



*Former German State Secretary of Defense Andreas von Bülow described Zbigniew Brzezinski as “that mad dog,” in a Jan. 13 interview rejecting the official versions and policies of Sept. 11.*

## War Cabal Shifts Its Sights To Iran

by Dean Andromidas

On Jan. 4, the U.S. State Department announced the suspension of funding for the Iraqi National Congress (INC), the organization which hoped to become the “Iraqi Contras” if Saddam Hussein were to become the next target in the “global war against terrorism.” The move was a clear signal by the Bush Administration that an attack on Iraq, at least for the moment, has been put on the back burner.

The decision has not deterred the “clash of civilizations” advocates in and around the Bush Administration led by Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz and his sidekick Richard Perle, the chairman of the Defense Policy Board. They have simply shifted their focus from Iraq to an attack on Iran as the “center of global terrorism.” This crew has deployed their ally, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who is now linking his war on the Palestinian Authority with a new war on Iran. Israel is a nuclear power, which has stated publicly and loudly that it sees alleged attempts by Iran to acquire nuclear weapons as a “strategic threat,” adding the extremely dangerous nuclear dimension to Sharon’s move. It is very possible that Sharon, in a “breakaway ally” mode, would launch a strike against Iran, independently of the United States. Such a strike could target Iran’s half-built nuclear power plants, as Israel had done in 1981 against Iraq, or something far worse.

The major opponent in the Bush Administration to this insanity has been Secretary of State Colin Powell. This targeting of Iran comes as the Bush Administration has opened a quiet back-channel with Iran. Nonetheless, the first fruit of Wolfowitz and Perle’s campaign was a statement by President George Bush, during a recent press conference. When asked to comment on the absurd story that members of Osama bin Laden’s al-Qaeda organization received a welcome in Iran after fleeing Afghanistan, Bush warned Tehran, “Either you are with us or against us.”

INC spokesman Sharif Ali bin al-Hussein confirmed that Iraq has been pushed lower down on the list of priority targets, when he said that the suspension of INC funding was “engineered by officials in the Bush Administration who don’t want aggressive action against Iraq.” He charged that these officials “want to appease Saddam . . . and don’t want to take Saddam on as the head of a terrorist state.”

The INC is headed by Ahmed Chalabi, an Iraqi “banker” who is wanted in Jordan for his role in a banking scandal in which he was accused of absconding with millions of dollars. The decision to suspend the nearly million dollars a month in

the attack. They were snuck into the country by the CIA, despite a State Department ban on their entry. At the same time, the leader of the band was an FBI informant. And he made a deal with the authorities: At the last minute, the dangerous explosive material would be replaced by a harmless powder. The FBI did not stick to the deal. The bomb exploded, so to speak with the knowledge of the FBI. The official story of the crime was quickly found: The criminals were evil Muslims.

**Tagesspiegel:** At the time Soviet soldiers marched into Afghanistan, you were in the Cabinet of Helmut Schmidt. What was it like?

**Von Bülow:** The Americans pushed for trade sanctions, they demanded the boycott of the Olympic games in Moscow. . . . And today we know: It was the strategy of the American security adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski, to destabilize the Soviet Union from neighboring Muslim countries: They lured the Russians into Afghanistan, and then prepared for them a hell on earth, their Vietnam. With decisive support of the U.S. intelligence agencies, at least 30,000 Muslim fighters were trained in Afghanistan and Pakistan, a bunch of good-for-nothings and fanatics who were, and still are today, ready for anything. And one of them is Osama bin Laden. I wrote years ago: “It was out of this brood, that the Taliban grew up in Afghanistan, who had been brought up in the Koran schools financed by American and Saudi funds, the Taliban who are now terrorizing the country and destroying it. . . .”

**Tagesspiegel:** What do you think of the bin Laden films?

**Von Bülow:** When one is dealing with intelligence services, one can imagine manipulations of the highest quality. Hollywood could provide these techniques. I consider the videos inappropriate as evidence.

This senior German intelligence professional concluded the interview pungently: “My task is concluded by saying, it could not have been that way [according to the official story]. Search for the truth!”



*Ammunition seized by the Israeli Defense Forces on board the ship *Karine A*, on Jan. 5, 2002. The Israeli seizure of the ship on the Red Sea was aimed at sabotaging the peace mission of U.S. Middle East Envoy Anthony Zinni, and targeting Iran in the “war against terrorism.”*

U.S. aid that the INC was receiving, followed the organization’s failure to account for how the money was being spent.

