

U.N. plays Kurdish card to restore colonialism

by Joseph Brewda

A U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Iraq for “repressing” its Kurdish population, and a related proposal to establish a U.N.-controlled Kurdish enclave in northern Iraq, show that George Bush’s “new world order” is nothing but a new version of 19th-century imperialism. The proposal, which sets limits on national sovereignty under the pretext of humanitarian concerns, is meant to be a precedent for the Security Council’s “big five” permanent members—Britain, France, U.S.S.R., the United States, and the People’s Republic of China—in running similar operations against dozens of nations throughout the Third World. The establishment of U.N. mandates, protectorates, trusteeships, puppet states, and even the restoration of outright colonial rule, is the order of the day, as is the shattering of current states into ethnically defined fragments.

Make no mistake: The tears that are being shed by the Anglo-American political establishment and the media about the plight of the Kurds are *pure politics*, the same kind of disinformation that the “coalition” forces imposed during the war itself. Yes, the Kurds are suffering. But Iraq’s entire population of 18 million—not just the Kurds in the north—faces starvation and epidemic disease. The primary reason for the Kurdish flight is the bombing of Iraq by the U.S.-led forces, which destroyed that nation’s entire infrastructure. Another reason for the Kurdish flight is that the British, French, and American intelligence services, which control the Kurdish tribal leadership, deliberately triggered a Kurdish insurrection following the war, which they knew would fail, in order to provide a pretext to intervene (see article, page 45).

In fact, and as even the U.S. media reported, it was Kurdish separatist militants who drove many Kurdish civilians from their homes at gunpoint.

U.N. Undersecretary General Martii Ahtisaari asserted

that Iraq “may face imminent catastrophe, which could include epidemic and famine” (see *EIR*, April 12), yet the Security Council has refused to do anything, and has even maintained, despite its claims to the contrary, an embargo on the shipments of food and medicine to Iraq.

The Security Council intends on using mass starvation, epidemics, externally sponsored wars and civil wars, as well as the chaotic conditions resulting from mass migrations of starving refugees, to overwhelm the ability of sovereign nations to resist imperial intervention. These states, such as Iraq, will be blamed for the genocide imposed on their populations by the new world order.

A cynical imperial precedent

On April 5, the Security Council adopted Resolution 688, which condemned the Iraqi government for suppressing its ethnic Kurdish population. The resolution, which was sponsored by France, mandated the U.N. to take “further steps” to secure “peace and security” in the area.

Three days later, British Prime Minister John Major proposed yet another U.N. resolution, at a Luxembourg summit of the European Community heads of state. Professing “outrage” at the Iraqi treatment of the Kurds, Major called for forming a U.N.-administered Kurdish enclave that would be carved out of Iraqi territory. Normally such an action would be called an act of war. Major told a press conference following the summit that he favored “using force” to create this enclave if necessary. For his part, French President François Mitterrand asserted that the alleged Iraqi repression of the Kurds was “close to genocide.”

That same day, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, on a visit to Kurdish refugee camps in Turkey, condemned the refugees’ conditions as “nothing less than a crime against humanity,” blaming Iraqi President Saddam Hussein for their

plight, while U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Thomas Pickering praised the Major plan—which overtly violates the U.N. Charter—as one that “matches our hopes.”

On April 11, President Bush gave his imprimatur to the “enclave” plan, saying that the United States is in “lock-step” with France and Britain on this matter.

The Ditchley scenario

The use of war or epidemic-driven mass migrations of refugees as a means to limit national sovereignty had been put forward long before the Persian Gulf war. The idea had been central to the New York Council on Foreign Relations’ “1980s Project” studies of 1977. More recently, the Ditchley Foundation—the elite British group that helps set Anglo-American foreign policy—held a conference in October 1989, on the subject of “Political and Economic Refugees: Problems of Migration, Asylum, and Resettlement.” “The principle which seems to underlie both immigration and refugee law in modern international society is that which endorses the legitimacy of the sovereign nation-state,” a report issued to that conference stated, and consequently national sovereignty could be limited through the pretext of the world’s refugee crisis.

The conference, distinguishing between two kinds of states—“senders and receivers” of refugees—laid out measures to crush “refugee-generating countries.” To this end, conference participants called for “sanctioning outside intervention into the refugee-sending countries in order to eradicate the source of the problem,” and also that “consideration should be given to making habitual refugee-sending countries pay for what should be considered a delinquency.”

Not surprisingly, Israel’s creation of millions of Palestinian refugees was not mentioned, nor is the Security Council talking today about creating a Palestinian “enclave” in Israel under U.N. protection.

The refugee mafia

The particular individuals and organizations now professedly organizing aid for the Kurds—while covering up the epidemics and starvation facing the rest of Iraq—are operatives of the same elite institutions which devised the imperial war in the first place.

Top on the list is the Geneva-based Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the former U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees who was appointed the U.N. overseer over all aid to Iraq on April 9. In that capacity, he will oversee the proposed “Kurdish enclave”—which is not surprising, since U.N. and U.S. government circles identify him as the real author of the proposal. Back on Dec. 11, 1990, the Aga Khan wrote a commentary in the London *Times* calling for the creation of a “U.N. Special Representative for Humanitarian Affairs who would monitor all situations likely to produce sudden populations movements,” in order to meet the needs of the “new international order.”

The Aga Khan, head of the Islamic Ismaili sect and a life-long British intelligence agent, was a tennis partner of George Bush back when Bush was ambassador to the U.N. in 1971. Although Bush, as vice president, failed in an effort to install him as U.N. Secretary General in the early 1980s, Bush did utilize the prince as an intermediary between U.S. intelligence and the Khomeini regime during the Iran-Contra affair.

