

Madman George Bush set to plunge into Gulf war

by Joseph Brewda

Despite last-minute face-saving efforts to portray himself as genuinely willing to negotiate peace, George Bush has committed the U.S. to a bloody war in the Persian Gulf, and probably in January.

Although intervention by non-Anglo-American powers, or a last-minute change of mind by the erratic President, might yet lead to the avoidance of war, the evidence that war is now on the agenda is compelling. This evidence includes persistent efforts by his administration to sabotage any diplomatic attempt to solve the crisis, as well as activation of the "breakaway ally" scenario of the British-controlled zombie state of Israel on a course toward war.

At the same time, the Anglo-Americans have finally succeeded in bludgeoning NATO into entering the conflict, through deploying its forces to Turkey. On Jan. 1, NATO announced that it would be sending three squadrons of German, Italian, and Belgian jet fighters to Turkey to strengthen its border with Iraq. A Turkish request for the deployment of a 5,000-man German-based NATO Allied Mobile Force is still under discussion. Also, Turkey has now made public that it has deployed some 100,000 troops to the Iraqi border, capitulating to a Bush demand that it open up a potential second front against Iraq. The entrapment of NATO overall as a potential belligerent party, sharply limits NATO countries from attempting to negotiate peace.

According to one scenario floated in Washington spook circles these days, the Anglo-American-led war will begin with massive aerial bombardment of Baghdad and other population centers of Iraq, modeled on the "air doctrine" policies employed by Hitler against England in 1940. The use of tactical nuclear bombs and neutron bombs against Iraqi positions in Kuwait also appears likely.

On Jan. 3, the White House issued a press release stating that Bush still "wanted to resolve this crisis peacefully," and that he was willing to arrange a meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in Geneva, Switzerland, sometime between Jan. 7-9. "I am ready to make one last attempt to go the extra mile for peace," Bush claimed.

One Bush administration official quoted in the Jan. 3 *Washington Post* was more honest than Bush and Baker on the reasons for the announcement. The administration is fearing and expecting an "explosion of freelance peace initiatives," he stated. "We are in a period now approaching the Jan. 15 deadline where everyone is getting into the act. . . . Our goal here is to hold a steady course knowing all kinds of hurricanes, squalls and such are going to erupt."

Among the "freelance peace initiatives" that the Bush regime fears are those announced by the Vatican, the European Community (EC), and various Arab leaders.

- On Dec. 30, Agostino Cardinal Casaroli, the outgoing, longtime Vatican secretary of state, announced that Pope John Paul II was prepared to become a mediator in the Gulf conflict. Casaroli noted that Pope John Paul II is a highly respected person in the world and especially among the Arabs, and therefore well-qualified for a mediating role. In December, the Chaldean rite of the Catholic Church, which is based in Baghdad, sponsored an international conference of Christian leaders on the threat of war.

- On Dec. 30, German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher announced plans by the 12-member European Community to hold an emergency meeting on the Gulf crisis on Jan. 4. It is expected that the meeting will result in a trip by EC President Jacques Poos, the Foreign Minister of

Luxembourg, to Baghdad over the coming days. Meanwhile, the chairman of France's parliamentary foreign affairs committee, Michel Vauzelle, flew to Baghdad on Jan. 2.

● Also at the end of December, King Hussein of Jordan announced plans to fly to Europe during the first week of January as part of a last-minute diplomatic effort to find a way out of the war. The King had made several attempts to negotiate a settlement since the Anglo-Americans deployed an armada into the Gulf in August, all of which have been sabotaged by the United States. At the same time, Algerian President Chadli Benjedid continues his own mediation effort. On Dec. 14, Saudi officials, under U.S. orders, canceled a planned meeting with Saudi King Fahd. It has always been clear that an inter-Arab solution to the crisis could be found, except for such interference.

