

Nemesis Stalks Chicken-Hawks: Iraq Failure Fuels Countercoup

by Michele Steinberg

President Abraham Lincoln famously pointed to a principle of republican leadership in a national crisis, with his optimistic epithet, “You can’t fool all of the people all of the time.” And all signs are that time is up for the ignoble lies of the Straussian conspirators in the United States and Israel who pushed the Iraq war, and want America involved in world imperial “perpetual wars.”

As of May 22, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer was gone; Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had cancelled his trip to Washington to see President Bush; Gen. Tommy R. Franks, CENTCOM chief and the Iraq and Afghanistan wars’ commander, was gone; calls were being made on the floor of the Congress for the resignation of Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, the leading warmonger, and disciple of fascist philosopher Leo Strauss, in the Bush Administration; Sen. Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.) was denouncing the entire rationale of the Iraq war as a pack of deliberate lies coming from the Bush Administration; and the Central Intelligence Agency had assembled a panel of retired analysts to review “what went wrong” and “whodunnit” over the concocted intelligence reports that hyped a “clear and present danger” of Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction, and predicted an Iraq where milk, honey, oil revenues, liberty, and democracy would flow after Saddam Hussein was defeated and ousted.

Throw into this boil, the fact that Godric Smith, press spokesman for British Prime Minister Tony Blair, resigned just hours after Fleischer. “Goddie” was second to Blair’s chief spokesman Alistair Campbell, who pushed through the “British dossier” on Iraq’s alleged ABC weapons on the eve of the crucial Feb. 5 UN Security Council debate; the dossier turned out to be a hoax.

The Role of Ariel Sharon

White House spokesman Fleischer did not resign, but was fired, say Washington sources. There were differences between Fleischer and the President, which likely overlap the question of why Prime Minister Sharon abruptly, on May 18, cancelled his May 20 meeting with Bush. This could be the beginning of “regime change” in Washington—and Jerusalem—what LaRouche has been calling the “countercoup” President Bush must implement to take back control of his Administration and the nation from the Cheney-Rumsfeld-Wolfowitz cabal.

LaRouche, acting as a “shadow President,” accuses the Cheney cabal of having carried out a “coup d’état” under the cover of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, to implement a domestic police state, and put the United States at the head of an international “Waffen SS” imperial force. Iraq, for the Cheney gang, is only the first step in a succession of wars that include Syria, Iran, and Saudi Arabia. A countercoup is the *only* way, says LaRouche, for the United States to exit from the Iraq mess, for which the neo-conservative cabal is fully responsible. This exit strategy must include a peace plan in the Middle East leading to a Palestinian state.

Various Republicans have told Bush that he will not be able to win the election in 2004, unless he can push through the “Road Map” in the Middle East. He will not be able to win if he enters another war, or does not do something about the economic crisis. This advice would put Bush at loggerheads with the neo-conservatives, especially Cheney, and with Sharon and his allies. As *EIR* reported on May 23, Powell didn’t win the “Road Map” issue in his May 11 meeting with Sharon, but once back in Washington, did establish the point that Sharon shows no respect for President

Bush, and has gone too far.

Just before the Israeli Prime Minister was due in Washington, signs emerged that Bush was *not* backing Sharon's stiff-arm of the Road Map; pro-Sharon events in the United States *flopped* entirely (see box). Without Bush's "green light," Sharon faces an existential crisis, needing U.S. backing to stay in power. That reveals the reason he stayed away from Washington.

On May 17, under intense pressure from Washington, Sharon met with Palestinian Prime Minister Abu Mazen, in Jerusalem, in the first Israeli-Palestinian summit meeting in nearly three years. Sharon had done everything possible to avoid such a meeting, but despite a Palestinian suicide bombing incident in Hebron just hours earlier, it went ahead. As expected, a deadlock resulted when Sharon refused Abu Mazen's request that he accept the Road Map. Sharon boasted that he would only discuss his reservations with George W. Bush. Then abruptly, the meeting with Bush was off, when a second suicide bombing in Jerusalem on May 18—the first Jerusalem bombing in *six months*—killed seven Israelis.

