

LaRouche said: "It couldn't occur. This thing was a piece of folly from the beginning. It was actually a response, by the U.S. government, to a provocation from inside the United States, by people, obviously, who intended that the United States should join with Israel, in launching war against Israel's Arab neighbors. And by those who, like Zbigniew Brzezinski, are committed to what is called a 'Clash of Civilizations,' as a geopolitical operation in Asia.

"One has to remember, to understand this, that the attacks in the late 1970s against Afghanistan were taken at the admitted instigation of Zbigniew Brzezinski, who called it the Arc of Crisis, which is one of his earlier versions of the clash of civilizations. That was the geopolitical operation then, and is the geopolitical operation now. So what's happened is, you have the bombing of Afghanistan under the pretense of chasing Osama bin Laden, who could not have done what was done—he could not be not responsible for it, incapable—as a way of trying to compromise, so as not to bomb Lebanon, not to bomb Syria, Iraq, and so on, which is what the faction behind this kind of thing, wants.

"They want the Israelis, backed by the United States, as in the Desert Storm war of 1990-91, under the pressure from Israel, to start a clash of civilizations war. And that is what the issue is here.

"If you want to shut down al-Qaeda, you have to shut down the British, American, and Israeli backing of what was called the Iran-Contra operation. They control it. As long as you have people in Britain, in the United States, and in Israel who continue to play with this kind of organization in Africa, in the Middle East, and elsewhere, it is going to continue to exist. Whether Osama bin Laden lives or dies is irrelevant. This thing was created by the Anglo-American interests, with Israeli collaboration, and as long as it continues in operation, it will continue. Chasing one man is not going to eliminate it."

LaRouche concluded, describing the world economic recovery program, which is the centerpiece of his U.S. election campaign, and the role of Egypt in Eurasian development.

On Nov. 7, a well-known Egyptian historian, Dr. Abduladhim Ramadan, echoed LaRouche's views in an article published in *Al Gumhuriya*. The greatest tragedy for the American administration today, he wrote, "is that nobody in the world believes its allegations that bin Laden is the culprit behind the Sept. 11 attacks, for the simple reason that the crime, from the standpoint of planning and preparation, was of a level which is beyond the capabilities of a terrorist like bin Laden." He continued: "The crime, as it was conducted, looks more like a well-prepared war plan, planned by military professionals with a high degree knowledge, competence, and experience." He stressed that "by pointing to bin Laden from the onset, the U.S. administration has covered up the real perpetrators of the crime forever. Even if the current investigations declare bin Laden as not guilty, the administration would not admit that, because its military preparations have gone too far already."

Qatar, Kuwait

On Nov. 8, the Qatari-based Al-Jazeera satellite channel website, which claims 41 million visits per day, ran a review of LaRouche's ideas, as reported in a Kuwaiti publication, *Al-Mujtamaa*. The magazine focussed on LaRouche's assertion "that the perpetrators of these incidents are internal American forces." The article cited "major American politician Lyndon LaRouche, the Democratic Party candidate for the next elections in the U.S.," who said at the end of July, that due to the worldwide economic crisis, "there are forces inside the U.S. and Britain (including Brzezinski) who want to trigger a world war to prevent the new, current shifts in Asia." To stop this war, which would be a "war between Islam and the West," LaRouche was cited saying, "We have to stop such a war before it breaks out. Therefore, we have to stop Sharon in Israel first. And we have to secure peace in the Middle East."

The magazine continued with LaRouche's post-Sept. 11 comments, saying that the attacks had been "set up, created in a period of overwhelming financial and monetary crisis in many countries. This operation was not conducted by any force from outside the U.S. . . . It is possible that individuals from other countries were used in this. But those who conducted this operation are forces from inside the U.S. Their aim is to create a coup in the administration, and to drive the U.S. into war. These forces are prepared to run new operations to reach their objectives. They will provoke the population into pushing the administration to war. We have to stop that."

The paper concluded with a warning: "All that one fears is that this political personality could be targetted for assassination, because he possesses such a level of daring which, without any doubt, is annoying many forces in the United States of America."

Palestinians' Shaath Makes Plea For Peace

by Carl Osgood

The world has changed considerably in the past 14 months, and even more so since the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States. One thing that hasn't changed is the desire of the Palestinians to realize their national aspirations, and that was on display in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 9. That day, Nabil Shaath, Minister for Planning and International Cooperation in the Palestinian Authority, delivered an address, at the Brookings Institution, which was an eloquent plea for peace. He called for effective participation by the United States in finding that peace, and for Israel to give up the violent, oppressive means it has used against the Palestinians since the Second Intifada began in September 2000.

