

# Netanyahu and London led the drive for war

by Joseph Brewda

During the summer of 1997, U.S. President Bill Clinton decided to force Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to finally comply with the Israeli-Palestinian Oslo peace accords, which Netanyahu has been intent on destroying ever since the British installed him in office in May 1996. The developing confrontation between the two men has shaped every subsequent development in the region, including Netanyahu's orchestration of "Islamic terrorist" attacks to discredit the peace process, and his threats to bomb Iraq and Iran, to blackmail the United States to do so on its own.

It was precisely to stop the 1993 Oslo agreement, that the British Crown ordered the murder of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, in November 1995. Every action that their patsy, Netanyahu, has taken since that time, has been to meet these British demands.

The point at which Clinton decided that enough was enough, according to published accounts at the time and subsequently, was at a June 19, 1997 Oval Office meeting that he had called, attended by leading members of his Cabinet and the National Security Council, to thoroughly review the crisis in the peace process. Following that meeting, Clinton decided to aggressively pressure Israel to fully comply with its sworn treaty agreements to carry out two further troop pullouts from the West Bank, and to move up the timetable for final status talks. A decision was also taken, according to a *New York Times* account of the session, to send Mideast peace envoy Dennis Ross to Jerusalem, to deliver an ultimatum to Netanyahu to comply with the Oslo Accords, or face the consequences.

## Netanyahu orders a 'Jihad'

On July 27, the Clinton administration announced that Ross would travel to the region, to prepare for Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's first trip there. Everyone knew that Ross would be delivering Clinton's ultimatum, and that Albright's trip was also intended to ensure Netanyahu's compliance.

Netanyahu was not slow in preparing for the coming showdown. On July 26, one day before Ross's trip was announced, Netanyahu gave the go-ahead for his top financial backer, Miami-based casino operator Irving Moscowitz, to build 65 Jewish homes in Arab East Jerusalem. The homes were to be dormitories for the Ateret Cohanim yeshiva, whose students have repeatedly been caught attempting to blow up the nearby Al

Aqsa Mosque, to rebuild Solomon's Temple in its place.

Labor Party Knesset (parliament) member Yossi Sarid termed the provocation "a great fire that will burn lives of Jews and Arabs." He proved prophetic. On July 30, two operatives of the London-headquartered Hamas organization blew themselves up in an open-air market in Jerusalem, killing 18 people and wounding more than 150.

On July 31, following widely televised visits to hospital wards, Netanyahu declared the Oslo Accords "suspended," claiming that the Palestine Liberation Organization had allowed the bombing to happen, and even ordering an arrest warrant for Palestinian Police Chief Ghazi Jabali. "Whether on purpose or not," the Israeli daily *Maariv* commented, "the bombing came at an ideal time for the opponents of the [peace] process."

Despite the conveniently timed atrocity, President Clinton decided to press ahead, and ordered Ross to travel to Israel to deliver the ultimatum as initially planned. During his trip, Ross forced Netanyahu to agree to tripartite meetings between Israeli and PLO intelligence, with the CIA, in which the local CIA station chief would review disputes between the two agencies on dealing with terrorism. The agreement threatened to reduce Netanyahu's ability to deploy terrorism to his advantage.

Meanwhile, on the domestic front, the Israeli military began to voice its opposition to Netanyahu's lunacy. At the end of August, the former commander of Israeli troops in the West Bank, Maj. Gen. Oren Shahor, resigned, saying, "Netanyahu is destroying the peace process" while simultaneously "weakening the defense establishment."

But, as a nervous Netanyahu waited for his impending showdown with Albright, set for Sept. 9, Hamas struck again, killing eight people and wounding 200, in a Sept. 4 bombing of a Jerusalem market. Following another round of hospital visits, Netanyahu threatened military action against the PLO, and declared that he had terminated the tripartite intelligence agency meetings, as a "meaningless rite."

Albright got nowhere in her meetings with Netanyahu. And on Sept. 14, two days after her departure, Netanyahu defiantly gave the go-ahead for four Jewish families to move into Moscowitz's East Jerusalem apartments, whose announcement provided the pretext for the July terror attack in the first place.

Within a week, Netanyahu dramatically stepped up his counterattack on Clinton, by ordering the murder of Hamas official Khalid Mashaal in Jordan, in another effort to provoke a much bigger Hamas killing spree. The Sept. 25 assassination attempt was bungled, and the would-be Israeli assassins captured. But, Netanyahu was able to turn it to his advantage. In the resulting deal, struck between an enraged King Hussein of Jordan and Hamas, Netanyahu agreed to release over 60 Hamas terrorist leaders from Israeli prisons, including its founder, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, to secure the release of Israel's own captured assassins.



*Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (right) and Ambassador to the U.S. Zalman Shoval. The confrontation between Netanyahu and President Clinton has shaped every development in the Mideast since “Bibi” Netanyahu came to power in May 1996.*

As expected, the triumphant return of the formerly imprisoned Hamas leaders to Gaza further weakened Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat who, five years after Oslo, had little to show, in terms of concrete accomplishments, to an impoverished Palestinian population. Since that time, Netanyahu has consistently demanded that Arafat round up the same terrorist leaders Netanyahu had sprung from prison, if the Oslo Accords were to be revived, even while carrying out further provocations that strengthen Islamic radicalism.

On Jan. 13, 1998, on the eve of his trip to Washington, Netanyahu formalized the suspension of the Oslo Accords, until such time that Arafat eliminate Hamas, an effort which would only spark a Palestinian civil war.

### **The October war push**

Netanyahu’s “Islamic terrorism” proved a useful means of sabotaging Clinton’s effort to revive the Oslo peace process, but British and Israeli planners judged that an all-out war in the region promised greater success. Consequently, by October 1997, Britain and Israel initiated an ambitious effort to lure the United States into another war on Iraq, to destroy the Oslo Accords, Iraq, and Clinton, in one fell swoop.

Britain had an additional, powerful motivation. It was looking for some means of destroying the powers of the U.S. Presidency itself, since it is the only institution capable of challenging the oligarchy’s plans in the midst of the collapse of the world financial system. A disastrous crisis, or war, was judged one of the best means to do just that.

The renewed war push began when the British government, after claiming repeated Iraqi violations of UN resolu-

tions, pushed through UN Resolution 1134 on Oct. 24, which imposed new sanctions, including the right to bar Iraqi officials from travelling abroad. The notable abstention of Russia, China, and France from the vote, which betrayed a split in the old “Gulf Coalition,” as well as the deliberately provocative resolution itself, lured Iraq into the expected response. That same day, Iraq declared it would no longer allow American UN inspectors into Iraq. On Nov. 12, it expelled all the American inspectors from the country.

Having lured Iraq into one trap, Britain and Israel attempted to use Iraq as bait for another, demanding that Clinton bomb Iraq to ensure Iraqi compliance. “Death to the Finish of Iraq,” screamed the headline of Australian press lord Rupert Murdoch’s *New York Post*, in one typical article on Nov. 16. “World’s Got to Flatten This Sand Loon Before It’s Too Late,” read another. But the intervention of Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeni Primakov, who convinced a reluctant Iraq to back down on Nov. 20, cheated Britain and Israel, at least temporarily, of their war.

During October-November, a period in which the United States seemed to be heading for war, Britain and Israel also pulled out all stops, to give the impression that Israel was prepared to nuke Iraq on its own, if the United States failed to act.

### **Nuclear Armageddon**

On Nov. 12, in a radio interview with “EIR Talks,” Lyndon LaRouche reviewed the scenario. “Under British direction,” he warned, “the present virtual dictator of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu will launch a *nuclear Armageddon scenario* for the Middle East, which will resemble the 1962 Missile

Crisis of the Soviet Union and the United States.” The purpose, LaRouche emphasized in an intelligence memorandum released that day, was not a “limited-goal action within the immediate theatre in which the primary action is situated,” but a nuclear crisis which will have a global effect, “a wildly, multiphase ricocheting effect.”

London’s determination to proceed with such a nuclear scenario had been accelerated, LaRouche stated, by the combination of the successful summit at the end of October between President Clinton and Chinese President Jiang Zemin, which the British strongly opposed, and the global financial crisis.

The center of London’s scenario, LaRouche added, is the Netanyahu grouping, which is encouraged by the British “to see the need for a ‘chicken game’ style of preemptive, bloody, strategic insolence as the precondition for avoiding loss of power and tempo for continuing an ‘Eretz Israel’ [Greater Israel] policy in the Middle East.”

In order to make this nuclear chicken game more credible, the British, and British-dominated Israeli press began putting out the line that Israel might go it alone against Iraq and other “rogue states,” simultaneous with the orchestrated buildup toward an Iraq war.

Exemplary is an article in the Nov. 7 issue of the Israeli daily *Maariv*. “Sooner or later Iran will have missiles capable of reaching Israel, on which they will be able to load chemical, biological, or nuclear warheads,” Ben Caspit wrote. “It must be made clear to the Iranians that the moment they decide to make use of this weapon—the return strike will be severe and fatal.”