But, Sharon didn't cancel his trip because of terror incidents; rather, he used the excuse of the terrorism, so he wouldn't have to come to Washington and face a potential reproach from Bush. American and Israeli intelligence circles that know Sharon intimately, suspect that the recent terror wave in Israel bears the mark of his dirty tricks, since it was he who built up Hamas and Islamist terror networks to counter the PLO. The extremists on both sides use terror to derail peace.

It is now a problem for Sharon that he didn't go to Washington. For the first time in his 27-month tenure, he has not been able to use conveniently-timed terror to further his real desire—to cancel the Oslo Treaty, and move the Palestinians out of Israel and the Palestine National Authority completely. The five suicide bombings in 48 hours, from May 17-19, did not cause Bush to drop the Road Map. At the same time, a growing number in the American Jewish community are telling Sharon that the American Jews, like the majority of Israelis, actually support a Palestinian state, if that could bring an end to terrorism. The Sharonists are enraged that Bush phoned Prime Minister Abu Mazen on May 20, reiterating his commitment to a sovereign Palestinian state. Abu Mazen told Bush he is committed to combatting terrorism.

In Israel, the fascists in Sharon's cabinet are now calling

for Israel to assassinate Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to stop the Road Map, and in the United States, Likudnik neo-cons are attacking Bush. Sharon wants to delay visiting Washington, hoping the neo-cons regain their monopoly around the Administration. But, Bush is now pressuring him to come *before* the President leaves for the G-8 summit in Evian, France on May 30.

Et Tu, Tommy?

But the biggest news was at the Pentagon, where on May 22, General Franks announced he was resigning. This left Rumsfeld twisting in the wind, reports a high-level Washington intelligence source, who agreed with LaRouche that Rumsfeld had acted like Adolf Hitler in running a purge of the traditional generals who opposed his utopian war plans for Iraq. Recall that Rummy had canned Secretary of the Army, retired Gen. Tommy White, as part of his plan to push through *Notverordnung* (emergency) laws to "transform" the military. Rumsfeld had also tried to silence Army Chief of Staff Eric Shinseki, who warned that Rummy's plan for Iraq would lead to a disaster, endangering civilians and spreading disease and chaos, because of an inadequate deployment of U.S. forces. Rumsfeld announced Shinseki's replacement *months* before his term was up. But now, the purges are back-firing—Rummy's intended replacement for Shinseki, General Keane, announced he wasn't taking the job; Shinseki stuck to his guns, and is considered "prophetic," within uniformed military ranks, because he stood up to the chicken-hawks. Rummy has no Army Chief of Staff, and Franks, his "conquering hero," has quit.

The most important thing about these developments is that a fight started in Congress against the Rumsfeld plan after LaRouche declared that it was unconstitutional, and if it were pushed through, Rumsfeld was impeachable. LaRouche called the separation of powers concept the baseline of the Constitution, starting the fight which some Democrats and others have begun to join.

On May 21, the Cheney/Rumsfeld cabal also took a direct hit in Congress. Sen. Robert Byrd, during the debate on the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2004, said, "The American people have been lured into accepting the unprovoked invasion of a sovereign nation, in violation of long-standing international law, under false premises." He accused the Administration of manipulating the events of Sept. 11, falsely equating Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein. "It was the exploitation of [Americans'] fear," said Byrd. The Bush team's "extensive hype of WMD in Iraq as justification for a pre-emptive invasion has become more than embarrassing," since troops have so far found "fertilizer, vacuum cleaners, conventional weapons, and the occasional buried swimming pool." The hype has revealed, Byrd said, "the reckless use of power," with the "lucrative contracts" to rebuild Iraq's infrastructure. In the House, Rep.

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Barney Frank (D-Mass.) called for neo-con kingpin Wolfowitz to resign.

There is more to come. A Washington diplomatic source told *EIR* that there is tremendous anger in the capital against the neo-con coup, and there will likely be hearings—along the lines of Iran-Contra, or the 1970s Church Committee—to uncover how the Iraq fiasco was pushed through. Retired Marine Gen. Joseph Hoar, who opposed the utopian Iraq war plans, and remains a critic of what happened, called for full Congressional hearings, as soon as the combat ended.