The Aga Khan’s former university roommate in Paris in the 1950s—John Train—is another top figure in the refugee mafia. Associated with the CIA since the early 1950s, Train is a member of the African Development Foundation, which serves as a conduit for U.S. intelligence funds. During the Iran-Contra affair, Train ran the Afghanistan Relief Committee, while the Aga Khan was coordinator of the U.N. Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programs relating to Afghanistan. Both Train and the Aga Khan were involved in relocating Afghan refugees to CIA bases in Pakistan and Iran.

Probably the key operational figure in the establishment of Kurdish refugee camps in Turkey at present is Leo Cherne, chairman of the CIA-funded International Rescue Committee (IRC). Cherne, who was a “business partner” of the late CIA director William Casey for over 30 years, is former deputy director of the President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB), and a longtime adviser to Bush, including during the period that Bush was CIA director. Former IRC presidents include William Donovan, director of the wartime Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and the Aga Khan. Train has worked closely with Cherne for decades.

The key IRC operative now on the scene in Turkey overseeing Kurdish refugee work is former State Department official Lionel Rosenblatt, a member of the IRC board and also director of Refugees International. Rosenblatt is a specialist in running media campaigns against countries targeted for “refugee destabilization.” In 1990, he attempted to organize a congressional cutoff of aid to Malaysia, after Malaysia refused to unconditionally accept more Vietnamese “boat people.” Malaysia had previously settled more than a quarter-million Vietnamese.

Yet another operative in this network is former State Department official Roger Winter, whose U.S. Committee on Refugees now has a “fact-finding team” deployed in Iran and Turkey. Winter’s group, which is funded in part by the U.S. government, specializes in using refugee issues to destabilize African countries, notably Sudan, which, because of its opposition to the Gulf war, is a top Anglo-American target. On March 7, the group released a statement which blamed the famine in Sudan on its government’s lack of “cooperation” with Washington. Winter’s group has called for the United States and U.N. to conduct “cross-border” food relief, “with or without Sudan government approval,” while cutting off all aid to Sudan—another version of what is being done to Iraq.

U.N. seeks to strip Iraq of sovereignty

The following French-sponsored U.N. resolution, using the excuse of alleged Iraqi repression of Kurds, was passed on April 5. China and India abstained; Cuba, Yemen, and Zimbabwe voted against. So far, EIR is the only English-language publication in which it has appeared.

The Security Council,

Aware of its duties and its responsibilities in virtue of the Charter of the United Nations as it concerns the maintenance of peace and international security,

Keeping in mind the disposition of Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Profoundly preoccupied by the repression of Iraqi civilian populations in numerous parts of Iraq, and including most recently in the areas of the Kurdish peoples, which has led to a massive flood of refugees toward international borders and across the same, and to violations of borders, which threatens peace and international security in the region,

Profoundly moved by the extent of the suffering of the population,

Taking note of the letters addressed by the representatives of Turkey and France to the United Nations Organization, and respectively dated 2 April and 4 April 1991 (S/22435 and S/22442),

Taking note equally of the letters addressed by the permanent representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Organization dated respectively 3 and 4 April 1991 (S/22435 and S/22447),

Reaffirming the commitment taken by all member states to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Iraq and of all states in the region,

Having in mind the Secretary General's report dated 20 March 1991 (S/22366),

1) Condemns the repression of Iraqi civilian populations in numerous parts of Iraq, including most recently in the areas of the Kurdish peoples, whose consequence is to threaten peace and international security in the region;

2) Requires that Iraq, in order to contribute to eliminating the threat to peace and international security in the region, put an end, without delay, to this repression and, in this

context, expresses the hope that a broad dialogue will be entered into with a view toward assuring respect for the human rights and the political rights of all Iraqi citizens;

3) Insists that Iraq permit immediate access for international humanitarian organizations to all those who need assistance in all parts of Iraq and that it place at their disposition all means necessary for their activity;

4) Requests that the Secretary General pursue humanitarian efforts in Iraq and to make an immediate report to him, eventually on the issue of a new mission in the region, on the fate of the Iraqi civilian populations affected by repression of all forms by the Iraqi authorities;

5) Requests equally from the Secretary General to make use of all means at his disposition, including those of the particularly relevant institutions of the United Nations, to immediately confront the fundamental needs of the refugees and displaced Iraqi populations;

6) Issues an appeal to all member states and to all humanitarian organizations for them to participate in these humanitarian assistance efforts;

7) Requires that Iraq cooperate with the Secretary General to these ends;

8) Decides to remain apprised of the question.

Statement of the French Embassy in Washington, issued on April 10, on "French policy regarding the internal repression in Iraq":

. . . This resolution is an important event on the international scene: For the first time it puts the role of the national sovereignty of states in balance with the basic rights of individuals and ethnic groups. As the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Roland Dumas, declared on the 6th of April: "I hope this will create a precedent and furthermore, that this decision will open the way to an intelligent reflection on this new problem. . . . Of course, we must respect the rights of states to manage their own domestic affairs. But at the same time, the international community cannot remain indifferent when a blatant crime is committed against a population. The notion of crimes against humanity became a legal principle after World War II. Now is a good time to reap the consequences of this."

As a matter of fact, France has for several years proposed an evolution of the international law to allow "the international recognition of the right of humanitarian assistance," stating that "the first human right is the right to life, and the first duty is to provide assistance to a person in danger, a population threatened by perils" (President François Mitterrand, Jan. 26, 1987).

This is why France proposed a draft resolution voted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on Dec. 8, 1988, affirming that, national sovereignty notwithstanding, it was of primary importance to allow access for relief efforts to reach the victims of a natural catastrophe or emergency situations. . . .