

Vice President Dick Cheney, who “have elaborated a strategic plan directed at re-drawing the Middle Eastern map.” This plan is “based on Ariel Sharon’s and Shaul Mofaz’s direct and detailed suggestions. . . . According to this concept, and after the overthrow of Saddam Hussein in Iraq by Anglo-American forces, the Palestinians would be ‘evacuated’ [thrown out] from both Western Palestine/Eretz Israel and from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. This would allow Israel to become an ‘ethnically pure’ Jewish State.”

The journal’s forecast continued, “Jordan would be included in Greater Israel, up to the Iraqi border, perhaps with some minor border-corrections. The Hashemite Kingdom would disappear. . . . The Palestinians would be evacuated and driven over the Iraqi border and settled in population-poor and underdeveloped Iraqi areas. . . . Syria’s regime would be overthrown in a ‘Blitzkrieg,’ a lightning-fast Israeli/American offensive and a new, pro-American free market Syrian state established instead.”

In early April the Israeli-Lebanon border heated up, with the firing of anti-tank rockets and other incidents in the disputed zone. Sharon has threatened to launch a strong reprisal against Hezbollah’s alleged sponsors, Syria and Iran. In this context, Rumsfeld’s March 28 emphatic addition of Syria to the “axis of evil” had dangerous implications. In an apparent reaction, Syria and Lebanon announced on April 3 that 20,000 Syrian troops currently stationed in Lebanon will be redeployed to positions closer to the Syrian-Lebanon border and positions within Syria itself. A glance at the map shows that this redeployment could be aimed at enhancing the defense of the Syrian capital of Damascus from a direct Israeli attack from the Golan Heights.

## Other Flashpoints

The other flashpoints are Jordan and Egypt. Up to eight weeks of military operations in the West Bank will, without doubt, send desperate Palestinians across the Jordan River to seek safety in the Hashemite Kingdom. This possibility terrifies Jordan, which has kept its border closed up until now. With a Jordanian population which is already over 50% Palestinian, it may be impossible to keep these borders closed. A new massive flow of refugees fleeing Israel’s offensive could lead to a collapse of the Jordanian monarchy.

If Israel launches operations in the Gaza Strip, Egypt would face the same prospect of refugees fleeing across its borders. Already in the recent past, Israeli military units have made incursions into Egyptian territory during flanking operations against the Palestinians in Gaza. These incursions, though recently reported in the Israeli press, have been kept out of the international media.

As Israel regionalizes the war, moving against Lebanon and Syria, its forces will be overextended. To be able to maintain the escalation, then, Sharon will be tempted to move to the nuclear option. The two most likely targets for such a nuclear strike, would be Baghdad and Tehran.

# Sharon, U.S. Unleash Threats to Arab States

by Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

The war launched by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and the Israeli Defense Forces against the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian people, ignited rage throughout the Arab and Islamic world, expressed by continuing mass demonstrations. U.S. President George Bush’s March 30 remarks from Crawford, Texas, endorsing the Israeli campaign, ensured that the masses taking to the streets would direct their anger, not only at Sharon, but at the White House as well. Thus, whether in Damascus or Beirut, Baghdad or Cairo, posters of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat were raised high, while Israeli and American flags were burned.

As Prof. Mohammed Selim, a leading Egyptian intellectual, remarked, “There is enormous disappointment and anger at the United States, because this is the first time that Bush and [Secretary of State] Colin Powell, have openly, explicitly endorsed the military aggression of Sharon, openly said, that they have given Israel the green light. It’s insulting and humiliating.” What added insult to injury, was that the escalation came on the heels of the Arab League summit in Beirut, during which a comprehensive peace proposal was presented and supported—to be immediately rejected by Israel, in words and bloody deeds. Selim pointed out, that what was occurring, was a “mini-1967,” that is, a mass reaction against Israel, like the one that was provoked by the “six-day war,” when Israel conquered and occupied Gaza; the West Bank, including East Jerusalem; and the Golan Heights. Today, young people, like the tens of thousands of Egyptian students demonstrating daily, who have no direct memory of 1967, are experiencing the same rage and humiliation, which that war produced. It was in the wake of the 1967 war, that the first Islamist reaction emerged; the current wave of radicalization could escalate to unpredictable levels.

The mass demonstrations are of two kinds: those erupting spontaneously, by tens of thousands of students, in particular, as throughout Egypt, but even in Saudi Arabia; and those either sponsored by governments, as in Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Lebanon, or supported by government officials. The numbers are everywhere enormous: 20,000 in Jordan and in Lebanon; and hundreds of thousands in Syria and Iraq. And in several cases, demonstrators explicitly denounced Israel’s policies as like those of the Nazis against the Jews.

