

communiqué with Prime Minister Zhu Rongji on expanding cooperation. The communiqué also called for a new concept of security, based on international law, mutual trust, equality, and cooperation. The leaders denounced “selfish” unilateral policies and said that attacks on terrorism should be based on international law and cooperation—a dig at Washington.

“Common development” and peace must be the basic principles of strategic coordination, they said, noting the important role of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which was founded by China, Russia, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan.

The two sides also called for economic and trade cooperation, in rail, road, and water transportation, energy—including nuclear—aerospace, “science parks,” and “high technologies.” The Sino-Russian Siberian oil pipeline project, which could, notably, also be extended to the Korean Peninsula, is critical, as is the “strategic value” of cooperation on China’s west-east gas pipeline.

China-India relations have also been developing steadily this year, following Zhu Rongji’s visit to India in January and that of then-External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh to China in March-April.

Also of note, is the highest-level visit in 20 years of representatives of the Tibetan Dalai Lama to both Beijing and Lhasa, during mid-September. Although the visits of Lodi Gyari and Kelsang Gyaltsen, the Dalai Lama’s representatives in the United States and Europe, are being described in China as “personal,” their official positions indicate that something more is going on. Tibet has been a strategic bone of contention between China and India over many decades; moves to resolve differences could do much to promote regional relations. China is making serious progress on its railroad to Lhasa, the first-ever into Tibet, which could be of real economic benefit for India.

In August, it was reported that India had decided to upgrade its effort to gain membership in the SCO. This is already supported by Moscow and the Central Asian nations; final agreement has to come from Beijing.

On cue, the lunatic fringe in Washington, which has been trying to cultivate India, stepped in. Neo-conservative fanatic and China-hater Frank Gaffney, head of the Center for Security Policy, on Sept. 18 said that “one of the most exciting areas for future U.S.-Indian cooperation could be missile defense. . . . Pakistan’s nuclear and missile capabilities are dependent on China for nuclear weapon and solid fuel technology and on North Korea for liquid fuel missile technology,” Gaffney alleged. “Helping democratic India to defend itself against these missiles is a way to stand up to Communist China’s nuclear and missile proliferation, and to help India defend itself from China’s growing nuclear missile arsenal,” he claimed.

New Delhi had earlier endorsed the Bush Administration’s National Missile Defense policy, but has been silent on the issue lately.

New Mossad Chief Signals ‘Dirty Ops’

by Dean Andromidas

The appointment by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Gen. Meir Dagan as the new Mossad chief, signals his intention to use the spy agency for provocative operations. Sharon has now placed his flunkies in every significant position in Israel’s security-military and intelligence command. The appointment coheres with his announcement that Israel will have all its security, military, and civil defense plans in place by Nov. 1, in expectation of a U.S. attack on Iraq. Senior military commentator Amir Oren wrote in the Israeli daily *Ha’aretz* on Sept. 11, that the naming of Dagan “is the security appointment of national significance that Sharon alone has made. It reflects his wish, on the eve of an expected American campaign against Iraq, and as Iran and other Arab states build up stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction, for a combative team at the head of the military-intelligence establishment.”

Dagan’s appointment was made within weeks after Sharon named Gen. Moshe Ya’alon as Chief of Staff of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). In an interview published in *Ha’aretz* on Aug. 29, Ya’alon expressed precisely the same hard-line positions as Sharon, comparing the Palestinians to a “cancerous” threat, and saying that Israel will have to wait “generations” for the possibility of enjoying peace with its Arab neighbors.

It was Ya’alon, according to an Israeli intelligence source, who in 1996 drafted the IDF’s current operational plan, “Field of Thorns,” whose aim is to crush Palestinian resistance. Almost all phases of the plan have now been accomplished, including reoccupation of the entire West Bank, economic blockade, and closure of Palestinian areas. Only two steps remain to be carried out: The first is the final destruction of the Palestinian National Authority, with the arrest or death of the entire Palestinian political leadership. This has already been partially implemented. The second is the deportation of Palestinians from “sensitive areas,” which means the entire West Bank. The plan was denounced by Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat in a speech on May 15, 2002.

The “Field of Thorns” plan received the endorsement of Anthony Cordesman of the U.S.-based Center for Strategic and International Studies, in a CSIS report published on Nov. 9, 2000. Among Cordesman’s colleagues at CSIS are leading ideologues of the Clash of Civilizations policy, including Zbigniew Brzezinski.

