
Conference Report

Meeting in Malaysia calls for end to genocidal sanctions against Iraq

by Our Special Correspondent

One week after the United Nations Security Council prolonged the embargo against Iraq another two months, representatives of several nations gathered in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur to map out a strategy for lifting the illegal blockade. The conference, organized by non-governmental organizations, opened at the International Youth Center on May 26 with introductory remarks by organizing committee chairman Kassim Ahmad, who set the tone for the two-day proceedings by placing the question of morality in the center of political action. "Although we represent many countries," he said, "this conference has not the power of governments, like the United Nations, or even of a government. But every one of us can see that the United Nations has failed to bring about security and peace to its members. So when governments fail, whom do we turn to?"

"Of course," he said, "we turn to God in whom the believers trust. . . . We turn to our moral selves. Morality cannot accept the already illegal and murderous sanctions against Iraq. Morality cannot accept the present immorality in the United Nations. So, we, the peoples of the world . . . acting upon our common humanity, must remove this inhumanity."

The moral question thus posed was to become a continuing motif of the debate, which, though concentrated on a strategy to lift the embargo on Iraq, branched out to consider many related issues: What were the true, underlying reasons for the war and embargo against an Arab nation? What have the consequences been? What are the implications for the Third World? And, finally, how can those oppressed by the one-worldist U.N. machinery find unity? What are the cultural and philosophical foundations for a successful fight for independence?

United against the U.N.

Representing the government of the host country, Malaysian Minister of Youth and Sports Abdul Ghani Othman officially opened the proceedings with a speech critical of the United Nations regime. Reiterating the Malaysian government's official support for lifting sanctions against Iraq, Othman referenced Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamad's view, "that the problem is linked to the U.N. Security Council

which is controlled by a few superpowers, which are guided by their own interest rather than the interest of humanity." The problem is also related to the "double standards" practiced by the U.N. in its interventions and the "excessive abuse of the veto power bestowed upon certain members of the U.N. Security Council." He explained his government's call for "removal of the veto powers and for the U.N. to pursue democratization of its organizational structure and operations." Othman harshly criticized the U.S. government also, for having "consistently resorted to intense diplomatic tactics and even threats in its effort to create the leveling of the playing field." By this, he meant American threats to use sanctions against economic competitors, such as Japan, China, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

Speaking for Iraq was Latiff N. Jassin, former minister of information and currently chairman of the Iraqi Friendship, Peace and Solidarity Organization (FPSO). Jassin, who headed a delegation from Baghdad including Mrs. Maarid A. Kamal and Prof. Dr. Bashir A. Mahmoud, both secretary generals of the FPSO, outlined the reasons why the aggression and embargo against his country were organized. Iraq was to be bombed back to the pre-industrial era, he said, to demoralize the Arab world in its fight against imperialism and Zionism. Iraq had been chosen because of its "independent policy and commitment to the Third World's struggle for sovereignty and independence." Iraq's sovereignty, he said, is being violated by the no-fly zones established by the U.N. at the 32 and 36 parallel. Jassin emphasized that, since Iraq has complied with U.N. resolutions, the embargo has become illegal even by U.N. standards.

The United Nations agenda

If the ostensible reason for the blockade was to force Iraqi troops to leave Kuwait, and if that aim has been achieved, why has the U.N. not lifted the siege? For Dr. Ali Aksad, Asian Regional Coordinator of the World Peace Council, a citizen of Bangladesh, in all cases of embargoes and U.N. interventions—Cuba, Libya, Iraq, perhaps North Korea, Bosnia, Somalia—"certain great powers are now blatantly carrying out military operations which constitute full-scale

military intervention in several countries, depriving them of the right to decide their own destiny.” The speaker called for the “democratization of the Security Council, and the international financial institutions”—the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, and General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

For Helga Zepp-LaRouche, president of the Schiller Institute in Germany, it is not a matter of reforming these bodies, but of defeating the ulterior motives which they pursue. Mrs. LaRouche’s speech, which was the keynote for the first plenary session and was delivered on her behalf by Muriel Mirak-Weissbach, laid bare the ugly truth about the United Nations. “Imagine the following,” her paper began. “You are a guest in a large palace. It is the seat of the United Nations World Government. All the heads of state are seated here every evening for a festive banquet after the day’s business of ruling. At one end, a British prime minister and an American President lord over the table, while all others, according to the importance of their countries, sit at designated numbered places.

