

Anglo-Americans set stage for Mideast war

The following time-line gives some highlights of how Middle Eastern leaders were manipulated into war by Anglo-American interests.

December 1989. Bush-Gorbachov summit in Malta formalizes an Anglo-American/Soviet agreement to make a "Greater Syria" and "Greater Israel" the dominant powers of the Middle East. Iraq, an opponent of both Syria and Israel, is declared a joint U.S.-Soviet target.

Early March 1990. Jordan's King Hussein reportedly tells Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Saddam Hussein, at a meeting of the Arab Coordination Council in Amman, Jordan, that he has concrete evidence showing that the Israeli government has been planning a war with Jordan. Iraq is Jordan's main military ally; any attack on Jordan would be an attack on Iraq. The emigration of hundreds of thousands of Russian Jews to Israel is cited as a main impulse toward war. The Malta summit had formalized conditions whereby emigrating Soviet Jews would only be allowed to emigrate to Israel, and not be allowed to emigrate to the United States, their longstanding country of choice.

March 15. Iraq executes British spy Farzad Barzof, who had been caught photographing an Iraqi military installation. The Anglo-American and Israeli press begins a campaign depicting Iraqi President Saddam Hussein as a "new Hitler."

March 22. Iraqi-linked weapons scientist Gerald Bull is assassinated in Brussels, Belgium. Bull had been employed by the military installation that Barzof had photographed.

March 28. British authorities arrest three Iraqi agents supposedly attempting to smuggle nuclear bomb timing devices from London's Heathrow Airport. The arrests trigger a well-prepared series of attacks against the Iraqi regime for allegedly daring to develop its military technology, and implicitly threatened a repeat of the 1981 Israeli strike against Iraq's nuclear research facility at Osirak.

April 2. Saddam Hussein, warning of a new plot against his state, threatens to obliterate half of Israel with chemical weapons if Israel ever bombs Iraq again. Anglo-American media claim that Saddam Hussein said he was preparing to "gas the Jews."

April 3. Israel, unlike Iraq a current nuclear power, launches its second military reconnaissance and target acquisition satellite into orbit.

April 11. Israel begins a series of tests to gauge international opinion regarding a new Israeli war with the Arab states. Israeli government funds a Jewish religious school to illegal-



ly occupy church property adjacent to the Greek Orthodox-managed Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem. The yeshiva desecrates the property the day before Good Friday, and in the ensuing riots the holy site is tear-gassed. Despite the provocation, on April 24 the U.S. Congress votes up a resolution recognizing the illegally seized Jerusalem as Israel's eternal capital.

April 22. The Argentine government announces that it has canceled its Condor II missile program co-sponsored by Egypt and Iraq, in compliance with Bush administration demands. The United States, British, and Israeli press had depicted the project as "Hitlerite."

May 5. King Hussein calls for an emergency summit, later held in Baghdad, Iraq, to deal with the effects of the planned immigration of hundreds of thousands of Russian Jews to Israel.

May 29. At the emergency Baghdad summit, Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat denounces the United States for support of Israeli expansionism. At the same summit, King Hussein denounces the war plot against Jordan.

June 11. A new Israeli war government is formed by Yitzhak Shamir, with the covert support of the Bush administration. The main stated commitment of the new regime is the settlement of some 1 million Soviet Jews in Israel over the next three years. Shamir calls for a "Greater Israel" to provide necessary space for the new immigrants.

June 20. Bush formally breaks off U.S. talks with the PLO under the pretext of an aborted Palestinian raid on the Israeli coast near Haifa on May 30.

July 8. Saddam Hussein appears on French television to warn of the danger of a Middle East war, and of an Israeli attack planned against Iraq.

July 10. Yasser Arafat appears on Voice of Lebanon to warn that the "Kissinger gang of five" within the Bush administration is pushing the region toward war. He states that the problem with Israel is that Israel is a U.S. project.

July 12. U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Colin Powell announces in Cairo that Egypt will get fewer U.S. arms. He decries as "ridiculous" the warning that there is a threat of a new war. That same day, Bush administration spokesmen leak a claim that Libya is secretly planning to manufacture poison gas.

July 12. Former Senator Charles Percy concludes a five-week Mideast tour with a press conference at which he says

the region is heading for war.

July 16. King Hussein appears on ABC Nightline to warn that the Middle East is headed toward war and that the United States is failing to stop it.

July 17. Iraq's Saddam Hussein accuses Kuwait of being part of a U.S.-Zionist conspiracy to keep the price of oil artificially low.

July 24. The Bush administration denounces Iraq for "coercion and intimidation" against Kuwait, and announces an immediate "exercise" of its Persian Gulf task force.

July 25. Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and former Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin appear on two separate Israeli radio programs stating that the presence of any Iraqi troops in the Iraqi allied state of Jordan is a "*casus belli*."

August 2. Iraqi troops seize Kuwait. Conveniently, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker III is meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Siberia, while President George Bush is meeting British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in Colorado. Appearing before a special session of the Israeli Knesset that day, Israeli military intelligence deputy director Daniel Rothschild admits that Israel intelligence and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency had foreknowledge of the Iraqi invasion plan.

August 4. High-ranking Iraqi official Izzat Ibrahim travels to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to tell the Saudis that Iraq has no intention of crossing into Saudi Arabia; that it honors the Iraqi-Saudi non-aggression pact; and that it hopes that the Saudis will not yield to U.S. pressure to engage in hostilities with Iraq. The Saudi Kingdom responds positively to the Iraqi offer, and refuses a U.S. request that day to cut the Iraqi oil pipeline that flows through Saudi Arabia to the Red Sea. This, and other intense diplomatic maneuvers in the region, offers hope that a larger war may be avoided.

August 5. President Bush dispatches an angry note to Riyadh expressing unhappiness with the Saudi decision. Immediately after receiving Bush's note, King Fahd orders Saudi troops to advance to the Kuwaiti border, and agrees to open up Saudi airfields to U.S. forces. U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney is dispatched to Riyadh. Secretary of State Baker announces plans to go to Ankara, Turkey to pressure the Turks, who, like the Saudis, have no desire to be involved in an unnecessary U.S. adventure.

August 6. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein threatens that if attacked, Iraq will blow up the oil fields of Kuwait. He also threatens to blow up Saudi Arabia's oil fields if the Saudis aid U.S. forces.