Dagan not only shares Ya’alon’s views, but has cooperated operationally with him in the past. Oren wrote: “Dagan

complements Chief of Staff Moshe Ya'alon. Twelve years ago, after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, then Brigadier General Dagan was head of operations in the general staff and initiated some far-reaching operations deep inside Iraq. Some were meant for the Paratroops Brigade, commanded by then Colonel Ya'alon.

Activate International Hit Squads?

Sharon's desire for a "combative team at the head of the military intelligence establishment" can only mean that he intends to launch provocative special operations directed at, especially, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, and Iran. These will be launched under the pretext of "combatting terror" and the threat of "weapons of mass destruction." But Sharon's intentions could go beyond these objectives, and he is considering other forms of provocations under the cover of fighting anti-Semitism, all around the world.

Ha'aretz recently reminded its readers that in 1994, Israel changed its penal code to include "extra-territorial crimes": According to Section 13 of the penal code, Israeli law will apply to "crimes against the Israeli state or against the Jewish People"—not only crimes committed against Israelis living abroad, but against "the life of a Jew, his body, his health, or his property, because he is a Jew, or the property of a Jewish institution, because it is Jewish."

While this clause has yet to be activated, one wonders: Will Sharon deploy the Mossad to fight real or alleged anti-Semitic attacks in France, Germany, or Belgium? This is important, since all three countries are being called anti-Semitic, more because of their opposition to Sharon's policies, than because of anti-Semitic acts, which have actually been committed in those countries. On Sept. 15, the London *Sunday Times* ran a leak for the Mossad, reporting that Dagan wants to reactivate international hit squads. The *Times* quotes a source as saying, with reference to targeted assassinations of Palestinians, "There is no reason why we should not do the same abroad. They will have nowhere to hide. Gone are the days of black-tie parties and fat expense accounts. Whatever we can't shoot will be closed down. . . . [Dagan will] trim years of useless fat and rebuild the famous Mossad muscles. We have a war to win and there's no reason why the Abdullahs and Muhammads in Damascus, Tehran, and Beirut should sleep better than their brothers in Gaza."

Meanwhile, veteran Mossad chief Ephraim Halevy, whom Dagan is replacing, is to take over the Israeli National Security Council. The hard-line Halevy will replace Gen. Uzi Dayan, who had recently released a study recommending that Israel accept a two-state solution with Palestine, or face the fact that it will become an undemocratic state. This was a conclusion which Sharon did not welcome.

Dagan: Thirty Years a Flunky

Dagan has been Sharon's man for more than three decades. He served as a junior officer under Sharon when the



With Gen. Meir Dagan appointed head of Israel's spy agency, the Mossad, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has his flunkies in all the command positions for security, military, and intelligence.

latter commanded the 143rd Division during the 1973 Arab-Israeli War. After the war, Sharon made Dagan his protégé. As Operational Commander of the IDF's Southern Command in the 1970s, Sharon named Dagan to head the infamous "Sayeret Rimon" unit, which was modelled after Sharon's 101 Brigade of the 1950s. For Sharon, those were the "good old days," when no one in Israel talked about war crimes by Israelis. The Shin Bet intelligence service would simply compile a "death list," and give it to Dagan. After the Palestinian activists were assassinated, their families would be rounded up and sent to the remote Abu Sneima Detention Camp on the Sinai coast.

Dagan then was deployed to Lebanon, where, by the end of the 1970s, he was part of Israel's support of the Christian Phalangists in the Lebanese Civil War—the people whom Sharon would later deploy to massacre Palestinians at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps. Dagan soon became part of Sharon's conspiracy to launch the war against Lebanon in 1982. Just prior to that war, Dagan led a provocative military operation under the command of Chief of Staff Rafael Eitan, a collaborator of Sharon, and Northern Commander Yanosh Ben Gal, which was conducted by deceiving Prime Minister Menachem Begin (who was also Defense Minister). Shortly after this incident, Sharon became Defense Minister and deceived Begin again, launching the Lebanon War. Dagan was also involved in organizing the Israeli-controlled puppet South Lebanese Army.

Dagan's new appointment has the approval of both Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres (both of the Labor Party), despite the fact that Dagan is a member of Sharon's Likud. Ben-Eliezer has known Dagan, since the former was a liaison officer with the Phalangists at the end of the 1970s.

In 1997, when Benjamin Netanyahu was Prime Minister, Dagan was reportedly involved in the attempt to assassinate Hamas leader Khaled Mashal in Jordan. As Netanyahu's terrorism adviser, he would have been on the infamous "X Committee," which approves Mossad assassinations. At the time, this committee reportedly included Netanyahu and Sharon. Although the operation was a spectacular failure, the late King Hussein of Jordan saw it as an Israeli attempt to overthrow his government, by triggering a revolt among Jordan's Pales-

tinians, who comprise almost 50% of its population. Sharon then secured the release from an Israeli prison of Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Yassin, supposedly in order to appease King Hussein.

