

Israeli Fascist Eitam Pushes New War Plan

by Dean Andromidas

A group of senior reserve officers of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), and senior members of the Israeli defense establishment led by Brig. Gen. (reserves) Effi Eitam, have drafted a “security-political plan”: It includes reoccupying the Occupied Territories, destroying the Palestinian Authority, and ethnic “cleansing” of the Palestinian territory. Eitam seems to be modelling himself after Nazi Major General of Police Jürgen Stroop, who architected the methods to crush the Warsaw Ghetto, which are being studied for implementation by some IDF officers (see *EIR*, Feb. 8, 2002).

According to the Israeli daily *Ha’aretz* on Jan. 31, the plan has been presented to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. It is also expected to become part of a political campaign that Eitam intends to launch, in preparation for elections.

One of the formulators of the plan, says that Israel is facing “evasive threat,” comparing the conflict with the Palestinians to a “cancer” which has to be dealt with before “it will be too late.” Eitam adds, “This is a first attempt by the right, to present a political security plan that doesn’t make do only with blocking Palestinian intentions, but proposes solutions to the situation.”

Eitam’s “solution” intends to be final: It includes a massive Israeli invasion of Palestinian cities, “cleansing” them of terrorists and weapons, and then ruling the areas. The move would include destruction of the Palestinian Authority and possibly physical elimination of its President, Yasser Arafat. Claiming they have support from the top command of the IDF, they say they could change the strategic reality “in a week.”

The group calls for Israel to unilaterally declare that no sovereignty other than that of Israel will ever be allowed west of the Jordan River. In this regard they call for overthrowing the Hashemite monarchy in Jordan, and declaring Jordan “the Palestinian state.” Such a declaration, they say, would lead to the withering of the Palestinian uprising, the Intifada. Eitam affirms that “the suicide bombers are not blowing themselves up out of despair, but out of hope they can drive us out of the territories. As soon as they find out that won’t happen, the level of violence will also drop.”

The plan also calls for an aggressive Israeli military approach to the alleged nuclear threat from Iran (if the United States doesn’t deal with it); and for limiting the rights of

Israeli Arabs, by preventing them from being elected to the Knesset (parliament), through gerrymandering the election districts. Eitam calls for expelling the population of the Gaza Strip, to the Sinai in Egypt.

Eitam believes that circumstances may be such that the current administration in Washington would not object to such steps by Israel. This is in fact the case. Last November, Eitam was the guest of the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, and a featured speaker at a conference on “Winning the War Against Terrorism,” co-sponsored by AEI and the New Atlantic Initiative, many of whose members form the lunatic hard-line faction both inside and outside of the Bush Administration.

Shortly after Eitam’s proposal was presented to Sharon, the IDF announced the construction of a simulated urban battlefield in the middle of the Negev Desert, to train Israeli troops on how to storm cities. According to an official in the Israeli ground forces command, quoted in the *Jerusalem Post*, the \$10 million project “will be modelled after Palestinian cities, with four sections. These will include a downtown area, rural village section, market area with narrow alleys, and urban outskirts.” The project should be completed by 2003.

Two questions should be asked: 1) If Sharon is interested in a final peace agreement, supposedly after the elusive “seven days of quiet,” why would he entertain such a project? 2) Will IDF troops be expected to learn tactics that the Nazis used in the Warsaw Ghetto, since these tactics are now being studied by certain IDF commanders?

Eitam: A New Model Fascist

The Eitam war plan, no doubt, has considerable support among the hard-liners in the IDF, most likely including Chief of Staff Gen. Shaul Mofaz. Nonetheless, as witnessed by the ongoing revolt among reserve officers and soldiers against serving in the Occupied Territories (see accompanying article), resistance to such insanity is considerable, and growing. Therefore, Eitam and his collaborators are building a mass-based movement to ensure its implementation, even if it drives Israel to the point of civil war.

Eitam left the IDF in February 2001 with the rank of brigadier general. He shares many of the characteristics of Ariel Sharon—from his hard-line policies to the girth of his waistline. But unlike Sharon, Eitam is a so-called “religious Zionist”; he is expected to become a leader of the National Religious Party (NRP). While mainstream Zionism is a secularly based political ideology, the National Religious Party believes in establishing a Jewish state that combines messianic Judaism with nationalism. The party is not only strong in the settlements, but has a growing base in the IDF.

The NRP runs special religious schools called Yeshivot Hesdar, where students are given religious teaching along with military training. Unlike many of the ultra-Orthodox yeshiva students who seek draft deferrals, Yeshivot Hesdar



Under Israeli Chief of Defense Shaul Mofaz (right, meeting with U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz), the Israeli Defense Forces' most extreme right-wing currents are encouraged to project "final solutions" to the Palestinian problem.

students serve in the military. In fact their growing numbers in the IDF has led to demands for special consideration for dietary laws, and for strict separation of women from men.

The NRP program is among the most extreme on the right wing of Israeli politics. The party was key in helping create the Gush Emunim radical settlers movement. According to their party platform, "There will only be one state between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea: the State of Israel. No independent national Arab entity will exist within the limits of the land of Israel. No part of Israel will be given over to a foreign government or authority and no Jewish settlements will be uprooted."

Needless to say, the party's Knesset members voted against the 1993 Oslo Accords; they are committed to their overthrow, and are not members of the Sharon government.

One of the NRP's rabbis, who was also a military rabbi in the IDF reserves, Rabbi Yisrael Rosen, authored a commentary on how Israel should deter Palestinian suicide bombers. "The intention," he said, should be "to hurt the families of the suicide terrorists, the families of those who send them and the entire clan: through deportation, through the confiscation of property, and even through wiping out villages of malefactors." He wrote that such a "blood-chilling" proposal was necessary and that "the moral life commands that we skip over moral qualms and pangs of conscience." In an interview given to *Ha'aertz* on Feb. 1, he said that, according to his interpretation of the Scriptures, Jewish morality is opposed to Christian morality, in the sense that it is not based on the idea of mercy.

'War Now' Party?

Although Eitam has not joined the NRP yet, he has formed a new movement called "Mayim," an acronym for Mohaneh Yehudi Meuhhad (United Jewish Camp), which is the right-wing counterpart to Peace Now on the left. Its aim is to pull all the right-wing elements into a new political formation. It could include extremist parties such as Moledet, which calls for the transfer of the Palestinian population to Jordan. It could even split Sharon's Likud party and the ultra-Orthodox parties, and become the basis of a real fascist movement.

In an interview with the *Jerusalem Post*, shortly after he left the army, he expressed his idea of how to "revitalize" Israeli Zionism, through messianic Judaism. He spoke of the need for a synthesis of Jewish content and Western technology, to replace the "Western, liberal, secular, democratic" character of Israel.

"Am I scaring you?" he asked his interviewer. "There is great ignorance of Judaism in Israel today. Without Jewish content, there will be assimilation in our own country. . . . If Israel is a pale Western, liberal, secular, and democratic copy of America, then why should an American Jew identify with Israel more than America?"

Asked why he left the army, Eitam replied, "I could have stayed in the army and watched the government of Israel negotiate away the Temple Mount and Jerusalem with a gang of terrorist murderers," referring to the site of Solomon's Temple, which is also one of Islam's holiest sites. "If the leadership is weak, then it doesn't matter how strong the army is."