

International Intelligence

War on Iraq Could Lead To Palestinian Expulsion

An informed Egyptian source told this news service on June 14, that the Bush Administration may have decided to go for an invasion of Iraq, sometime in the Winter of 2002-03, and that this explains Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's appearance of openness to new peace talks with the Palestinians.

Indications of the decision to militarily remove Iraqi President Saddam Hussein include, according to the source: a June 4 secret meeting in Washington between Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Kurdish leaders Massoud Barzani and Jalal Talabani. The two Kurdish leaders had met with Director of Central Intelligence George Tenet 48 hours before, inside the northern no-fly zone in Iraq. The Rumsfeld visits to Bahrain, Kuwait, and Qatar were also, according to the source, aimed at securing commitments of limited cooperation in a U.S. unilateral invasion of Iraq, which cannot be undertaken without some regional basing permission.

The source indicated that Sharon would use the occasion of a U.S. war on Iraq to implement his *actual* policy: the mass transfer of at least 2 million Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza into Jordan. There has been recent talk, within neo-conservative and right-wing American Zionist think-tank circles, about a revival of the Hashemite Kingdom, encompassing both Jordan and part of Iraq.

The source added that a policy paper has been prepared by a retired U.S. general, indicating how Israel could carry out a forced expulsion of the majority of Palestinians without sending its ground forces into the West Bank or Gaza.

Israeli Leaders Call for Dismantling Settlements

Israel's former Shin Bet domestic intelligence service chief Ami Ayalon and Deputy Foreign Minister Michael Melchior ad-

ressed the convention of the Meimad Party, calling for Israel to dismantle all settlements in the occupied territories, the *Jerusalem Post* reported on June 13. The Meimad Party has two seats in the Knesset (parliament). The speeches underscore the fact that not all Israelis support the policies of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Ayalon said: "The need to leave Judea and Samaria [the West Bank] is not connected to the security issued but to the continued existence of the Jewish people in the land of Israel. . . . If we don't leave the territories, either we will no longer be a democratic society, or we will not be the home for the Jewish people." Melchior underlined the basic moral issue: "We need to leave the settlements as soon as possible, with or without an agreement with the Palestinians. . . . We simply cannot afford to be an occupier in today's world." Both also cited demographics, noting that the average age of Palestinians is 13, while that of Israelis is 40.

Meanwhile, the Defense Ministry has plans for the Israeli Defense Forces to dismantle as many as 60 illegal settlements following a meeting between Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer and IDF commanders on June 12. However, they have postponed a decision as to when this policy would be implemented until after a determination had been made as to which settlements erected since 1995 are not government authorized. Many of these "gypsy" settlements are tents or trailers. The IDF commanders reportedly discussed removing dozens of these isolated hilltop encampments, reportedly due to concern about their vulnerability to terror attack.

Colombia's Gen. Bedoya Supports Peruvian Heroes

Former Colombian Army Commander Gen. Harold Bedoya (ret.), who is also a former Presidential candidate, sent a message of support to the Peruvian commandos who rescued 72 hostages held in the Japanese Embassy in Lima for five months by the narco-terrorist MRTA in 1997. The state-

ment was published on June 14 in *La Razón*, the Peruvian daily that is taking the point in publishing resistance to the Toledo government's attempt to jail the Peruvian soldiers, on charges that they violated the "human rights" of the terrorists.

The hostage rescue operation, known as "Operation Chavin de Huantar," carried out by the military forces of Peru, "is a successful example of how the war against narcoterrorism should be waged worldwide," Bedoya wrote. "By not following the Peruvian example, Colombia finds itself on the verge of political and territorial disintegration. As in the days of the independence struggle, the freedom and dignity of our peoples have been consolidated through the valor of our soldiers, whose sacrifice lies above the meanness and baseness of those who know nothing about the nation.

"I want to express my solidarity, and that of the majority of the Colombian people, with the 'Chavin de Huantar' heroes. Thanks to your invaluable effort, terrorism suffered a crushing defeat, although today, using methods of irregular warfare, some attempt to revive the threat. A People which does not know how to honor its heroes, loses its historic path. In my capacity as president of the Fuerza Colombia movement, I continue to believe that thanks to 'Chavin de Huantar,' the history of Peru and the Americas changed for the good of all humanity."

Australian Demands U.S. War on Indonesia

Lesley McCulloch, of the School of Asian Studies, University of Tasmania, in a commentary in the *Jakarta Post* on June 12, said that Indonesia has relinquished its right to sovereignty, because of the way it deals with separatist movements. He called on the United States to apply to Indonesia, the same standards it is applying to Iraq.

