
Blair Comes to Washington

Twins: The Two Losers

by Scott Thompson

Like two drunks leaning against one another to hold each other up, the “Axis of Feeble”—President George W. Bush (at less than 30% approval rating) and British Prime Minister Tony Blair (at 35% approval rating)—met at the White House on May 25. At a press conference that evening, Blair caved in to Bush’s demand that no timetable be set for withdrawal from the growing quagmire of Iraq. Instead, they stumbled through lines about how they had brought peace and democracy amidst the bloodshed.

In both men, except for when Bush backtracked to state that he would find a “diplomatic” solution in Iran, there was a total disconnect from reality, typical of Baby Boomers in denial.

Next to the Iran question, the only reality in the press conference came when a British journalist started to ask, “Prime Minister, this is possibly your last official visit to Washington as Prime Minister—”

“Wait a minute,” interrupted Bush, adding: “Back-to-back disses.” The reporter continued asking what the two men would miss about one another to which Bush jumped in to say: “. . . My attitude is, I want him to be here so long as I’m President.”

Tinny Blair, for once speechless, remarked: “Well, what more can I say?” Then, after the press laughed, he said (to more laughter), “Probably not wise to say anything more at all.”

A Sophist at Georgetown University

The next morning at Georgetown University, Blair gave a lesson in sophistry that was totally disconnected from the no-win wars and systemic economic collapse that have been the record of these two “lamest of ducks,” as *The Economist* dubbed the duo in its May 11 issue. In his third major foreign policy address, Blair presented a *smorgasbord* of reforms to deal with a globalized world, sounding as if he would be in office forever.

Endorsing the George Shultz-authored doctrine of preventive war, Blair declared: “We all agree that the characteristic of the modern world is interdependence. We haven’t yet thought through the consequences. . . . What this means is we have to act, not react: We have to do so on the basis of prediction, not certainty; and such action often will be usually, indeed, be outside of our own territory.”

Blair said that the world must prepare for wars thousands

of miles from the United States and United Kingdom.

In terms of Iraq, whose new government formation postponed a trip that had originally been planned before Easter, Blair said that despite its having become a battleground for insurgency: “This is a child of democracy struggling to be born. They and we, the international community, are the midwives.”

Other structural reforms that Blair called for to meet a globalized world include:

1) Strengthening the United Nations. The UN Security Council should be expanded to represent the globalized world, and the role of the UN Secretary General should be upgraded. An environmental component should be added with a change in the UN Charter to reflect that.

2) Merging the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which are both bankrupt.

3) Energy policy. There should be a Kyoto II protocol drafted at the next Group of 8 plus 5 meeting, and America should be a part of the fight against global warming with China and India. The world needs to move away from a carbon-based energy economy. An international agency should reprocess uranium, so that all countries do not need the full fuel cycle.

And, so he blathered on in front of a totally docile audience.

Trouble at Home

At home, Blair’s approval rating continues to plummet, after the “cash for honors” scandal being investigated by the London Metropolitan Police, the heavy losses in May 4 local Council elections, and a sudden Cabinet reshuffle or regime change, that earned him the sobriquet “MacBlair.”

The “cash for honors” scandal is moving ever closer to Blair, who could face up to two years in prison. Police questioned the four millionaire businessmen on Blair’s last nomination list for peerages and a seat in the House of Lords, “under caution”—which means that they might be targets in the probe. Also questioned was former Labour Party chairman Ian MacCartney, with whom Blair had been in cahoots to raise the secret loans for the last general election.

This does not say exactly how Tinny Blare will go, but as Lyndon LaRouche put it in an address to economists in Germany [see p. 4], “. . . The point is that we are in a situation, where likely the Blair government in Britain, and the French government, and some other governments—the U.S. government is ready for a change, a very sudden, and very sharp change, probably in near the future.”

In each case, the cause of the collapse is the systemic economic breakdown crisis that Prime Minister Blair so studiously avoided addressing in his speech at Georgetown University.

“Hmmm—I’ll miss those red ties, is what I’ll miss,” President Bush added in answer to the question of what he would miss about Tony Blair.