“Each evening, choice selections of the finest and most expensive meals, fitting for such a distinguished gathering, are brought out. All would be quite comfortable and harmonious were it not for the oddities, here and there, but especially for the gentleman at the head of the table.

“Upon closer observation, one discovers that the seemingly so elegant hat of the Lady Prime Minister, carefully placed, nonetheless, incompletely veils a nest of snakes and lizards that coil out of her head. Equally horrible, on close observation, one notices that the face of the President is half-decayed and infested with all sorts of worms. But, the high society carries on seemingly oblivious. They imbibe and amuse themselves with toasts.

“After the hors d’oeuvres, the soup and the salad, the main course is brought in. At first covered, the lid is raised, and . . . the President of Grenada is served. The evening before, he sat as a guest at the same table. Some experience nausea, but, diplomatic training being what it is, none let it show.

“And so it continues each evening, shortly thereafter the President of Panama is served, then that of Iraq, and then Bosnia, Somalia, Rwanda, and so on. Other guests have already been marked, but say nothing, in part out of fear, but also because they are enamored of the opportunity to sit a few more days at the great table.”

This repugnant image brought across the truth of the U.N.-dominated world today: that genocide is tolerated, even by those who are intended to be the next victims. In her presentation, entitled “The Gulf War: Implications for the Third World,” Mrs. LaRouche identified the main reason for the aggression against Iraq as the attempt to deter all Third World nations from pursuing a path of scientific and technological development independent of the IMF, World Bank, and GATT. The philosophy behind it, she identified in the

malthusian view, propagated by the Ditchley Foundation, Trilateral Commission, and Club of Rome, that non-white populations must be curbed. This policy has been implemented thanks to a shift in the cultural paradigms of the West over the last 30 years.

The assault against Iraq, though planned back in the 1970s, became operational in 1990, said Mrs. LaRouche, because of British determination to thwart the potential for Eurasian economic development which had been opened up by the events of 1989. The “splendid little colonial war” of Margaret Thatcher, was to rob Germany of historical momentum, and consolidate power back in the hands of the oligarchical circles running the United Nations. The central point Mrs. LaRouche drove home was that the war could have been prevented on two conditions: that the geopolitical thrust behind it be recognized and denounced; and that an alternative infrastructure development perspective, like the one Lyndon LaRouche proposed for Eurasia in 1989, be implemented. To stop the U.N. from fulfilling its agenda, consuming nation after nation in its malthusian rampage, Mrs. LaRouche called for concerted action to block the planned U.N. anti-population conference in Cairo next September. By blocking this conference, she said, the way can be opened for implementing economic development projects capable of providing a life of dignity for a growing human population.

Aspects of Mrs. LaRouche’s presentation were elaborated by Muriel Mirak-Weissbach, also of the Schiller Institute, who focused on the aims and consequences of the embargo on Iraq. Drawing on personal experience in Iraq during several trips since the war, she gave an updated report on how the embargo was producing increasing mortality rates through its effect on the health sector and food supply. She juxtaposed to this picture of continuing genocide the image of a regional and Eurasian upswing, which would take hold, if the embargo were lifted; contracts discussed between Iraq and leading industrial nations such as Russia and France, would contribute to launching a “development dynamic” of far-reaching consequences. It is precisely to prevent such a dynamic, she said, that the U.N. Security Council, under U.K. and U.S. pressure, had determined to continue the sanctions.

