

# Brzezinski Plays His 'Chechen Card'

by William Jones

Zbigniew Brzezinski, leading ideologue of the “clash of civilizations,” addressed a forum on Capitol Hill on Jan. 29, and tried to make a case that Russia is perpetrating genocide in Chechnya. The aging former Polish aristocrat had to eat his words, however, when confronted by *EIR* about the actual genocidal policy perpetrated by the Israeli Defense Forces and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon against the Palestinians.

Brzezinski's aim in his new-found “compassion” for the “Chechen people” is his lifelong obsession of destroying Russia—and particularly, today, wrecking any possibility of a cooperative relationship between the United States and Russia. When I asked him on Jan. 23 what he thought about the partnership that had emerged between Presidents Bush and Putin in the aftermath of Sept. 11, Brzezinski shot back: “A total fiction.”

Brzezinski's method today is similar to what he used as National Security Adviser during the Carter Administration, to provoke the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, and his creation of the Afghansi mujahideen to engage the Red Army in combat. Before there was Osama bin Laden, there was Zbigniew Brzezinski—and without Brzezinski, bin Laden would probably still be in working in his family's construction business.

Brzezinski had admitted as much, in a 1998 interview with a French journalist quoted in John Cooley's *Unholy Wars*. Noting that the U.S. decision to finance covert operations in Afghanistan had been signed by President Jimmy Carter on July 3, 1979, a full six months before the Soviet invasion, Brzezinski boasted: “On that day I wrote a note to the President in which I explained to him that in my opinion, this aid would result in military intervention by the Soviets. . . . We didn't push the Russians to intervene, but we consciously increased the probability that they would do so. . . . Its effect was to draw the Russians into the Afghan trap. You want me to regret that?”

And the development of the Taliban? Brzezinski was asked. “Which was more important in world history?” Brzezinski asked his interlocutor. “The Taliban, or the fall of the Soviet empire? A few overexcited Islamists or the liberation of Central Europe and the end of the Cold War?”

## Genocide, by Whom?

For months, Brzezinski has been the key player in attempting to set up meetings for so-called Chechen Foreign

Minister Ilyas Akhmatov at the Pentagon and elsewhere in Washington. (Chechnya, with a large Muslim population, is part of Russia, and Akhmatov represents a separatist insurgency.) On Jan. 29, Brzezinski helped introduce Akhmatov at a semi-public hearing on Capitol Hill sponsored by the “American Committee for Peace in Chechnya,” a group set up under the auspices of the right-wing Freedom House and chaired by Brzezinski, former Secretary of State Alexander Haig, and former Reagan arms negotiator Max Kampelman.

Brzezinski gave a melodramatic presentation on the “abuses” of the Russian military against the Chechen population, concluding: “The word genocide is being used. In the traditional sense, this is maybe not true, but something similar is happening.” He went on about how the male population is disappearing from Chechnya, but not appearing as prisoners of war, insinuating that they were being exterminated. He warned that Russia, because of its operations in Chechnya, was developing “an apparatus of coercion” which was “in contrast to its democratic strivings.”

The Russian view of such charges was put forward by Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov, at the Wehrkunde conference on international security policy, in Munich, Germany on Feb. 3 (see *International*). He prefaced his remarks by pointing to the Chechen terrorist bombings, in 1999, of civilian apartment houses in Moscow and other cities, whose impact on Russians' public consciousness of was similar to the effect of the Sept. 11 attacks on the Americans. Ivanov continued: “What is our greatest concern today, is the existence till the present time of double political standards with regard to separatism, religious extremism, and fanaticism. If those who blow up apartment houses in Moscow and Buinaks are declared freedom fighters, while in other countries such persons are referred to as terrorists, one cannot even think of forging a united anti-terrorist front.”

Following Brzezinski's presentation, *EIR* denounced his “crocodile tears,” shed for purely political purposes. “To attempt to deduce from the devastation and the bloodshed which the civil conflict in Chechnya has left in its wake, a case of genocide on the part of the Russian government is pretty far-fetched, even for someone like yourself,” said *EIR*'s correspondent. “You really want to talk about genocide, just look at the way the Israeli Defense Forces are studying the Nazis' creation of the Warsaw Ghetto as a ‘solution’ to the Palestinian question. Why no tears in this case?”

Unnerved, Brzezinski appealed to the audience's “popular opinion,” saying: “The views you have just heard from the previous speaker are similar to the views of the leader of the lunatic fringe in the United States, Lyndon LaRouche.” With that, the moderator moved to the next questioner. The unexpected attack destabilized Brzezinski to the extent that when another questioner asked him about his references to “genocide,” he was forced to back off from his previous insinuations, “We must be clear,” Brzezinski said. “In order to argue genocide, there has to be intent, and we can by no means assume that in the case of Chechnya.”