

Will Iran Blow the Whistle On Cheney's Double Game?

by Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

Talks in Baghdad on May 28, between Iran and the United States—the first since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, when Washington broke off diplomatic relations—were welcomed in Tehran, as a possible first step towards re-establishing some form of contact. At the same time, members of the Iranian political elite made clear that they grasped the highly paradoxical nature of the situation: that one cannot, as the Cheney-Bush regime appears to be trying to do, tender an olive branch with the one hand, and raise a cocked machine gun, on the other. To the extent that the Iranian government continues to signal its awareness of the problem in Washington—named Dick Cheney—and decides to support moves within the United States, to deal with that problem, some hope may appear on the horizon.

Statements by Mohammad Javad Larijani, brother of the chief nuclear negotiator, and secretary of the Human Rights Headquarters of Iran's Judiciary, as reported in the May 28 *Financial Times*, indicate that the Iranians may be willing to put the Cheney issue on the table. "Talking with the United States over issues related to Iran is not an impossible matter. However, this depends on the subject matter," he said. Shortly thereafter, Larijani was quoted saying, "If Dick Cheney is supposed to continue intimidating Iran on a daily basis, and U.S. officials continue allocating the budget, as they claim, to change the Iranian regime and openly show hostility towards Iran, then any clever person will ask why they should talk at all?"

Briefed on this report, Lyndon LaRouche said: "Is Iran prepared to demand, in those negotiations on Iraq, that Cheney be fired or removed from office? If so, Iran has my support."

Larijani's reference was to Cheney's most recent threats, issued from on board the *U.S.S. John C. Stennis*, one of the growing number of U.S. aircraft carriers and warships in the region. It was also a reference to the ongoing operations, launched by the Cheney crew, to support political and military moves aimed at overthrowing the Iranian regime. These include insurgent operations by ethnic Kurds, Arabs, and Azeris, inside Iran, as well as political machinations, involving propaganda activities, in favor of a "velvet revolution," according to the model used in eastern Europe. Reports of U.S.-made weapons found on dead rebels, as well as arrests made since May 8 of several Iranian-American dual citizens, asso-

ciated with outfits such as the Soros Open Society, are to the point.

The Official Response

So far, the Iranians have not escalated against Cheney by name.

Following the talks hosted in the Iraqi capital by the Nouri al-Maliki government, between U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker and Iranian Ambassador Hassan Kazemi, the Iraqi Prime Minister stated: "I hope that this meeting will result in a common understanding and will be followed by further meetings to resolve the outstanding issues." Iraqi spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh added: "This meeting is so that the United States can present its accusations against Iran, and the Iranian government has some observations on the American presence in Iraq, which it believes is directed against it. There are important points of agreement between the two parties and the Iraqi government that we are seeking to develop," he added.

Regarding the perspectives of the talks, Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki stated, "If the other side has a genuine political will and accepts the reality on the ground and revises its previous policies on Iraq, these discussions could prove successful. The discussions aim to look at questions about Iraq and correcting U.S. policies," he said, according to the Iranian state media. "There is a huge file of differences between Iran and the United States which will not be examined during our discussions in Baghdad." It had been agreed beforehand, in fact, that the talks would deal exclusively with the crisis in Iraq, and with possible collaboration to establish some semblance of stability and security there. Both the Iranian President and the Prime Minister announced their commitment to providing support for Iraq's government, including participation in a "trilateral security mechanism" that would involve the United States, Iraq, and Iran.

A More Realistic Tehran?

In late November, when *EIR's* correspondent visited Tehran, this awareness of the "paradox" in Washington was not so ripe. The tendency of the leadership, as *EIR* reported at the time, was to play down the danger of a military attack by Cheney's networks, cataloging his and President Bush's peri-

odic ravings as “psywar.” Since then, the picture has changed, to a more realistic assessment of the game, and *EIR* has played a part in this process.

During that November-December visit, this author and her husband were guests on a dozen national television and radio shows, in which the main message was: The threat of war is real, and should be grasped as such, but there are forces inside the United States, cooperating with the LaRouche movement, who are mobilizing to prevent war, by removing from power that complex of warmongers, beginning with the impeachment of Dick Cheney.

