

Editorial

Mrs. Thatcher called the tune

In the period leading into Desert Storm, until she was driven out of 10 Downing Street, no voice was shriller than that of Mrs. Maggie Thatcher (now baroness), in demanding Iraqi blood. While there is no way in which President Bush or the U.S. population, which rallied enthusiastically behind him, can be exonerated for their unjust war against Iraq—and the continuing brutal blockade of that nation to this day—it is about time that the British role in this genocide was duly noted.

The question is being raised in Britain today of illegal arms sales to Iraq, but the real issue is how the British set up the conditions in which a U.S. invasion of Iraq might appear plausible. As early as May and June of 1990, Lyndon LaRouche warned that there was a British and American gameplan to foment war in the Middle East. One clear tipoff was the worsening economic situation, which was causing both Thatcher and Bush to seek some diversion, coupled with Anglo-American complicity in allowing Israel and Syria to finalize their occupation of Lebanon.

The British, with the Americans, the French, and the Israelis, were carrying out their typical balance-of-power policy of fomenting war between countries in regions which they intend to control. The revelations coming to the surface now, in the context of the Matrix Churchill court case, confirm *EIR*'s documentation of this process throughout the 1980s. It is in this light that the Iran-Iraq War must be viewed, as well as earlier intervention by the United States and Britain to bring the Ayatollah Khomeini to power. Regular readers of this publication may be outraged by the newest revelations coming from Great Britain, but they should hardly be surprised.

Let us look at LaRouche's assessments from 1990 on. After the Gulf crisis erupted with Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, LaRouche and *EIR* charged that Iraq had been "sandbagged" into invading Kuwait, in order to provide a pretext for the Anglo-American powers to stage a giant international crisis. Crucial to this were Anglo-American and Israeli efforts to "sting" Iraq, by selling it advanced weaponry, weaponry which could

then be cited as a pretext for why Iraq had to be attacked. LaRouche charged that the "Gulf war" was not only being used as a means of diverting attention from the deepening economic crisis in the Anglo-American sphere, but of conducting surrogate war against Europe, in particular Germany. A key actor in this was Britain's then-Trade and Industry Secretary Nicholas Ridley, who had launched a propaganda campaign attacking Germany as the emerging "Fourth Reich," and a threat to British interests.

Now, lo and behold, the Matrix Churchill case documents reveal that the same Nicholas (since made Lord, evidently an award for his powers of duplicity) Ridley was the central figure in expediting arms sales to Iraq! This is amply documented by the *London Guardian* (Nov. 11) and *Daily Telegraph* (Nov. 12), which cite confidential government papers showing that, just six weeks before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Secretary Ridley was "trying to protect arms exports" to Iraq.

Ridley's initiatives coincided with another development, which has been ignored by the British press in the recent retrospectives on British policy toward Iraq, but which was given great importance by LaRouche at the time. This was the peculiar mid-July 1990 mission to Baghdad by British wheeler-and-dealer Tiny Rowland, chairman of the Lonrho conglomerate and owner of the *Observer* newspaper, ostensibly to arrange the release of a British national held in an Iraqi jail. What Rowland was doing then was a mystery to most, since it had been a journalist for his *Observer*, Farzad Bazoft, whom the Iraqis had hanged as a spy only months earlier. It can be surmised, that more on the Rowland trip will surface in the British media soon.

From a prison cell in Minnesota, LaRouche was far smarter than his fellow Americans who allowed the toadies of the British Crown, who were in control of U.S. policy, to cause Americans once again to fight an unjust war. He was able to easily pierce the veil of intelligence assessments which were either sadly ignorant or deliberately pedaling disinformation.