

# London fuels Mideast 'Armageddon' war danger

by Joseph Brewda

A Nov. 16 dispatch by the British Establishment organ, the London *Sunday Times*, points to yet another flank that Britain is attempting to use in its efforts to create a new "Cuban Missile Crisis" in the Middle East. The transparent purpose of the dispatch, "Iraq Makes Lethal Gas in Covert Sudan Pact," is to prepare for an Israeli invasion or strike against Iraq or Sudan, with the implied threat of the use of nuclear weapons. The British monarchy needs such a crisis, to create the global conditions to destroy any effective effort by the Clinton administration to deal with the global financial breakdown.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's rant before the British Parliament on Nov. 14, over the supposed Iranian development of "weapons of mass destruction," shows the way Israel is being manipulated into playing London's game—through an Iranian strike, or similar Israeli threats to go it alone against Iraq. British claims against Sudan are part of an effort to make Sudan a target for such "daring" Israeli actions, and have the added goal of whipping up the needed hostility against Sudan in Washington. There, London's minions such as Roger Winter, executive director of the U.S. Committee for Refugees, and former Assistant Secretary of State George Moose, are pushing for full-scale war to bring down the Khartoum government, a military venture that requires the deployment of air power.

## New scare stories

According to the *Sunday Times*, "Iraq is manufacturing poisonous gas at a secret location in Sudan. Bypassing the ban on weapons of mass destruction which the United Nations imposed on Baghdad after its defeat in the Gulf war, Saddam Hussein and the Islamist government of Gen. Omar al Bashir in Khartoum are making and stockpiling mustard gas for their mutual benefit." The Sudanese government has denied the report.

The source cited for the allegation is "military intelligence and diplomatic sources in Kampala," Uganda, which is waging a war, under British direction, against Sudan. The article adds that the mustard gas is being produced in a facility in Wau, in southern Sudan, staffed by Iraqi technicians.

Production of mustard gas hardly requires the assistance of "Iraqi technicians." It requires only low levels of technology, and can be produced by anyone who has a smattering of knowledge of chemistry.

The *Sunday Times* asserts that, since the alleged production started, the Sudanese Armed Forces have used the mustard gas against the Sudanese People's Liberation Army on at least two occasions, according to SPLA sources. The incidents allegedly occurred in 1995, when the Ugandan Army invaded Sudan, albeit unsuccessfully. The *Sunday Times* admits that there is no confirmation for the SPLA's charges. The SPLA, sponsored by the British Privy Council, operates out of northern Uganda, with the continuous aid of Ugandan dictator Yoweri Museveni, a close friend of SPLA leader John Garang since their days at Dar es Salaam University.

Targetting the supposed plant for a military strike, the article emphasizes that "while experts have suspected Sudan of having a mustard gas factory for some time, this is the first time its location has been pinpointed."

Behind the Ugandan military assistance to the SPLA, is London's plan to create a regional marcher-lord force based primarily but not exclusively on the Tutsi group, of which Museveni is a member, extending from the Horn of Africa down to the Cape and across Congo-Zaire. Especially in East Africa, this British plan has been significantly aided by Israeli military supplies and advisers. The construction of an Israeli naval base on the Dahlak Islands of Eritrea, and the installation of Israeli missile batteries in northern Eritrea, intended for use against Sudan and other targets, is indicative, as is the emergence of Israeli Gen. David Agman as Museveni's key military adviser. Because of such British-sponsored developments, Ugandan and allied efforts against Sudan have the effect of spreading the Arab-Israeli conflict into the Horn of Africa, even where Israeli forces are not directly involved. Moreover, if an air strike against the supposed chemical warfare plant in Wau were to proceed, Israeli air capabilities would be required.

## Uganda's record

The *Sunday Times* report on alleged Sudanese "chemical weapons" capabilities in Wau was circulated in the Ugandan press soon thereafter. This has raised alarm among some in the northern Ugandan war districts of Kitgum and Gulu, where the Ugandan Army has been unsuccessfully battling the insurgent Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) for the last 11 years. Given that the war against the northern Uganda population has been so destructive—fully one-half of the northern population has fled to or been herded into "protected villages" which are no better than concentration camps—there are fears that the report of a chemical weapons capability in Sudan could signal the use of chemical weapons by the Ugandan Armed Forces, either in southern Sudan or northern Uganda. There is a precedent for this already. In the summer of 1996, the Ugandan Armed Forces used rocket-propelled chemical-weapon grenades, believed to have been acquired from Ukraine, against the LRA, for a brief period of time. The phosphorus-based chemical contents of the canister would kill everything within 50 square meters, according to sources.