Egypt and Jordan, the two Arab nations that have signed peace treaties with Israel, are most directly threatened by destabilization. Their populations, infuriated by the assault

against the Palestinians, are rising up against their governments, demanding that they break diplomatic relations, essentially undo the peace treaties, and join actively in the defense of those under fire. Students in Egypt and elsewhere have been demanding that the Arab countries neighboring Israel, open their borders, to allow volunteers to join the Intifada. At a demonstration in Cairo on April 3, students demanded that Egypt expel the Israeli ambassador. At the same time, American targets, such as McDonald's and Kentucky Fried Chicken, were stormed and vandalized.

### **The International Community Must Act**

The approach of the Egyptian government to the demonstrations, originating from the universities, has been neither to sponsor them, nor to repress them, but rather to contain them, in hopes of preventing an explosion leading to anarchy and chaos. President Hosni Mubarak adapted to the demands of the population, by announcing that all government-to-government contacts with Israel would be cut—just one step short of severing diplomatic relations. Mubarak also addressed the nation on April 4, saying that the Israeli government's ignoring of international resolutions "makes it incumbent on the international community as a whole to take a decisive position that will return the Israeli government to sanity. . . . It is time for the Israeli government to courageously face up to its inability to provide security for its people with military might. It is also time for Israel to admit that its continuous presence in the Palestinian territories is an occupation and a usurpation of the legitimate rights of the Palestine people." Mubarak reported that he had written two letters to President Bush, urging the United States, which has a "special responsibility," to intervene.

In Jordan, demonstrations have broken out within the Palestinian refugee camps, as well as in the capital, Amman. Reportedly, on April 1, six ministers joined a crowd of 20,000 who marched to the Parliament to manifest their demands for action to stop the atrocities. While King Abdallah II was considering cutting ties to Israel, he sent his Foreign Minister, Marwan Muasher, to Washington on April 4, to demand that the United States, "the only side which can influence the Israeli government to withdraw from the Palestinian territories," intervene.

All this occurred prior to the speech delivered by Bush on April 4, in which he announced that he was sending Powell to the region the following week—i.e., that he was giving Israel the green light to continue the slaughter for another week. This outrageous act, immediately applauded in Israel, triggered another round of demonstrations, starting on Friday, April 5, the Muslim day of worship.

Governments throughout the Arab and Islamic world will be put under increasing public pressure, to support Arafat and the Palestinian cause, and denounce both Israel and U.S. policies. The advice given these governments by U.S. Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche, is to do precisely that. Populations who oppose the Sharon-Bush madness, are

right, and should be given the support of their governments. If not, the rising popular resistance can threaten the stability of these governments, which will have lost their moral credibility. LaRouche's advice has been well received in the Arab world, where his analyses and proposals for action, have been gaining increasing attention in the mass media, whether Egyptian and Lebanese television, or the Arabic press overall.

Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit also condemned the Israeli actions. "Not only Arafat, but all of the Palestinian state is being destroyed step by step," the April 4 *Jerusalem Post* quoted him as saying. "In front of the world's eyes, a genocide is being committed. The Sharon administration has chosen the path of occupation and war instead of peace and dialogue."

Sharon's invasion of the Palestinian territories has unleashed a reaction which will not be short-lived, but will have very long-term effects. As Mubarak correctly noted in his speech, it will only deepen "the sentiment of hatred of some 300 million Arabs toward the state of Israel, and those who support its current policies."

## **Palestinian Diplomat Cites U.S. Patriot on Martyrdom**

*The following are excerpts from remarks by Hasan Rahman, Chief Representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian National Authority, to a press briefing by the U.S. Institute on Peace, in Washington, D.C. on April 4.*

. . . I cannot not be emotional when I speak, because this morning I watched the news and I saw footages from Bethlehem, from Ramallah, from Nablus. I saw the footage of Khali Saad in Bethlehem, whose mother and brother were shot yesterday in cold blood—his mother who is 65, and his brother who is 38—after blowing up the gate on their home. And he had to spend 24 hours holding the hands of his assassinated mother and brother with his three children watching, because he was not allowed to bury his mother and brother.

I also watched the mass grave in the parking lot of Ramallah hospital where 27 bodies were buried because the Israeli Army, the army of the only "democracy" in the Middle East, would not allow people to bury their dead.

I watched scores of Palestinians this morning on NBC approaching an Israeli tank—young kids, age 5, 6, with their mothers walking half a mile away and confronting an Israeli tank, raising their hands in surrender. And I really thought to myself, what does this remind us of? Is it any different from the footages we saw during the occupation of Czechoslovakia in the Second World War, and where Jews stood in the front of Nazi tanks and had to raise their hands? And what makes me so mad about it, is that I do not see the outrage that we