On May 22, the first step of this emerged when the *New York Times* revealed that the CIA has begun a review of the reports circulated inside the government before the war—

including sworn testimony to Congress—to compare them with what has actually been found—or not found—in Iraq. CIA Director George Tenet has named a team of retired intelligence analysts to run the review.

What is really targeted is the Rumsfeld/Wolfowitz “deception” unit in the DOD Office of Intelligence, and leading Straussian Abram Shulsky, who ran a “Chicken-hawk Intelligence Agency” that cooked intelligence reports using information from convicted Iraqi crook Ahmed Chalabi, to present so-called evidence about Iraq. Shulsky, who is featured in LaRouche’s campaign pamphlet, *Children of Satan, the Ignoble Liars Behind Bush No-Exit War*, is one of the first on the line.

Pro-Sharon Rally Flops, Discrediting Neo-Cons

The National Unity Coalition for Israel, whose Honorary Chairman was Under Secretary of Defense Douglas Feith, before he became a top member of the Cheney cabal in the Administration, is going through what could be its death throes. NUCI is taking the blame for the flop of the Interfaith Zionist Leadership Summit in Washington on May 17-18, where only a few hundred of the faithful attended most sessions at the Omni Shoreham Hotel.

Endorsed by more than 20 of the largest Christian fundamentalist and right-wing pro-Israel groups, including the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA), the Christian Coalition, the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN), the Religious Roundtable, the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA), and Gary Bauer’s Coalition for American Values, the Leadership Summit was supposed to be a “show of force” that would prompt White House campaign manager Karl Rove and the Republican Party to pressure Bush to drop the Road Map for peace between Israel and the Palestinians. It was a pathetic showing. Bush hasn’t dropped the Road Map, and now the “theo-cons” and neo-cons are attacking President Bush.

On May 22, NUCI sent out thousands of e-mails with an article by nationally syndicated columnist Arlene Peck, who wrote, “Sad, isn’t it, that the next generation, George W. Bush, apparently hasn’t learned from the mistakes of his father. . . . Bush is heading towards selling Israel out and is on the verge of the greatest double-cross since the Allied nations sold the Sudetenland to Adolf Hitler.”

In Israel, Ariel Sharon’s own fascist Cabinet members, exemplified by Transportation Minister Avigdor Lieberman, are likewise turning against Bush. Lieberman told

the clandestine radio station Arutz Sheva that “Arafat should be killed . . . total war against terrorism . . . begins with killing Arafat. We don’t have to expel him or isolate him. . . .”

The Interfaith Summit cheered Sharon’s rejection of the Road Map, and opposed any idea of “rewarding murderous Palestinian terrorism with statehood.” But speakers addressed a mostly empty room. As the event was taking place, Sharon announced from Israel, that he was not coming to Washington.

The founder of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, Jan Willem van der Hoeven, a Dutch national with a World War II Nazi past, pounded the podium, asking why the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and Anti-Defamation League of B’nai B’rith (ADL) were not there supporting the rally, and raving that soon Jews will be back on the Temple Mount (Jerusalem’s al-Haram al-Sharif, one of Islam’s holiest sites), rebuilding the Third Temple.

The final session, entitled, “A Palestinian State: U.S. National Interests and Israel’s Future,” featured the neo-cons’ Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse: Frank Gaffney of the Center for Security Policy; Thomas Neumann, Executive Director of JINSA; Daniel Pipes of the Middle East Forum, who has slandered Lyndon LaRouche; and self-described “universal fascist” Michael Ledeen. Moderator Morton Klein, President of the ZOA, said that Syria, Libya, and Iraq were all “barbarous states,” whose leadership must be crushed, as must also be done with the Palestinian Authority and the idea of a Palestinian state in “the Biblical land of the Jews.” He called it “religious war.”

Ledeen proclaimed that there can be no “peace process,” because this was a “war process” for “freedom from tyranny.” He said that there is no such thing as “peace” in world history, just brief moments after wars, during which the winner imposes a peace treaty on the vanquished.

—Scott Thompson