U.N. use of depleted uranium ammunition

The most gruesome evidence on genocide against the Iraqi population was presented by the Austrian Dr. Siegwart-Horst Günther, who has been active on humanitarian missions to the country for the Yellow Cross International. Using slides, Dr. Günther presented the case, that increasing rates of leukemia and other cancers in Iraq since the war may be due to the use of depleted uranium (DU) ammunition used by A-10 planes. “DU penetrators were extensively used during the Gulf war in 1991,” he said, and according to documents obtained through the U.S. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), “around 300 tons of DU on the battlefield between

Kuwait and Iraq" were left, "mostly in the form of toxic and radioactive dust." This uranium, he explained, could get into the ground water following a rainy season, "and finally reach the food chain," causing lung cancer.

Dr. Günther related, "I found on May 7, 1991, on the highway between Baghdad and Amman, in the desert, projectiles in the form and size of a cigar. . . . In that region, columns of refugees, aid transports, and others had been submitted to attack by A-10 planes equipped with this type of ammunition. Later on I happened to see children playing with these projectiles. A little girl who possessed 12 of them died of leukemia." Dr. Günther had one such bullet analyzed by four different German institutes. "The bullet under examination exhibited a radioactivity of 11 microsievert per hour. . . . Twelve such projectiles represent a radioactivity of 132 microsievert per hour." To clarify the importance of this, he made a comparison: "In Germany, persons should not be exposed to more than 50 microsievert per year."

Dr. Günther attributed the alarming rise in cancer cases to these weapons, and conjectured that the strange ailments that U.S. Gulf war veterans have suffered may have the same origin.

Toward an ecumenical dialogue

As a welcome antidote to the horror story depicted by Dr. Günther's presentation, a concluding panel tackled the question of how to redefine healthy relations between Iraq and the West, and more broadly, between the North and South. Prof. Walter Sommerfeld, president of the German-Iraqi Friendship Society, drew on his extensive experience as a scholar in ancient Iraq's civilization, to communicate the richness of the country's culture, which he characterized as unique. From the early development of a script in Babylon to the magnificence of the Abbasid Caliphate in Baghdad, he said, Iraq had contributed knowledge in science, particularly medicine, which had had a profound, lasting influence on the West. In consideration of the universal value of such contributions to all of mankind, Sommerfeld argued for the immediate lifting of the embargo and reestablishment of just relations between Iraq and the rest of the world.

Laith Shubeilat, formerly a member of the Jordanian parliament and currently the president of the Jordanian Association of Engineers, explored the philosophical and cultural foundations for establishing such unity among all the peoples of the world. Focusing on the three monotheistic religious traditions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, Shubeilat identified "the main benchmarks or points of congruence where international cultures may meet to manifest unity through multiplicity." Among these were monotheism; the view of man as "center of the universe . . . not just another beast in a universe centered around nature"; "the common outlook on life and its sanctity."

Shubeilat showed how each of these principles was originally part of each of the three monotheistic traditions, but



Dr. Siegwart-Horst Günther showed copies of these export licenses for depleted uranium, to be delivered from U.S. firms to consignees in Saudi Arabia, France, and Great Britain. The licenses document the existence of an international traffic in depleted uranium, and Dr. Günther alleges that some of this was used in the war against Iraq. Inset: a projectile containing depleted uranium, found in Iraq.

stated, "Nowhere in the world is found today a society coherent with any of these great traditions." If these values are reasserted for practice, he said, then it would be possible to establish a "new humanistic order where all human beings are equal as the children of God; where wealth is the property of the Creator entrusted to man to enjoy its use without abuse . . . ; where science and advanced development are a mandatory duty of societies sharing the wealth of God's gift of knowledge with all mankind . . . so that progress is for everybody, and so that God's ordainment to mankind to multiply and replenish the Earth may be achieved; where genocidal population policies such as the sanctions on Iraq and the proposed genocidal policies prepared to be passed in the coming Cairo conference are defeated; where true human rights prevail in a non-selective manner and the properly educated peoples, and not the elite, control the destinies of their nations; where usury and slave labor are abolished and no looting takes place."

