

# Congress Asked to Back Pro-War Censorship

by Suzanne Rose

An effort is being made, as evidenced by an Oct. 8 Congressional hearing and by government-backed groups suppressing campus free speech (see *EIR*, Oct. 18), to pull together an international poison-pen apparatus to target, slander, and censor opposition to the Iraq war policy. A new type of anti-defamation commission is in the works, in the mold of the old Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

In the days of Iran-Contra “secret government” operations of the 1980s, the Anti-Defamation League was used to target political opponents. Then, a salon of converging interests met at the New York apartment of investment banker John Train to establish procedures for targetting and defaming associates of Lyndon LaRouche, who was an opponent of the Iran-Contra policy. The Anti-Defamation League, a front organization for Jewish-surnamed organized crime interests, spearheaded the effort, in the press and among prospective LaRouche supporters, defaming him as anti-Semitic, and conducting various black operations and disinformation.

This was part of a broader operation in the Reagan-Bush Administration known as “Public Diplomacy”—a government-run propaganda machine, which promoted policies such as support of the Contras and the Afghan resistance through planting of articles and op-eds, and also targetted opponents of these policies with campaigns of defamation and harassment. Although nominally located in the State Department, the Public Diplomacy operation was actually centered in the National Security Council, and run by the CIA’s top propaganda expert, Walter Raymond, who had extensive experience in the CIA’s clandestine overseas media program.

## Enforcing the Warhawks’ Aims

The presence of “former” Israeli military intelligence agent Yigal Carmon at the Oct. 8 Congressional hearing signals that a similar and renewed effort is under way, against Arab and LaRouche-led opponents of the Clash of Civilizations war policy. The occasion was a hearing of the House Government Reform Committee, National Security Subcommittee, convened by Rep. Christopher Shays (R-Conn.), titled “Arab Street Opinion of U.S. Policy.” The first panel included Harold Pachios, Chairman of the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy. He called for a revival of “Public Diplomacy” efforts to win supporters to the foreign policy goals of the U.S. government, especially in the Arab world. He lamented that the Public Diplomacy Commission has lan-

guished since the end of the Cold War.

Pachios said the commission intends to work closely with the President’s new Office of Global Communication, which has the stated purpose of winning support for the President’s war aims.

Yigal Carmon testified on the second panel, representing the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), along with Hafez Al-Mirazi, Washington Bureau Chief of Al Jazeera, and Laurent Murawiec, former research analyst with the RAND corporation. The speakers, led by Carmon, motivated the need for a super-agency or commission to monitor and control all information published and broadcast about the Middle East, the war on terrorism, and the Iraq war.

The proposals that Carmon presented, he said, are “necessary” to end hate crimes and incitement, which he claims are rampant in the Arab world. Carmon is already running a private pilot project—MEMRI—financed by the neo-conservative mafia, and affiliated with Daniel Pipes’ Middle East Forum. MEF monitors all the Arab institutions, including press, educational, and religious institutions—for “radicalism.”

The bias against Arabs and Muslims which underlay the hearings was evident from the inclusion of Murawiec as a panelist. He is the low-level think-tanker who gained notoriety after news was leaked that, in July, he had given a school-boy-level anti-Saudi briefing to Richard Perle’s Defense Policy Board at the Pentagon. Murawiec advocates a U.S. invasion of Saudi Arabia, and taking the Saudi oil fields by force. He also suggested the United States target Egypt as an enemy. After the DPB briefing, Murawiec was dumped from RAND, and according to a source on the committee, listed no current employment. At the Shays hearing he again played the hatchet man, this time against all Arab thought and Arab governments, comparing them to Mao’s China, and Hitler’s Germany.

As a model for the new effort to confront “anti-Semitic” and “anti-Western” outpourings in the Arab and Muslim media and elsewhere, Carmon applauded the confrontational censorship approach recently taken by U.S. Ambassador David Welch in Egypt. Welch lambasted articles in the Egyptian press whose authors questioned the “official” story about the Sept. 11 attacks. As *EIR* reported Oct. 11, Ambassador Welch was responding to the prominent coverage given to the neo-conservatives’ leading opponent, Lyndon LaRouche.

MEMRI is doing this kind of monitoring on a daily basis, and reporting its distorted findings to legislators around the world, including what it calls “The Hill Report” to the U.S. Congress. Carmon’s appearance was to promote official government backing for these efforts. He insisted that there should be government action to enforce the type of censorship that MEMRI can only do privately. As an example, he called for government action to punish the editor of Egypt’s leading newspaper *Al-Ahram*, for articles on the West which Carmon claimed were incitements to hatred.