### **Sharon: The Breakaway Ally**

The capture on Jan. 3 of the 4,000 ton ship *Karine A* marked the beginning of an anti-Iran campaign by Sharon and his generals. The ship was allegedly carrying 50 tons of weapons for the Palestinian Authority. The Israelis claim that the weapons were supplied by Iran and loaded onto the ship at the Iranian Island of Qeshm in the Strait of Hormuz. Sharon has made the absurd claim that personnel and emissaries of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat held secret meetings with ultra-hard-liner Ayatollah Khamenei in order to seal a “terror alliance” among the Palestinians, Iran, and the Lebanese Hezbollah. The Israelis even tried to link this with the attacks on New York’s World Trade Center. Anyone familiar with the region’s history over the past two decades would know the low esteem in which Iran’s hard-liners hold Arafat, whom they characterize as the man who signed the Oslo Accords with the “little Satan,” Israel. In addition, Arafat has been traditionally aligned with Iraq, which he supported throughout the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq War, as well as during the first Bush Administration’s Gulf War in 1990-91. Furthermore, the support given Hamas by the hard-liners in Iran has done little to engender warm relations between Arafat and the ayatollahs.

While the seizure of *Karine A* was touted by Sharon as Israel’s most spectacular achievement since the the June 1967 War, the international community has concluded that the seizure was aimed at sabotaging the peace mission of U.S. Middle East envoy Anthony Zinni, who arrived in Israel on the same day that Israel hijacked the ship in the Red Sea.

The linking of the Lebanese Hezbollah to the *Karine A*

weapons shipment was also aimed at fingering Syria, which is allied to Iran, and, like Iran, is known to support the Hezbollah. The reason Sharon is targeting Syria has become transparent with the visit to the region by former U.S. Ambassador to Syria and Israel Edward Djerejian. Djerejian is the current director of the James Baker III Institute, and has been named by the Bush Administration to open an “alternative channel” to Syrian President Bashar Assad. On Jan. 15, Djerejian, arrived in Israel after visiting Syria, and informed Sharon that the Syrian President is willing to renew negotiations with Israel, picking up where they left off with his late father, Hafez Assad, over two years ago. The implication is that the Bush Administration thinks this might be a good idea—a message Sharon did not want to hear.

At the same time that Djerejian, an ally of Secretary of State Colin Powell, was in Israel, Undersecretary of State John Bolton, who is allied with Powell’s adversaries, Wolfowitz and Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, was also in Israel. Bolton, who is responsible for arms control, was meeting with senior Israeli officials on how to stop the transfer of nuclear and missile technology to Iran.

### **Is Israel Creating ‘Iranian Contras’?**

Writing in the Israeli daily *Ha’aretz* on Jan. 11, senior military commentator Ze’ev Schiff confirmed that Sharon’s anti-Iranian rhetoric is now being followed up by an Israeli-backed covert military-intelligence operation.

Schiff wrote that while Sharon was celebrating the capture of the *Karine A*, the United States was holding meetings with the Iranians. “Suddenly,” he wrote, referring to these discreet talks, “the Iranians discovered that in certain areas, they shared common interests with the United States—for instance the Taliban” and Iraq. Schiff said that while Israel should remain cautious over these talks because of continued Iranian support of the terrorist gang Islamic Jihad, he warned, “Israel must focus its energies on diplomatic efforts rather than support—in terms of weapons and intelligence—for the underground oppositionists Mojahedin-e Khalq (MKO) that are operating in Iran.”

This statement is the first admission by a leading Israeli public figure that Israel has been supporting the MKO, which is on the U.S. State Department list of terrorist organizations, and is based in Iraq.

Schiff also pointed out that there is a debate going on within Iran, and that Israel should follow the U.S. lead, encouraging it through diplomatic means, rather than undertaking dangerous special operations that will provoke Iran into an aggressive response. Schiff wrote, “There is no debate between conservatives and pragmatists over whether Iran

should produce ground-to-ground missiles. All Iranians support the production of these missiles; furthermore, there is no internal opposition with regard to Iran's nuclear ambitions." But, Schiff stressed that there is a debate on Iran's policy toward resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a debate that had not existed before. He further reported on an Iranian seminar on "Palestine From the Iranian Perspective," where Mohammed Raja Thajikh, an adviser to President Seyyed Mohammed Khatami, said that Iran must "operate here within a neutral context, capable of preventing a clash between ideology and national interests. The Palestinian issue must be deprived of its religious rubric so that it can be examined from a *realpolitik* standpoint suited to our policies." Schiff pointed out that Thajikh was highly critical of suicide bombings.