Dagan's appointment has come under fire because of his pronounced affiliation to the Likud and the fact that he ran Sharon's election campaign for prime minister. Said Labor Party Secretary General Ophir Pines-Paz: "Dagan is clearly a Likud man who is deeply entrenched in political life and was active in Sharon's campaign team. Even if he is skilled, appointing a political man to head the Mossad is a severe blow to such an independent, apolitical organization."

Sharon Threatens War Against Lebanon, Syria

by Dean Andromidas

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is threatening to launch a war against Lebanon and Syria in the event that the Bush Administration's plans to attack Iraq are thwarted. The flash-point for this conflict is Israel's bellicose opposition to a project by Lebanon to pump water from the Wassani River to villages in the south. On Sept. 10, Sharon said that if Lebanon refused to stop the project, Israel would consider it a "pretext for war."

Although "water wars" have been on the agenda for the Middle East for the last decade, this conflict has nothing to do with water. According to Israeli intelligence sources, Sharon is desperate to get a regional war started as soon as possible, in order to complete his destruction of the Palestinian Authority. "Sharon has been counting on a U.S. attack on Iraq so he could expel the Palestinians across the Jordan, and so he could turn around and wipe out Syria," one source said. Iraq's offer to allow UN weapons inspectors could block that, and so Sharon is putting pressure on the Syrian front. Threatening to attack Lebanon and Syria, using a water dispute with Lebanon, is just a pretext. The source said that if Bush doesn't attack Iraq soon, Sharon could attack Syria, in order to force the issue.

Desalination Is the Solution

The Lebanese began the Wassani River project many months ago, in order to supply water to villages that had been denied access to the water during the 22-year Israeli occupation. The Israeli claim that this violates international agreements is spurious, since there simply are none, while Israel is technically in a state of war with Lebanon and Syria. The Israeli claim that the Wassani is a key source for Lake

Tiberias also stretches the imagination. The Wassani, which is nothing more than a stream, is a tributary of the Hisbani River, which it enters within Lebanon's own territory. The latter, in turn, flows into the upper Jordan, the main source of water for Lake Tiberias, whence Israel draws much of its water.

Declaring his nation's rights to the water, Lebanese President Emile Lahoud said: "Israel's exploitation of the spring during its 22-year occupation of south Lebanon does not mean, in any way, that this de facto situation should continue by force. . . . Israel does not want to believe that its occupation of south Lebanon is over."

The Lebanese government has demanded that the issue be brought before the five permanent members of the UN Security Council—U.K., Canada, U.S., France, and Russia—in order to prevent Israel from resorting to military action.

Israel's claim, that the 3 million cubic meters of water which the Lebanese plan to withdraw poses an "existential threat" to its water resources, drew ridicule from some Israeli commentators, who point out that abundant water could be supplied to Israel by desalination. Aviad Kleinberg of the daily *Ha'aretz* wrote on Sept. 18 that Israel and the Palestinian Authority will require 800 billion cubic meters of water annually, which could be supplied through desalination at the cost of \$480 million. If just Israel's needs were considered, it could cost as little as \$170 million. "This is much less expensive than war," wrote Kleinberg. "It would make it possible to conduct rational negotiations over a settlement. . . . Why, then, has nothing been done for decades? Is it because it is easy for decision-makers to keep us in a constant state of existential threat? Is it because the option of war is always less frightening than the option of peace?"

International Maneuvers

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, in a Sept. 14 meeting at the United Nations, told Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov that Lebanon is "dangerously provoking Israel." In Washington he discussed the issue with Vice President Dick Cheney, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, and Secretary of State Colin Powell. The Bush Administration dispatched two State Department water experts to examine the project. After discussing the issue with Peres, Secretary Powell declared, "We don't want to see a new crisis developing over the diversion of water out of the river."

Peres kept up the pressure by turning the issue against Syria and its allies in the Lebanon-based Islamic group, Hezbollah. He told Israel Radio: "There is one power in Lebanon that is trying to destroy everything and that is Hezbollah. It is a force that does not always obey the government. We also don't know where Syria stands on this issue."

The head of Israel's national water authority Mekorot, Reserve Maj. Gen. Uri Saguy, who happens to have recently retired as chief of military intelligence, has also called for action.