

On the Death of Arafat: A Turning-Point in History

by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

Editors' note: *American statesman Lyndon LaRouche has long made the point that bringing about justice in relations between the Israelis and the Palestinians, is a sine qua non for achieving peace and stability in any part of Southwest Asia, and, in fact, in the rest of the world. Now, the death of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has brought that question into an even more crucial phase, of either crisis or opportunity.*

In our package below, we bring our readers an in-depth picture of the history of Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations, from an eminent Israeli, Maxim Ghilan, who was there many steps of the way. We then present two crucial elements of the solution to the impasse: a profile of jailed Palestinian leader Marwan Barghouti, and a quick review of LaRouche's Oasis Plan, which would provide the essential economic foundation for a lasting peace.

To begin, however, we reprint LaRouche's Nov. 12 statement on the significance of Arafat's death, which we published as an editorial in the last issue, but serves as the appropriate umbrella concept for this package as a whole.

The death of Chairman Arafat defines a crucial turning-point in current world history. The world at large is challenged, at this ominous moment, to face the implications for the planet as a whole, of failing to take the occasion of his passing as the moment at which the world at large must act, even for the most selfish motives of many among nations, to set into motion, at last, a peace of the kind which would set the departed Chairman's soul at rest. It must be an action for peace which begins where the unpunished murder of

Israel's Prime Minister Rabin unleashed a new wave of horrors, the wrath of the fabled Erinyes, throughout the region, and beyond.

Now, the so-called Middle East as a whole, which were more wisely named Southwest Asia, is at the verge of a great horror now spreading from the sheer, brutish insanity of sending U.S. Marines and others, to waste their lives for no just reason in the inexcusable conflagration in Iraq's Fallujah. Matters in a region of currently escalating asymmetric warfare, which includes both Egypt and Sudan, immediately, and reaches beyond Syria into Turkey and the Caucasus and adjoining places as a whole, have reached the critical moment at which any present escalation of the conflict within any part of that region unleashes an incalculable escalation of murderous chaos throughout all parts of that region, and also far beyond.

All of the tension and related dangers throughout the region center upon the long-tortured nerve-endings of the long Arab-Israeli conflict. Now, since President George W. Bush, Jr.'s launching of the fraudulently motivated recent and continuing warfare in Iraq, the present, added threat against Iran, and the level of tension throughout the entirety of Southwest Asia and beyond, no nation of that region, including the state of Israel, could outlive the growing, spreading holocaust which failure to bring about Israeli-Palestine peace would now promptly unleash. It is past time that the great precedent of the 1648 Treaty of Westphalia be now, promptly invoked by all relevant nations, including those of Europe and the U.S.A., to nail a killer like Sharon to the table of constructive movement for peace with the



Let it be written on a monument to Chairman Arafat: "Brave heart, now rest in peace."

Palestinians. It could occur, if the combined nations of the U.S.A. and Europe would take any necessary action to bring about both those negotiations, and their assured prospects of early success.

Let it be recognized, as even many right-wing Jews do know this, that the hard core of the right-wing Protestant Zionists of the U.S.A. are the worst sort of anti-Semites. These include anti-Semites who intend, without blushing, to bring about the foreseeable slaughter of Jews who do not convert to their peculiar Gnostic variety of "Christianity." No longer must that lunatic fringe of the U.S. right wing be permitted to impose its perverts' intention as reflected policies of the U.S. government.

At this moment of Chairman Arafat's passing, the hope for peace, and guilt for failure to bring about peace, rests entirely upon the shoulders of the incumbent U.S. President George W. Bush, Jr. The credit, or blame now lies with him, above all other persons. For once, at last, he must face up to the true responsibilities of his office.

Nothing—absolutely nothing!—must stand in the way of bringing the process of peace to a kind of agreement modelled upon the Peace of Westphalia.

Let it be written on a monument to Chairman Arafat: "Brave heart, now rest in peace." Let it be remembered from the signing of the Westphalia treaty, that there is no cure for deep hatred, but a brave act of love.

Dialogue With Maxim Ghilan

Arafat's Legacy and The Quest for Peace

Maxim Ghilan, a long-time fighter for peace, is the editor of the newsletter Israel & Palestine Strategic Update, as well as the founder of the International Jewish Peace Union, the first Jewish organization to recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization as a partner in dialogue. He gave this briefing to EIR staff in Leesburg, Virginia, on Nov. 12, 2004. He was introduced by Michele Steinberg. Some of the questions have been abridged.

Steinberg: I'm happy to present an old friend of the LaRouche movement, a freedom fighter for liberty of all people. If you read the interview that Maxim gave to *EIR* last Spring¹, you know that he is a strategic analyst, and that is a very, very important function, especially among peace advocates in Israel.

Maxim moved to Palestine in 1944 from Spain. His father was abducted, by the Franco fascists, and never seen again, and his mother moved the family to Palestine. And his has been a rewarding, but not an easy life, something that we understand and admire. And he's here in the United States—he's been here many, many times; and he's fought for the last three years against the neo-cons in Israel, and here, against the religious extremists of all types. We're happy to have him here at *EIR*.

It's a very tough time. As he said earlier this week in Washington, the loss of President Arafat, of Chairman Arafat, is not only the loss of a great statesman, but, in this case, the loss of a very personal friend. And he's going to be speaking very strongly, throughout the United States and the world, that this death will be honored in a way that leads to peace and justice. I'll let him tell you about that. . . .

The Self-Definition of the Palestinians

Ghilan: Let's make it from the beginning, a dialogue. What is the main concern you would like me to speak about first? Anybody has an idea? President Yasser Arafat?

Okay. We are—I'm almost tempted to say "as usual"—in a moment of great crisis in the Middle East, in fact, a world crisis.

Yasser Arafat, my friend, was really, up to his death, and

1. "Israel's General Staff: 'A Bunch of Dr. Strangeloves,'" *EIR*, June 4, 2004; "To Be Ethical and Still Succeed," June 18, 2004.