‘Security As Between Two Partners’

Shaath began his remarks by demonstrating that the goals of the Palestinians have not changed, despite the violence that has engulfed the region. What the Palestinians want is a fully sovereign state on the territories occupied by Israel in the 1967 war, that is, the West Bank and Gaza. That sovereignty must include full control over borders, air space, resources, and adjacent waters. The Palestinians want their capital in East Jerusalem, with the Israeli capital in West Jerusalem, and want Jerusalem to be one city, with free movement between East and West and possibly joint municipal administration. Shaath said that what the Palestinians would like to see is a secure border for safety and security, but open for free movement of goods and services and for joint economic projects. Shaath said, “We would like to see security as between two partners, between two independent states, and within a Middle Eastern context that is free and secure and living in harmony.”

Instead, what the Palestinians were offered at Camp David last year, was a “state without borders and without control of the skies and without control of the underground water and without control of our territorial waters, and a state with a semi-capital that you need a GPS system to walk through to know which part of it” is Palestine and which part of it is Israel. This is what the Palestinians were offered as a final solution, and that didn’t, of course, address the issue of refugees. The refugee issue, Shaath said, must also be solved by an agreement “that’s negotiated, and that is fair and that can be applied and that will end in real peace between the two parties.”

Shaath emphasized that the Palestinians are still committed to a negotiated peace, even despite the terrible toll and suffering of the past year of confrontation. “The role of the United States is absolutely vital,” he said. “It’s absolutely necessary because the United States will do something that’s good for the two parties,” and by ending the cycle of violence, the United States “will be saving the Israelis as well as Palestinians, Middle Easterners, Arabs, in fact, contributing to peace and security for the rest of the world, because the United States is the only one capable of doing it in peace.”

Shaath concluded his remarks by putting the Middle East situation in the context of Sept. 11. First, he condemned those in Israel who think the world “has changed in ways they can exploit, to simply dub us as terroristic, so that we can be lumped with the bin Ladens of the day. . . . This, I think, is the worst and most horrible, malicious opportunism and exploitation of the agonies of the American people.” Second, he described how the Palestinians took the decision to stand with the United States against the perpetrators of the Sept. 11 attacks.

An Appropriate Response To Sept. 11

Finally, Shaath answered the real forces behind the attacks. “I don’t think there is any better response than for

the United States not only to urge the parties to work to produce an Israeli-Palestinian peace, because what is better than a peace between Christian and Muslim Palestinians and Jewish Israelis now as a response to bin Ladenism, as a response to all those who want to see a clash of civilizations?” He concluded: “What better response than to make peace that works, with the help of the United States? And how negative is the alternative of the United States seeming, looking like it is not using that opportunity to produce more justice.”

Shaath did not flinch in the face of questions from the news media and pro-Israeli organs such as the *Jerusalem Post* and American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee. First, Shaath demolished the myth that Osama bin Laden has anything to do with the Palestinian struggle. “We’re not going to accept to become a pretext for anybody for other causes, not that Osama bin Laden has ever expressed any support for our cause before,” he said.

Second, Shaath took on the issue of the use of violence. He made a distinction between those who resist the occupation and the methods they use. Anybody who resists the occupation of the Palestinian territories by the Israeli Army must be supported, he said. On the other hand, “The Palestinian Authority had always been very clear in condemnation of any of these tactics leading to the killing of civilians on both sides.”

Palestinian Police Are Hamstrung

As for the oft-repeated criticism that Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat is not doing enough to apprehend terrorists wanted by the Israelis, Shaath made a number of points. First, he said, the Palestinian police force has been devastated by the Israeli attacks. Police stations and jails have been destroyed, and the police have little, if any, freedom of movement to even pursue Palestinians who have violated Palestinian Authority law. The irony is that the Israelis are demanding cooperation from a government “when the Israeli government is targetting that government and its very security forces.” He also noted that the same charges are never made against the Israeli authorities when violence is committed by the terrorist groups made up of Israeli settlers or by members of the Israeli Army. Shaath said, “There’s always a political rationalization for why the Israeli government cannot do something, because it finds it very difficult to do it, because it will lose support if it does it.”

The Palestinians, Shaath said, are not seen in this light at all. The only political support that the Palestinians are asking for, he said, “is for Israel to start doing its own things that will reduce the onus of the siege and the burdens of the closure and the humiliation of the people, and to start to end a little bit the suffocation of our economy, so that our people can really be empowered by their government to go after those who disobey the rules of the government on engagement with Israeli occupation.”