margin of gain of Dirichlet-Riemann potential which realized scientific progress contributes."

LaRouche further discussed this same point in his *Earth's Next Fifty Years*, published earlier this year. It is in this book that LaRouche elaborated his vision of how the planet's leading nations must come together, around the concept of the Noösphere outlined by Vladimir Vernadsky, in order to develop a system for managing, and eventually creating, the world's raw materials. From that standpoint, he emphasized, space science

cannot be seen as an option, but rather as an *imperative* for solving the problems that will need to be mastered.

Mankind must understand the Solar System much better than we do today, LaRouche argues, in order to be able to deal with the problems which human existence will encounter in the millennia ahead. New systems developed for manned space exploration will have to achieve a degree of power per capita and per cross-section of operation heretofore unknown, as necessary for survival.

LaRouche continues: "However, the greatest immediate practical impact of a space-oriented science-research function, will be the provision of knowledge essential for improvement and security of life on Earth. There is very little which might be developed in promotion of space research, which does not have a powerful application for human benefit back here on the surface of our planet. Hence, the principal public efforts in support of scientific research and development now, should be located in space-research-oriented programs which, by their nature, touch every area of interest for science to be practiced here on Earth."

From this scientific standpoint, it is clear that the Shuttle program must not only not be allowed to die, but that the whole space-science program of exploration and colonization must be revived as a project among cooperating nations. The ideas of nickel-and-diming the program, or simply going for single prestige projects, must be trashed. Under the new world monetary system which we *must* put in place to save the planet, we *must* go into space for the long term.

There is a final element to re-embarking on a space program that should be underscored. It is a question of self-image. Why should people today see themselves as individuals fearfully huddling in some part of the Earth, rather than soaring over the Earth, with the mission of advancing our knowledge and our future? Our self-conception, as men and women mastering and exploring the universe together, is crucial to uplifting ourselves out of the wars and the muck with which we now threaten to destroy ourselves.