The Kuala Lumpur conference was unlike other meetings convened on the subject of the Iraq embargo, by virtue of the fact that it broadened the discussion to consider all relevant aspects of the strategic situation. Organizing committee chairman Kassim Ahmad concluded the conference with a set of proposals for overcoming the U.N.-dominated one-

world regime. "The general policy and strategy," he said, "must be to work out an economic-technological, military, and political-institutional independence," which includes developing "alternative institutions to replace the World Bank, IMF, the U.N., media institutions, and so forth." With this aim, the conference voted up a resolution and a conference statement, which call for the establishment of a permanent working group to implement the conference deliberations.

Documentation

Conference resolution against sanctions on Iraq

1. This International Conference against Economic Sanctions on Iraq, organized by Malaysian Non-Governmental Organizations represented in the Organizing Committee of the Conference, meeting on 26-27 May 1994 in this City of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia:

(a) noting that it has been almost four years now since the U.N. Security Council imposed the severest sanctions ever witnessed in history, on Iraq;

(b) noting that Iraq has fully cooperated with various U.N. agencies, missions, and teams, as openly admitted and fully acknowledged in particular by Mr. Ekeus of the Special U.N. Commission;

(c) noting that in spite of Iraq's compliance with all relevant Security Council resolutions, despite their harsh nature, the U.N. Security Council, under the influence of the U.S. and its ally Britain, has chosen to maintain economic sanctions against Iraq through the concoction of new demands unrelated to the texts of relevant resolutions;

(d) noting that these murderous sanctions against Iraq already claimed at least 400,000 lives, many of them children and women, while hundreds of thousands of others suffer from malnutrition, disease and hunger brought about by inadequate medical facilities and rapidly deteriorating health conditions;

(e) noting that the sanctions regime is depriving Iraq of scientific, medical, and all educational and cultural materials;

(f) noting also that the real motives behind the continued imposition of these cruel, inhuman sanctions against Iraq are to destroy and to render impotent the economic, scientific, and technological capability and potential of an Arab nation which until the Gulf war was industrially more advanced than most other Arab states; to control the immense oil wealth of Iraq and the Gulf region; to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs; and to reinforce a power structure in the region which favors

the United States, the West and Israel but is inimical to the independence, integrity and sovereignty of the Arab people; and

(g) noting also that the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq have also negative impacts on other countries of the world, particularly those which have economic and trade dealings with Iraq, and that the lifting of the sanctions will improve their economic prospects and prosperity;

2. Now therefore solemnly:

(a) declares that these sanctions are not only inhuman and unjust but have also been rendered illegal due to 1 (b) and (c) above;

(b) salutes the brave people of Iraq for the indomitable courage, steadfastness and perseverance they have displayed in the face of great adversity, pain and suffering in the last 44 months since sanctions were imposed on their country;

(c) calls upon the governments of the world to pressure the U.N. Security Council to lift immediately the sanctions against Iraq;

(d) calls upon the governments of the world, desirous of defending their own independence and sovereignty, to break the sanctions imposed upon Iraq by reestablishing trade and other economic ties with Iraq;

(e) calls upon the governments of the world to provide, as a matter of utmost urgency, extensive humanitarian assistance to the suffering people of Iraq; to this purpose, Iraqi frozen assets should be immediately released to allow for purchases of medicine, food and other basic necessities of life;

(f) calls upon the Arab League, the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), and other regional and international organizations to come to the defense of the people of Iraq in their hour of need, to resist U.S. and British dominance of the global system and to initiate concrete plans and programmes aimed at creating a just world;

(g) calls upon citizens, groups and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) throughout the world to launch a massive global campaign to free the people of Iraq from the dominance and hegemony of superpowers so that men, women, and children everywhere will be able to live in accordance with the noble values and principles embodied in their great moral and spiritual traditions now and in the future;

(h) calls upon progressive governmental and non-governmental Third World leaders and leaders of progressive groups in North America, Europe and Japan to initiate discussions and dialogues to work out a common general plan, policy, and strategy to free mankind from superpower domination and for comprehensive and overall cooperation to build a just new world; and

(i) instructs the Organizing Committee of the Conference to establish an international working group to carry out the decisions of the Conference as well as to continue the work of this Conference.