Since that time, as *EIR*'s publications have circulated increasingly among the political class, this author has continued to be interviewed by major Iranian media. The Thursday night TV talk show, Forum, on Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), has made *EIR* a regular participant, as has the late Friday night news broadcast. It was, in fact, during Cheney's organizing drive for war in the region last month, that *EIR* was asked for an assessment of his swing through the Arab Gulf states. In no uncertain terms, *EIR* stated that his aim was to mobilize their support for a strike against Iran; at the same time, the massive Arabic press coverage of Cheney's underlying intentions—itsself generated by *EIR*'s exposés—was reported. Most recent was our participation in the Forum talk show on May 24, during which, again, the urgency of implementing LaRouche's demand to impeach Cheney, was central. During that talk show, in which Washington analyst Mark Perry took part, along with studio guest Mohammad Reza Karemi, the role of Cheney's networks was discussed as well, in the raging crises in Palestine and Lebanon.

On the very day that the U.S.-Iranian talks took place in Baghdad, an important conference opened in the Iranian capital, sponsored by the Institute for Political and International Studies, a think-tank of the Foreign Ministry. This was the 17th international symposium on the Persian Gulf, dedicated to the theme, “Security in the Persian Gulf From Perspectives of International Law.” One hundred papers were accepted for presentation, 45 of them from non-Iranians, among them 9 Americans. A paper by this author was among them. Entitled “History Must Not Repeat Itself!,” it dealt with LaRouche's analysis of the so-called “Iran crisis” as part of a broader strategic crisis, in which Russia and China, in particular, are targeted. In it as well, the internal political dynamic in the United States was presented, showing how the perspective for impeachment can become reality.

I explained that LaRouche had issued a policy statement on March 30, entitled “Russia and Iran on Strategy,” in which he highlighted Russian concerns about the war danger: “He pointed out that President Putin had grasped two essential points, which some Iranian factions may not have grasped. First: ‘that a prudent commander must always understand who the enemy is,’ in this, case, the British empire faction, known as the Anglo-American alliance. The second point he

stressed was: ‘that a prudent commander never permits his enemy to lure him, half-wittingly, into taking ground at a place and time which the adversary has shrewdly chosen for his relative advantage. For example: The only important, true enemy of Iran resides both in London, and, therefore, also, among the London-steered allies of former U.S. Vice President Gore’ inside the United States. LaRouche concluded his remarks by outlining a policy for defeating the Anglo-American war party, through the creation of an alliance among Russia, China, India, and the U.S. under new leadership, to overcome the global economic crisis, which is the driver for the war danger, through monetary reform, and launch a Eurasian-wide economic development perspective. ‘In the meantime,’ he recommended to Iran's leadership, ‘avoid all wars which would divert the course of world affairs along different channels of history than that.’”

On the opening day of the IPIS conference, a message was read from President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and a keynote was delivered by Foreign Minister Mottaki: Both dealt with the perspectives for ending the Iraq War. Mottaki stated: “We believe that the best way to put an end to an alarming bloodbath in Iraq and spread of violence to the neighboring countries is that the occupying forces leave the country and let the Iraqi government and its nation restore national security.” He said Iraq's security could be established through “cooperation between regional countries with the elected and popular government of Iraq.” Mottaki went on to state Iran's readiness to help the United States pull out: “And the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to help the U.S. withdraw its forces from Iraq and the region if it changes its behavior.”

Iran opposes any sectarian or religious conflict in Iraq, he said. “Unfortunately, the wrong policies of the occupiers have left lethal consequences in Iraq. We believe that withdrawal of occupying powers from Iraq and collective assistance of neighboring countries to the Iraqi democratic government would put an end to the current human losses.” He said that political stability, security, and economic development in the region were intertwined with the culture, religion, and geopolitical situation of the Persian Gulf countries. Thus, he concluded, any instability and insecurity would have enormous consequences on other states.

President Ahmadinejad also pledged Iran's cooperation in security arrangements for the region. In his message read to the conference, Ahmadinejad stated: “The Islamic Republic of Iran declares that it is ready to participate in all confidence-building and security-building initiatives in the region and the world which guarantee the rights of all countries.” He went on to say: “Permanent security in the Persian Gulf is possible only through the cooperation of regional countries, and without the presence and intervention of foreigners.” He added that the presence of extra-regional powers has been a source of insecurity—a clear reference to the U.S. and U.K. occupying forces, as well as to Cheney's continuing naval buildup off Iran's coasts.