

Middle East Report by Joseph Brewda

Behind the Libya tale

A speech by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak before the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France on Nov. 20, shows one of the reasons the Anglo-Americans and French have suddenly charged Libya with responsibility for blowing up civilian airplanes. Mubarak called for establishing a "Mediterranean forum" that would include all the nations bordering that sea. Libya is the only Mediterranean country which might object to the proposal, and the new threats against it are partially intended to ensure that it will cooperate.

The proposal, which is co-sponsored by France and backed by Italy, will provide a framework for discussing security, trade, environmental, and human rights issues, linked to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. It is part of a broader plan of reimposing outright colonial forms on North Africa and all of the Mideast which has been made possible by the Gulf war, the occupation of the oil fields, and the dismantling of OPEC.

Butrus Ghali's friends

The Nov. 22 election of Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister Butrus Butrus Ghali as U.N. secretary general ensures that the post will continue to be occupied by an Anglo-American tool.

Providing Arab diplomatic cover for the imperial war on Iraq was only one of Ghali's latest acts; he had earlier played a central role in the Camp David Egypt-Israel "separate peace" agreement. Descended from a powerful Coptic Christian family, Ghali's grandfather had signed the papers giving the British control over Egypt and Sudan. The family has been British-

controlled ever since.

Less known are Ghali's ties to U.S. and British intelligence through Global Water and Technology Summits, a Washington organization run by Dr. Joyce Starr.

GWTS is a sub-unit of the Global Strategy Council, run by former Nixon CIA and State Department intelligence official Ray Cline. Starr, who has long been associated with Cline, receives funds from the World Bank, the Bronfman interests, and the Rothschilds. Although her group purports to equitably address the Mideast water crisis, some of the plans it advances would make Israel and Turkey the controllers of the region. The group also serves as a Syrian-Israeli back channel for negotiations.

Global Strategy Council's board members include: Cline, Starr, former U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick; Gen. Richard Stilwell, who ran Pentagon intelligence under the Reagan-Bush administration; former NATO Ambassador William Middendorf; former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Thomas Moorer; and former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

Butrus Ghali is a prominent member of Starr's Global Water group advisory committee, and one of its top activists. Starr has written newspaper columns endorsing his candidacy for the U.N. secretary general post.

Prince Bandar joins the Zionist lobby

The Nov. 18 announcement that the Saudi ambassador to the United States, Prince Bandar, has been secretly meeting with leaders of the Zionist lobby for over four years, provoked an odd reaction in Riyadh. People said it was part of his job de-

scription. Bandar had publicly met with 60 leaders of the American Jewish Congress and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations that day. Reportedly, Bandar offered to drop the Arab boycott against Israel if the Israelis freeze the creation of new Jewish settlements in the Occupied Territories; the deeper issue is forging a Saudi-Israeli economic alignment dominating the region.

Despite feigned public hostility, Israeli-Saudi relations are not what they appear to be, especially since the CIA killed Saudi King Faisal in 1975, soon after his stormy meeting with Henry Kissinger. Since Bandar became ambassador, the Mossad's networks within the Saudi Embassy have greatly expanded, it is said. When then-Vice President Bush ran the "Iran-Contra" networks, Bandar and the Israelis played a major role.

During the lead-up to the Gulf war, Bandar was busy. In September 1990, he met with Rep. Stephen Solarz (D-N.Y.), a Zionist lobby darling; Reagan defense official and Zionist spokesman Richard Perle; and Democratic Party honcho Ann Lewis. Together they formed the "Committee for Peace and Security in the Gulf." The group soon included Jeane Kirkpatrick and former American Jewish Committee congressional lobbyist Hyman Bookbinder. Bandar's meetings with the Simon Wiesenthal center and with the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), Israel's de facto Washington lobby, soon followed.

Bandar and the Zionist lobby drummed up support for Bush's war against Iraq. To ensure that his demands were heeded by the Arab community in the United States, Bandar deployed his chief thug at the embassy, Khalil el-Khalil.