

be oblivious to Amman's becoming an even busier capital of terrorism than it had been before Black September in 1970. The groups now operating in Jordan range from Arafat's Fatah and Force-17, through the PLO's 'Democratic Front,' to terrorist organizations sponsored by Syria and Libya. One Palestinian living in Jordan has described the country as completely 'Palestinized.'

"King Hussein has obviously decided to throw in his lot with the PLO-Iraq axis. . . . For now he may feel safe in sheltering the terror organizations. He knows Israel is constrained by its 'low-profile' commitment, and reluctant to take any action which may disturb the delicate balance of the anti-Saddam coalition. But the first duty of a government is to secure the safety of its citizens. Once Israel proves a direct connection between the various terrorist headquarters in Jordan and acts of terrorism in Israel, it is difficult to see how it can avoid taking action against them."

Alert observers noted that the description of Sheikh Tamimi was identical with that appearing in the November 1990 edition of the newsletter circulated by the Anti-Defamation League in the United States.

### All in the family

It is revealing in this light, that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, during his visit to London Dec. 6-7 en route to the U.S., gave one exclusive interview—to Hollinger's *Daily Telegraph*.

Coincidence or not, Conrad Black was at that point in London. He was a featured guest at a most important gathering of 100 British and North American elites, which took place at the exclusive Claridges Hotel Dec. 5, on the occasion of the annual banquet funded by the Atlantic Richfield oil company (ARCO). The featured guests at this event were prospective Hollinger board member Margaret Thatcher, and Ronald Reagan. Among the attendees were *Jerusalem Post* board member Lord Weidenfeld, as well as many British lords, sirs, and Foreign Office officials responsible for shaping British Middle East policy, and close associates of Henry Kissinger. Former ARCO chairman Robert O. Anderson, currently a board member of the Kissinger Associates firm, was also in attendance.

On the next day, the *Daily Telegraph* published a war-mongering editorial on the Gulf, evidently reflecting the discussions at this gathering. It warned that George Bush's offer for dialogue with Iraq threatened to open up a period of "discordant babble," possibly leading to a "seedy and humiliating compromise" with Saddam Hussein. The Gulf crisis, said Conrad Black's mouthpiece, is a "test case for international order." Then: "*Most thoughtful people on both sides of the Atlantic recognize that sanctions will not be effective within an acceptable time-scale, that war is probable, and a compromise which leaves Saddam Hussein with any part of his booty would be a lasting blow to the interests of the whole world*" (emphasis added).

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## Interview: Jamal Shair

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# Jordanians think crisis can be solved

*Dr. Jamal Shair is a former Jordanian cabinet minister and member of the National Consultative Council. He is the chairman of Jordan's Unionist Democratic Association. The interview was conducted by telephone by Joseph Brewda on Dec. 5.*

**EIR:** What would be the long-term effect on the Arab world, and Muslim world more broadly, if the Anglo-Americans go to war, given the widespread and unfortunately correct perception that such a war would be largely racially motivated?

**Shair:** It is not easy to foresee exactly, but I think the long-term effect of the war on the Arab world will last for several years—perhaps 20 or 30. The nature and duration will depend on the outcome, and the extent of damage, and the various reactions of different powers, Arabs and others, from the start of the war to the end. The effect on the Muslim world will mostly be on Iran, due to the special historical relation of Persians with the Islamic movement which started soon after the Prophet Mohammed. There will be various reactions of a less political nature in the rest of the Muslim world.

What may continue to happen—until war starts—will not descend to the depths. It will remain within the limits of muscle-twisting and the interests of rulers or leaders. But as soon as the actual battle takes place, it is enough to consider the composition of the forces involved, both political and armed, to see the interaction of feelings and values among all concerned. It has deep roots in our history, and will reveal all factors of race, religions, nationalism, past experiences and bitterness.

Since World War II, the Arabs and their neighbors have been involved perhaps more than others with the world and regional orders—the United Nations, the Arab League, the Islamic Conference, the Non-Aligned Movement—and the dealing with such orders was functioning fairly well despite successive crises. Now that all these have completely collapsed, a war led mainly by the United States, and causing tremendous devastation in the area, with alliances involving states in the area itself, will no doubt lead to prolonged cruel events.

