

Editorial

War and peace

When President Bush summarily turned down both the Iraqi and the Soviet peace initiatives Feb. 19, he revealed that his agenda is the total destruction of Iraq. As we have documented, the occupation by Iraq of Kuwait was only a pretext. Iraq's real crime—in the eyes of the Anglo-Americans—was foremost, its commitment to become a modern industrial nation, and secondarily, the independence of its leadership.

Now that Iraq has unmistakably expressed its willingness to abide by United Nations resolutions, Bush has exposed the farce that the U.N. was acting independently of Anglo-American control. That the U.S. President has conceived a personal vendetta not only against his Iraqi counterpart, Saddam Hussein, but against the people of Iraq as well, is only a gruesome add-on to the imperialist policy objectives presently governing the British-American led "coalition."

These were clearly expressed in the Feb. 17 *Sunday Telegraph*—a British newspaper edited by Peregrine Worsthorne, the stepson of Montagu Norman, the head of the Bank of England who propelled Hjalmar Schacht into the position of creating the economic strategy of Adolf Hitler's dictatorship.

The *Telegraph* editorial in question bore the title, "Rely on Fear, Not Love," and argued that imperialism is needed in the Middle East as never before, to contain "Arab bellicosity," since the only thing the Arabs and especially Saddam Hussein understand is force, and that therefore, "it will take force to curb the ambitions of Arab nationalism and fundamentalism in general."

The editorial went on to assert that the United States and Britain cannot be bound, in their conduct of the war, by international opinion or the United Nations. "Nobody should underestimate the pressure," they write, "that will be placed on America and Britain not to exploit their rights of conquest. It will come from the United Nations, from the Third World, from the Soviet Union, and from the Western media—as against Western public opinion. The specter of imperialism will be raised to frighten the women and children. In the Middle East, however, Western imperialism is

exactly what is needed. It is not needed in Africa or Asia. But in the Middle East it is needed as never before."

While President Bush has repeatedly bragged that the "coalition" represents virtually all nations of the world, the opposite will soon be the case, if he pursues his wantonly destructive, unjust population war against Iraq. His refusal to end the war, the arrogant imperial war aims of the British and Americans, accurately expressed in the *Sunday Telegraph*, will isolate the United States and the United Kingdom.

Under these circumstances the financial and economic vulnerability of both nations will be their undoing. Who will be willing to foot the bill for a United States which in the eyes of the world has run amok?

Recent polls have shown increasing restiveness in the United States itself. Americans wonder why it is that an offer to withdraw from Kuwait is not enough even to justify negotiations with the Iraqis. As American casualties begin to mount, that question will be asked with increasing force.

One of the more extraordinary aspects of the Bush refusal is his demand that at the conclusion of the war, the Iraqis be forced to pay reparations for the costs of the war. The United States has already destroyed the water and sewage systems of all of the major cities of that nation. In Baghdad, public health officials warn that the population has now been forced to drink contaminated water. This is a sure prelude to the spread of typhus, cholera, and even plague. It is estimated that it will take at least a year to even repair the damage to basic infrastructure in Iraq.

The Soviet proposal that aid be given to the Iraqis to help them to rebuild their nation at the conclusion of hostilities, was vehemently rejected by Bush, but it is obviously the only just end to this unjust war.

While the U.S. and British rulers are doing all that they can to destroy the nation of Iraq, they are sowing the seeds of their own destruction. Ironically, the unintended result of this carnage, may be the final discrediting of their imperial policy.