A wrecking operation

Bush and Baker have played such wrecking games before. At a Nov. 1 Washington press conference, Bush first announced that he was prepared to "go the extra mile for peace," by arranging for meetings between Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and himself in Washington, and Secretary of State James Baker and President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad. The apparent purpose of the offer, as many reported at the time, was to assuage U.S. public opinion which feared Bush was driving the U.S. into an unnecessary war. The press conference took place one day after the Bush administration had forced through a Jan. 15 deadline following which any U.N. member-state would be sanctioned to use force against Iraq.

In his press conference, Bush stated that such meetings could occur anytime up to Jan. 15. When the Iraqi government suggested Jan. 12 as a date for Baker-Saddam Hussein discussions, the Bush administration heatedly rejected the proposed meeting, claimed that the date was "too late," while canceling an already scheduled meeting between Tariq Aziz and Bush in Washington.

However, even if some Iraqi-U.S. meetings were now to occur in Geneva or elsewhere, not much can be expected from them. Bush has repeatedly refused any negotiation—while offering "discussion." Bush's conditions for the talks, he proclaimed in his Jan. 3 statement, were, "No negotiations, no compromises, no attempts at face-saving and no rewards for aggression."

Moreover, Bush has made clear that even if Iraq were to withdraw from Kuwait, the economic sanctions would continue. "The *status quo ante* is unacceptable," Bush ranted in an interview with David Frost, broadcast in the U.S. by PBS on Jan. 3. "There will have to be some international order established to guarantee against future adventurism by" Saddam Hussein. Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Richard Cheney has repeatedly stated that a sizable presence of U.S. forces would remain to occupy the region as part of this "guarantee."

Unleashing the zombies

While attempting to appear reasonable, the Bush administration has also unleashed its Israeli monster, to provoke a war in which, it hopes, it will not have to take the blame.

On Jan. 1, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy directly threatened Jordan with a war, in the government's first public comments on the formation of a new Jordanian government that day. "For a long time, very, very extreme elements have been growing stronger in Jordan and this must set off a red light, first and foremost for the authorities in Jordan," he told the Israeli press. Levy has long been promoted as a candidate for prime minister by Jon Speller, a former aide to former CIA director Allen Dulles and an operative within related Anglo-American intelligence circles.

The pretext employed by Levy in describing the new Jordanian government as "extremist" is that it includes members of the Jordanian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, which, unlike its headquarters in Egypt, is opposed to the Anglo-American Gulf deployment.

The "breakaway ally scenario," as currently conceived, will begin with an Israeli strike into Jordan, or even Iraq, supposedly to defend Israel from Palestinian or Islamic terrorists. The strike would probably follow some atrocity against Israeli civilians, preferably children, covertly run by Israeli intelligence, but blamed on either Palestinians residing in Jordan or on Iraq. On Dec. 24, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Party-led coalition entered into serious negotiations with the Labor Party to form a national unity crisis government, with full emergency powers, signaling that the war move was on. The Shamir war cabinet had been formed back on June 11 by the Anglo-Americans to enable the war scenario to more easily be put into effect. The scenario had been set into motion at Shamir's meeting with Bush in Washington on Dec. 12.

Jordan has, sensibly, increased troop concentrations on its border with Israel over recent days, and put its forces on full alert on Jan. 1. Israeli officials have already announced that in the coming war they may fly their jets over Jordan and any interference by the Jordanians would lead to a repeat of the 1967 war where Israel seized the West Bank territories. "I sincerely hope he [King Hussein] does not repeat the same error" of resisting Israeli expansionism, one Israeli official threatened to the *New York Times* on Jan. 3.

To feed the climate, Israeli soldiers shot and killed two Palestinian youths for painting anti-Israeli graffiti on the walls of a building in the Rafa, Gaza Strip refugee camp on Dec. 29, and shot into a crowd of demonstrators who gathered after the killing, wounding more than 100 more. On Dec. 31, two Israeli planes bombed a house used by the Palestine Liberation Organization in Sidon, Lebanon, killing 12 PLO officials. Responding to similar incidents over recent weeks, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz told the Madrid daily *El País* on Dec. 28, "If the United States does not attack us, sooner or later Israel will."