**EIR:** What do you think the Jordanian public's view is of

Saddam Hussein's leadership of Iraq, both in the past and in the present crisis?

**Shair:** The Jordanian public's view of Saddam Hussein's leadership has modified over the last 12 years since he became in full charge. Very few people believed that he ruled through a political party, and even those who did, supported or opposed his policies according to their own views. And the Jordanian Ba'athists supporting the Syrian regime, which was and still is of similar nature, were influenced by that support. Both regimes are a one-man show and ruthless.

During the Iraq-Iran War, most of the Palestinians and a large percentage of trans-Jordanians were either against the war or sided with Iran, even though the official policy was to support Iraq. The same is true of the Americans and the British. But when Iran occupied more and more Iraqi territory, Jordanians shifted towards Iraq, although not necessarily siding with Saddam Hussein. After the war stopped, and the Iraqi regime spoke about democratization and improving relations with other Arabs, and warned Israel in case the latter attacked Iraq or any other Arab country, and talked about constructive plans of development and progress in science and technology, the image improved more.

The military occupation of Kuwait was welcomed by only a few Iraqi supporters, i.e., some Ba'athists. But the invasion by the United States, the stand taken by the U.S. and the British governments, and the behavior of the Kuwaiti ruling family and the rest of the Gulf families, angered the Jordanians. Revelations of the government and personal wealth of the Sabah family and the rest, and the methods of their investment, angered the Jordanians more.

The Jordanians do not believe all the statements issued by the United States as the reason for the American administration's policies, and do not have confidence in its fairness or goodwill. All this has nothing to do with what the Jordanians think of Saddam Hussein's leadership as a ruler. They believe that it is quite possible to avoid war and reach a political solution acceptable to the Iraqis, the Gulf states, the Arabs, and the Americans.

**EIR:** What do you consider the necessary measures that have to be taken to resolve the crisis peacefully?

**Shair:** Now that the United States announced its intention to start talking with Iraq over the next five weeks, there is much more hope in resolving the crisis peacefully. I think the talks should aim at a joint announcement of intentions, to be followed by drawing up the detailed steps to reach the final conclusion. Three main issues have emerged and have to be addressed:

a) The withdrawal of Iraqi armed forces from Kuwait leading to the final settlement of Iraqi-Kuwaiti relations in respect to each other, the rest of the Gulf, the Arab world, and the international community, especially in relation to the various aspects of oil policy.

b) The withdrawal of all foreign and Arab armed forces

from the Gulf leading to more objective inter-Arab and international relations. The need has become more urgent for a revision of the basis of the New World Order and the relation of Arabs as a regional system with it.

c) The implementation of a mechanism for the peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and a solution of the Palestinian problem. The Gulf crisis may not directly be related to this, but the approach must be the same, and the process has to be clearer and more serious.

What I see so far happening between Mr. George Bush and Mr. Saddam Hussein is a brinkmanship policy. What will determine the last decision at five minutes to twelve will be dependent on what developments take place before then, and the dialogue will no doubt play the major part.

From the American side, the deciding factors would be the rise of the influence of opinion among the effective institutions, and the constant review of the price of war contrasted with its gains by the United States and important allies, mainly the United Kingdom and France.

From the Iraqi side, the deciding factors would be accurate calculations by the Iraqi government, in consultation with supporting countries or countries who genuinely believe that war should be and could be avoided.

As a conclusion, and not taking other unexpected events into consideration, I think the possibility of peaceful solution outweighs that of war, and has greater opportunities over the next five weeks.

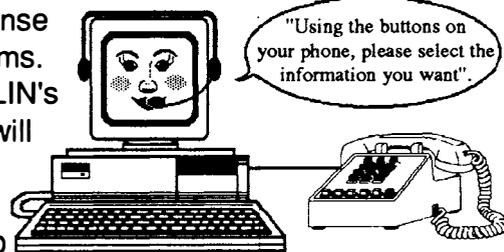
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