The November issue of British intelligence “old boy” Kenneth de Courcy’s *Intelligence Digest*, mouthpiece of the British-Israelite cult, reported that Netanyahu was considering a preemptive nuclear attack on Iran, over its alleged acquisition of a nuclear missile capability, as well as on Syria, which is reportedly already in possession of chemical and biological warheads. A Nov. 16 dispatch in the London *Sunday Times* claimed Iraq was secretly making poisonous gas in Sudan, for the benefit of both countries—thus adding Sudan to the Israeli hit-list of potential targets.

When Netanyahu arrived in London on Nov. 17, in the midst of the “bomb Iraq” buildup, the scenario had been prepared. Speaking in the House of Commons that day, the Israeli Prime Minister threatened that “if the supply of Russian technology is not stopped, then within a year, Iran will become self-sufficient, and would be able to create missiles of its own.” *Jane’s Defence Weekly*, the British Defense Ministry mouthpiece, released an article that week, further goosing Israel to strike, saying that Iran would be a nuclear power with four months.

Within Israel, not everyone was so insane, however. A leak in the November issue of Maxim Ghilan’s *Israel and Palestine*, reported that Chief of Staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, and others in the military command, were warning that Netan-

nyahu’s war policies constituted a threat to Israel. “Both the incumbent Chief of Staff and Defense Minister are openly opposed to a war,” the newsletter stated. It added that Lipkin-Shahak was “anxious that the next war may extend to all of the Middle East, not just remain contained to the Palestinians and Syrians.” Moreover, it said, “the Chief of Staff estimates such a conflict might easily degenerate into a nuclear, chemical, or even bacteriological one.”

Netanyahu responded by moving to purge his opponents from the military and intelligence establishment. These plans moved forward, with the Feb. 16 release of the findings of the Ciechanover committee, formed to investigate the failed Mashaal assassination attempt in October. Netanyahu was exonerated, as expected, while Mossad director Danny Yatom, who reportedly opposes an Armageddon war push, was quietly blamed. According to the Israeli press, Netanyahu intends to use the report to force out Yatom by July, when Chief of Staff General Lipkin-Shahak’s term of office also ends. In the interim, Netanyahu plans to establish a new, American-modelled National Security Council, to oversee all Israeli intelligence operations, directed by Netanyahu’s current counterterrorism adviser, Gen. Meir Dagan, a 30-year sidekick of warmonger Gen. Ariel Sharon, an enthusiast of Netanyahu’s war policies.

## **New countdown against Iraq**

Although a British-manipulated U.S. strike on Iraq, accompanied by the threat of an Israeli nuclear Armageddon war crisis, was narrowly averted in December, the crisis re-emerged in January simultaneously with the Monica Lewinsky affair; Netanyahu’s visit to Washington, where he led anti-Clinton hate-rallies with Jerry Falwell; Clinton’s deposition in the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit; and related psychological warfare against President Clinton.

The pretext for the renewed countdown occurred on Jan. 17, when the Iraqi leadership called for ending nearly eight years of UN sanctions. On Jan. 21, Australian diplomat Richard Butler, the head of the UN inspection team, noisily stormed out of Iraq, protesting unacceptable constraints allegedly imposed on his team by the Iraqi government.

Once again, British and Israeli media outlets throughout the world began screaming that war might be necessary, and by Jan. 29, the British Foreign Office reported that while it wanted to avert a military attack on Iraq, to enforce compliance with UN inspections, “the options are narrowing.” The *HMS Invincible* was dispatched to the Persian Gulf, as the London *Times* put it, “to send a message to Baghdad of Britain’s determination.” On Jan. 31, Foreign Secretary Robin Cook met with Albright in London, to “coordinate the allied response” to Iraq’s “intransigence.”

On Feb. 4, British Prime Minister Tony Blair descended on Washington for a four-day visit, to “strengthen the bonds” between the United States and Britain “in the face of the threat from Saddam Hussein,” he told the press. It was that visit

which seemed to consolidate the impulse of a disoriented President Clinton in the direction of war.

Meanwhile, as part of its psy-ops campaign against Clinton, Britain also revved up its old Israeli go-it-alone scenario, to goad the United States into preemptive action. On Jan. 27, UN inspection team leader Butler told the *New York Times*, completely out of the blue, that the Iraqis had enough anthrax and botulin toxin “to blow away Tel Aviv,” and missiles that are “very crude, but work.”