Schiff is signalling that some leading Israeli military and intelligence circles see the grave dangers of Sharon's schemes to transform the current war of words between Iran and Israel, into covert military operations that could lead to a real war.

### The Israeli-Iranians

Exactly how Israel gets "weapons and intelligence" to the MKO might seem a bit of a mystery, but Sharon has his own "Iranian extremists," who are well equipped for the task. On top of this list is Israeli Defense Forces Chief of Staff Shaul Mofaz, who was born in Iran. Appointed chief of staff almost four years ago by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, he has been the major force in the military implementing Sharon's hard-line policies, and was the main mover behind the *Karine A* affair.

Another Israeli Iranian is infamous arms dealer and former Mossad agent Ya'akov Nimrodi. Also born in Iran, Nimrodi in the 1970s helped train the Savak, the late Shah of Iran's notorious secret service. An old crony of Sharon's, he became one of Israel's business tycoons by selling millions of dollars worth of weapons to Iran during the Iran-Iraq War. He gained unwelcome attention as one of U.S. National Security Council aide Lt. Col. Oliver North's chief arms suppliers, delivering weapons to the Nicaraguan Contras in the 1980s.

The MKO, despite its sponsorship by Iraq, has often been accused of cooperating with the Mossad. In addition to conducting cross-border raids into Iran from its military bases in Iraq, the MKO has claimed responsibility for assassinating Iranian officials. The most spectacular were the assassination of Army Deputy Chief of Staff Ali Sayyad-Shirazi in 1999 and former Justice Minister Assadollah Lajevardi in 1998. Despite being on the State Department's list of terrorist organizations, its operatives continue to function from the United States, Great Britain, and France.

The aim of Sharon's support for the MKO is not to bring this rag-tag organization to power in Iran, but to use it as a provocateur to ensure that moderate forces continue to be isolated, if not crushed. A moderate Iran, in Sharon's crazed view, is as "dangerous" as a moderate Palestinian Authority.

## India Contemplates 'Limited War' To Stop Cross-Border Terrorism

by Ramtanu Maitra

Despite brisk diplomatic efforts by world leaders, the India-Pakistan border remains highly tense and there is a growing realization around the world, that India's resolve to stop the terrorism coming across the border from Pakistan may lead to war. Indian Defense Minister George Fernandes, who undertook a Jan. 17-20 trip to the United States, made the Indian objective clear, in a recent interview with the *New York Times*. He said that if Pakistan does not stop sending terrorists into the Indian-held part of Kashmir, India will be left with no choice but to go to war. Fernandes and India's top military brass have said recently that New Delhi is now fully prepared to meet the nuclear threat from Pakistan.

On Jan. 12, Pakistan President Gen. Pervez Musharraf delivered a very important address to the nation, laying down a hard-line approach for future dealings with the extremists and militants. He banned the Jaish-e-Mohammad and the Lashkar-e-Toiba—the two groups India had claimed were behind the terrorist attack on the Indian Parliament on Dec. 13, 2001. He also banned three other groups involved in sectarian killings within Pakistan. Prior to the speech, about 300 militants were arrested—although all were from Karachi, while observers point out, that the epicenter of terrorism that affects the Indian-held part of Kashmir is in Lahore and other parts of Punjab.

As one would expect, President Musharraf's speech was strongly disliked by the banned groups. But resentment was also expressed by a number of Arab countries, because of what they view as Pakistan abandoning its role as an Islamic state. On Jan. 16, the day U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell landed in Islamabad, a fire destroyed a 16-story government building in Pakistan's capital. According to the national daily *The Nation*, Pakistan's Interior Ministry kept its confidential records on religious and militant organizations in an office in that building. The records of recently banned religious organizations and *jihadi* outfits were also said to be there. There has been no official reason given why the building, along with all crucial documents, burned down.

Nonetheless, on the ground, many militants and extremists were taken in and screened. Their offices have been closed, and they have been told that Islamabad will not allow