McCulloch quotes Richard Haass, Director of Policy Planning in the U.S. State Department, that "sovereignty entails obligations. One is not to massacre your own people. Another is not to support terrorism

Briefly

AN AUSTRALIAN Arabic newspaper, *Almustaqbal*, published the full text of Lyndon LaRouche's speech to the June 2-3 Oil and Gas Conference in the United Arab Emirates in its June 8 issue, saying that LaRouche is "renowned for his opposition against globalization and he encourages the productive economy. He considers that globalization is the cause for most of the trouble in today's world."

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU, the former Israeli Prime Minister who makes Ariel Sharon look dovish, is urging Russia to join his war against Islam. At a Moscow press conference on June 13, he denounced the idea of an international Mideast summit, "until Yasser Arafat has been removed from the political arena."

THE EUROPEAN UNION finally agreed to include the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) on its list of terrorist organizations, while refusing to do so with the National Liberation Army (ELN). If enforced, the decision means that FARC bank accounts in EU countries will be frozen, and all political activity by FARC representatives banned.

SUDAN arrested Abu Huzifa, a suspected al-Qaeda-linked terrorist, at the request of the United States, in mid-June. Abu Huzifa is now in U.S. custody in a "neighboring country," where he is being interrogated. Former U.S. Ambassador to Sudan Tim Carney was quoted in the *Washington Post*, that Sudan has been totally cooperative with the United States in the war on terror.

HUBERT VÉDRINE, formerly France's Foreign Minister, called on President Bush to make an extraordinary peace intervention in the Mideast. He wrote in the *Washington Post* on June 17: "Only the President of the United States has the means and authority." If Bush fails to take up this challenge, "all the people who want the clash of civilizations—who are counting on it—will have the future they want."

in any way. If a government fails to meet these obligations, then it forfeits some of the normal advantages of sovereignty, including the right to be left alone inside your own territory."

McCulloch then writes: "But it seems that this new interventionist style of foreign policy being promoted by the U.S. applies only to some states, and not to others. For example, there is every indication that the U.S. intends to intervene in Iraq, but not in Indonesia. Yet in places such as West Papua, Maluku, Aceh and elsewhere, many civilians are losing their lives at the hands of the state-sponsored security apparatus. Perhaps nowhere is this more evident than in Aceh where more than 400 have died already this year. . . .

"There are many among the political and military elite who would prefer that the dialogue be abandoned and that a military solution be openly pursued. [Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister] Wirayuda is not alone in his belief that the political project that is Indonesia can only be maintained by the use of force. . . .

"The terrorism is state-sponsored. The alleged perpetrator is the military that has in the past been trained and armed by the U.S. government—just one of many ironies in U.S. foreign policy. The skills and equipment garnered from previous military to military co-operation have provided the resources that have turned Aceh into just one of Indonesia's killing fields. But there is no sign that the U.S. will employ its new interventionist foreign policy here."

Dutch Worry: Will U.S. Invade The Netherlands?

A June 6 vote in the U.S. Senate has created an uproar among Dutch media and politicians, the German daily *Handelsblatt* reported on June 13. The Dutch are concerned that the vote authorized the U.S. government, through the "American Service Members Protection Act," to *militarily invade* their country in order to free U.S. citizens, if they are being held on war-crimes charges

by the International Criminal Court, which becomes active on July 1 in The Hague, under a treaty signed by 60 nations. President Clinton had signed the treaty in 1998, but President Bush withdrew the U.S. signature early in June.

In the words of Sen. John Warner (R-Va.), lead sponsor of the bill, it would "protect U.S. military personnel and other elected and appointed officials of the U.S. government against potential criminal prosecution by an international tribunal court to which the United States is not a party. . . . The President is authorized to use all means necessary and appropriate to bring about the release from captivity of U.S. or allied personnel detained or imprisoned against their will by or on behalf of this court."

Writes *Handelsblatt*: "Experts in international law say the U.S. regards the court as an infringement on its sovereignty. It fears its soldiers could face fraudulent, politically motivated trials. Their nightmare is that former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, or even President Bush, could be prosecuted." The paper quotes former European Union Commissioner Hans van den Broek, who wrote in the Dutch paper *NRC Handelsblad* that the United States not only lacks respect for international law, but imposes the "law of the stronger" as a legal standard. Washington constantly demands that other countries comply with the demands of the International Tribunal for Crimes in the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), using economic and other sanctions to force compliance, as in the case of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, the paper reports.

Now that Milosevic is on trial, the International Tribunal needs U.S. officials to testify, in order to convict him of war crimes committed against the people of Kosovo. Former U.S. special envoy Richard Holbrooke would like to testify, but is being denied permission to do so in open court by the State Department, which worries that this would set a precedent which Washington wants to avoid. The tribunal's prosecutors say that if the United States insists that Holbrooke testify in secret session, they would have no choice but to drop him as a witness.