The London *Times* escalated the scare campaign on Jan. 29, with an article entitled “Israel ‘Threatens Nuclear Reply’ to Iraq Germ Attack,” reporting that Israeli officials issued a warning to Iraq, that Iraq “could expect a nuclear response to any chemical or biological attack.” The paper commented that the likely response would be “the dropping of an Israeli neutron bomb on Baghdad.”

And, reinforcing the threat to Clinton that Israel might also strike other “rogue states,” the Congressional Republican Taskforce on Terrorism released a report on Feb. 14, written by a British-deployed, former Israeli Air Force officer, Yossef Bodansky, which said that Iraq had already dispersed its “weapons of mass destruction,” to Iran, Libya, Yemen, Algeria, and Sudan.

Meanwhile, fearful that Russia might yet convince Iraq to compromise, thereby cheating Britain and Israel of another war, Israeli Industry Minister and former Soviet refusenik Natan Sharansky flew to Washington on Feb. 12, to demand of Vice President Al Gore that the United States confront Russia as responsible for Iran’s developing weapons of mass destruction.

## Brits, Israelis widen war against Iraq

by Scott Thompson

No sooner had UN Secretary General Kofi Annan achieved significant progress with regard to renewing weapons inspections in Iraq, than Baroness Caroline Cox threw a monkey-wrench into a debate in the British House of Lords on Feb. 17, based upon a compilation of lies by Israeli Defense Forces intelligence officer Yossef Bodansky. Among Lady Cox’s lies was that, starting before the 1991 Persian Gulf War, Saddam Hussein had transferred Scud missile delivery systems, together with the means of production and stockpiles of so-called “weapons of mass destruction” (WMDs), to other nations, principally to Sudan, Libya, and Algeria. The British Minister of State, Ministry of Defense, Lord Gilbert, told the House of Lords that Her Majesty’s government would investigate and pursue Lady Cox’s charges (see *Documentation*).

During the debate, Lady Cox confirmed that her primary

source for this “intelligence” (i.e., the alleged transfer of 400 Scud missiles together with their launchers to Sudan) had been a Feb. 10 report, entitled “The Iraqi WMD Challenge: Myths and Realities,” prepared by the Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare, an association composed of members of the U.S. House of Representatives, but which is not an official body of the U.S. Congress. The chairman of this currently solely Republican group is Rep. Jim Saxton (R-N.J.), and its official director is Israeli intelligence’s Yossef Bodansky, who was the “spotter” Jonathan Pollard, an Israeli Lekem agent convicted in the United States for espionage.

Another feature of the House of Lords debate involving Lady Cox, Lord Owen, Lord Thomas of Swynnerton, and others, was the call for the partitioning of Iraq, into the eventual formation of Kurdistan in the north and an independent Shi’ite entity in the south, that would leave Baghdad the capital of a geographic area no larger than ancient Mesopotamia.

As Lord Thomas of Swynnerton, who called on the British government to supply arms and money to the opposition Iraqi National Congress (INC) for irregular warfare against Saddam Hussein, acknowledged, one of the leading proponents of this scheme was former Reagan-Bush administration Deputy Assistant Secretary for Defense Policy Richard Perle. Well-informed sources report that Perle is bringing Ahmed Chalabi, who had been cut loose by the CIA — after a failed INC uprising against Saddam Hussein, and because Chalabi had publicly flaunted his personal abuse of CIA funding — to the United States to further this end. Chalabi will have arrived fresh from a meeting in the British Parliament building of the entire Iraqi opposition leadership, including members of the Kurdish PUK and KDP.

Perle himself had been caught red-handed, during a National Security Council investigation, supplying Israel with classified information. And, as co-founder (with Stephen Bryen, another Israeli spy) of the Jewish Institute for National Strategic Affairs (JINSA), Perle had been the one-time employer of Bodansky.

### Who is Yossef Bodansky?

Baroness Caroline Cox is no stranger to the British Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) interface with Israeli intelligence. She is the main force behind an organization called Christian Solidarity International (CSI). The executive director of CSI-U.K. is Stuart Windsor, who worked for the ultra-secret Cheltenham General Command Headquarters (GCHQ, the British electronic eavesdropping equivalent of the U.S. National Security Agency). Windsor has told U.S. reporters that he uses his contacts with GCHQ for Baroness Cox’s trips to restricted zones in Sudan, where, under the guise of protecting Christians, she has been rendering military assistance to the National Democratic Alliance umbrella of guerrilla organizations seeking to overthrow the government of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir.

Lady Cox is also a leader in Labour Friends of Israel, which organized Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Neta-