EIR International

Butler faked Iraq report, as Gore, Blair pushed war

by Nancy Spannaus

President Bill Clinton's decision to launch air strikes against Iraq is effectively an act of political suicide, launched under the tutelage of British Prime Minister Tony Blair and British asset, Vice President Al Gore. As is already evident, this act of war will utterly disrupt the close relations which the President has worked hard to forge with the Chinese and Russian governments, with a potentially deadly effect on the needed collaboration among these governments for a new world monetary system.

How could the President have been convinced, after having resisted urgings to bomb Iraq several times this year, to finally do so? *EIR*'s intelligence sources are clear: The Butler did it. In other words, the report by UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) chief inspector Richard Butler, which was the document used to convince the President to strike, was a total fraud.

Butler could not do this alone, of course. Both Blair and Gore played indispensable roles, setting up a controlled environment for President Clinton, in which he would not oppose the "consensus" among his advisers, which included prominently the Vice-President. Those advisers, including National Security Adviser Sandy Berger, Defense Secretary William Cohen, and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, either knew, or should have known, that the Butler report was a fake. They should be sacked, as well as Butler himself.

The case for Lyndon LaRouche's assertion that Al Gore is a security threat to the United States, is clinched for anyone who has eyes to see.

The Butler fake

Reports in the French press, from Chinese and Russian government officials, and other international sources have all provided ample evidence that the Butler report claiming that Iraq had violated its agreements to cooperate with the inspectors, was a fraud. While *EIR* intends to pursue this story further, we will provide currently available evidence here.

According to the French daily *Libération,* the Butler report documents a grand total of *three cases,* out of 130 cases outlined, where Iraq allegedly denied access to Butler's team. The French daily comments that this is "very minimal, to justify massive attacks." Furthermore, the paper points out, Iraq has fully complied with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the UN agency mandated to investigate Iraq's nuclear program.

Chatham House's George Joffe was even more blunt. He told *EIR* that the Butler report was written "in an extremely derogatory manner. The cases where there were difficulties, were where there were understandable difficulties in working out new procedures for inspections: In only *one* case, is there a clear violation from the Iraqi side. Nothing is demonstrably shown, about a clear pattern of Iraqi obstruction." *EIR* asked, "So the whole thing is a gigantic fraud?" Joffe responded: "Of course it is, does that surprise you?"

Corroborating reports are available both from sources at the United Nations and in Russia.

The *Washington Post* reported on Dec. 17 that a New York-based diplomat, generally supportive of Washington, told the newspaper that UNSCOM's Butler deliberately wrote a justification for a war. "Based on the same facts, he could have said, 'There were something like 300 inspections and we encountered difficulties in five,' " which would have shown the true extent of the "violations."

"There is a general feeling," the diplomat stated, "that in a growing number of instances, Butler has been an instrument of something other than the [UN] Security Council, and that is problematic."

Russian Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov attacked Butler's role in his comments to the press after a crisis meeting in Russia: "Butler has not played the best role in this story. He was in Moscow and said three or four files would be closed, that the work was going fine, and then, without consultation, he withdrew his personnel, and a strike was launched."

The Iraqis also provide evidence

Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad al-Sahaf gave a press conference in Baghdad on Dec. 17, which also contained strong evidence of Butler's and UNSCOM's fraud. He told reporters: "I would like to remind you [the press] and through you, I would like to remind the two governments who are fully responsible for their act of aggression against Iraq . . . that the Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan, had received two reports, the first one on Dec. 14 from the International Atomic Energy Agency. . . . The IAEA had stated clearly that the Iraqi counterpart has provided the necessary level of cooperation to enable the above enumerated activities to be completed effectively and . . . efficiently. . . . Have you heard anything from the American . . . or the British government, anything, any mention of the report of the IAEA? The answer is none, not."

After saying that Butler and other accusers "lied shamelessly," he presented the facts and figures: "Since the resumption of cooperation between Iraq and UNSCOM on Nov. 17, UNSCOM had sent eight inspection teams. They had operated 427 inspections. I repeat, 427 inspections to 427 sites; 299 of these sites are included in the ongoing monitoring regime, 128 sites were even not included in the ongoing monitoring regime, but still they asked to inspect them and we accepted. . . . Well, out of the total inspections, which is 427, they mentioned that there were cases of non-cooperation in five. Five cases. . . . The American administration and the British government had committed a dangerous crime against the people of Iraq because of those five cases."

Ironically, on the same day, Scott Ritter, who rabidly supports bombing Iraq, and who had left UNSCOM claiming that it was not tough enough on Saddam Hussein, also came out excoriating Butler, claiming that he had carried out deliberate provocations with his inspections, and was creating a "set-up" to justify the bombings. Apparently, some of the British-Gore crowd are willing to sacrifice their tool Butler, in order to meet the overall objective: destroying the Presidency of the United States.

Controlled environment

The fake Butler report was released on Sunday, Dec. 13, while President Clinton was in Israel, already a crazy environment. Clinton should never have made the dangerous trip to Israel. There is some indication that the decision had already been made to launch the attack based on previous leaks. But the final decision, according to present knowledge, came when President Clinton was returning home on Air Force One on Dec. 15, in a conference call with his National Security team, including, prominently, Vice President Gore. Gore also, uncharacteristically, took responsibility for briefing the former Presidents of the United States.

During the November crisis with Iraq, as well as earlier ones, President Clinton had taken care to consult with the Russian government in particular. In November, he found the nerve to veto recommendations to strike, on the basis that he was told an estimated 10,000 Iraqi civilians would be killed in the wave of heavy air strikes. This time, the President apparently only consulted with his staff, and most likely, Tony Blair.

An alarmed response

The response from Russia and China, two nations with strategic weight in the emerging Eurasian Land-Bridge constellation, and with which President Clinton has worked to create warm relations, was shock and anger at the unilateral decision to bomb by the United States and Britain. As of this writing, it is not clear how far the crisis will escalate.

Most angry are the Russians, who have recalled their ambassador from Washington for consultations. Both President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Primakov have strongly denounced the air strike, calling it a breach of the United Nations Charter, and demanding an immediate end to military action. Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said: "The military action constitutes a breach of the UN Charter, it may complicate not only the situation in the Persian Gulf, but have more serious and far-reaching consequences."

Even more dramatic were statements made by leaders in the Russian State Duma (lower house of Parliament), who called the "barbarous bombings" an act of "terrorism."

The Chinese leadership also attacked the bombing in the strongest terms. "We are shocked. We urge the United States to immediately stop its military actions toward Iraq," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Sun Yuxi on Dec. 17. China's permanent representative to the United Nations also called on Britain and the United States to "stop forthwith all military actions against Iraq," and added that "there is absolutely no excuse or pretext to use force against Iraq."

The Vatican also released a statement on Dec. 17, saying, "The Holy See agrees fully with the Secretary General of the United Nations that 'today is a sad day for the United Nations and for the world.' The Holy See hopes that this aggression will end as soon as possible and that international order is restored."

The destabilization of the moves toward the strategic alliances required for the Land-Bridge has clearly occurred, and the President has dug himself into even deeper trouble. He has to come to terms with the fact that Blair and Vice President Gore are effectively operating in cahoots with the Republican neanderthals who are launching the frontal assault against him, and ice them out of any policy influence. Under those circumstances, the very dangerous travesty represented by the U.S.-British bombing of Iraq, can potentially be reversed.