

The 'Netanyahu factor' in President Clinton's troubles

by Jeffrey Steinberg

May it not be said, that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is a pivotal player in U.S. President Bill Clinton's latest troubles? While it would be a fallacy of composition to claim that Netanyahu has been *the* architect of President Clinton's woes, since he, himself is a malleable pawn of London-centered geopolitical circles, a detailed review of events of the past six months, shows that the Israeli Prime Minister, and his closest political allies in Israel, Britain, and among the neo-conservatives and evangelicals inside the United States, have been working to bury the Clinton administration under scandals, and to draw the President into a potentially fatal military adventure against Iraq.

The "Lewinsky Affair" and Iraq war trap, combined, constitute merely the latest phase of an assault upon the United States Presidency that has been ongoing since the day when Bill Clinton was sworn into office in January 1993. The assault has been steered, top down, from London, through such channels as the monarchy's two preferred media cartels, the Conrad Black-led Hollinger Corp., and Australian Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. Hollinger Corp. owns the *Jerusalem Post*, whose former editor-in-chief, David Bar-Illan, is currently the chief spokesman for Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu. Hollinger's flagship publication in England is the *Telegraph*, whose Sunday edition Washington, D.C. editor, Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, was a vital asset of MI6's black propaganda campaign against the Clinton Presidency, from early 1993 to Evans-Pritchard's departure from Washington in the summer of 1997. Evans-Pritchard has now returned to the United States, "for the duration" of the end-game assault on the Presidency.

In the United States, the circles of former President George Bush, notorious for the 1980s Iran-Contra fiasco, and the related crack cocaine epidemic, have been among the lead-

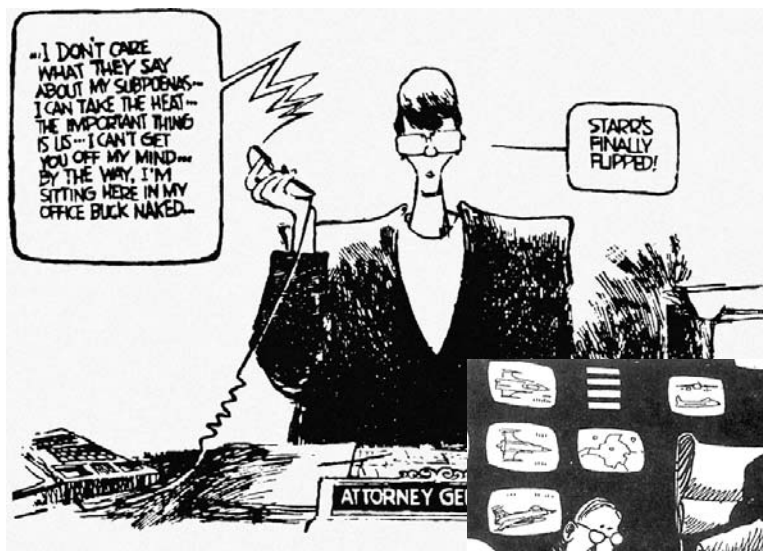
ing "Get Clinton" operatives. The permanent bureaucracy of the Department of Justice has also been pivotal. But the grassroots base of support for the venomous attacks against the Presidency, is principally associated with televangelists Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell.

'Let us prey'

It was widely publicized that, when Prime Minister Netanyahu arrived in Washington for his pre-scheduled summit meeting with President Clinton, on Jan. 18, 1998, his first public appearance, the next day, was at a 1,000-person pep rally at the Mayflower Hotel, convened by Rev. Jerry Falwell—one of the President's sworn enemies on the Christian right. Falwell is a fanatical advocate of a Middle East "Armageddon" to be triggered by a confrontation over Jerusalem's Dome of the Rock, the present site of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the purported location of the Temple of Solomon. The following day, Netanyahu made an exclusive appearance on Pat Robertson's 700 Club television program, shortly after his meeting with the President. While in Washington, the Israeli Prime Minister held extensive talks with Vice President Al Gore, aimed, according to sources, at drawing the Vice President deeper into the Netanyahu camp.

On the following Sunday, Jan. 25, tens of thousands of evangelical ministers turned their pulpits into political soap boxes, slamming President Clinton. The topics of their tirades? First, the Monica Lewinsky scandal, which broke on the front page of the *Washington Post* hours after Netanyahu's meeting with President Clinton; and, second, a call to preserve all of Israel's occupied territories in the West Bank—i.e., to renege on the Oslo Accords.

Netanyahu later freely acknowledged that he had sought out Falwell, to stage the Armageddon rally as part of his



The international press comments on the two-pronged British operation against President Clinton. On the right, in a cartoon which appeared in the German weekly *Weltwoche* and the Austrian daily *Die Presse*, a general briefs President Clinton on Iraq: "The smart weapons refuse to go in." The spoof on Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr is from the *Palm Beach Post*.

"diplomatic" intervention against President Clinton. Falwell and Robertson also issued a mass call-up to evangelical ministers all across America, urging them to deliver simultaneous attacks against the President. Falwell told the *New York Times*, on Jan. 21, 1998, "There are about 200,000 evangelical pastors in America, and we're asking them all through e-mail, faxes, letters, telephone, to go into their pulpits and use their influence in support of the state of Israel and the prime minister." According to the *Times*, the Mayflower Hotel rally was convened by a group called *Voices United for Israel*, which has been denounced by several prominent Jewish American leaders as a U.S. front group for the Israeli Likud.

The two latter-day "Elmer Gantrys" have been among the most vile slanderers of the Clinton Presidency from the outset. In several TV interviews, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton itemized the "right-wing conspiracy" against the Clinton Presidency, and singled out Falwell, who has produced scurrilous books and videos accusing the President of drug trafficking, murders, and high crimes and misdemeanors.

London's 'mad nation' scenario

In addition to flaunting his close ties to the hard-core "Get Clinton" crowd inside the United States, Netanyahu has been the single most important prop in the British monarchy's drive to entrap Clinton in a self-destruct military confrontation with

Saddam Hussein.

In the Feb. 13, 1998 issue of *EIR*, Contributing Editor Lyndon LaRouche warned that "if President Clinton were to continue to be duped by Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair, into launching such an attack upon Iraq, as he seems presently determined to do, the global chain-reaction would soon create the conditions under which a new, successful impeachment drive could be launched against a globally self-isolated Clinton himself. Worse, the economic and political chain-reaction effects of the U.S.A.'s efforts to prod continental European and other nations to tolerate such an attack, would mean that the U.S. would soon be despised and isolated in current international factional line-ups. That global chain-reaction would create the climate of isolation around the President, which would destroy the political sympathy the President has gained from his own and Hillary Clinton's clear response to Prosecutor Starr's efforts to orchestrate a 'Lewinsky Affair.' "

Apart from the strings being pulled, from behind the scenes, on a rabidly anti-American Saddam Hussein, the key to the "bomb Iraq" trap being set for President Clinton, is the Israel of a rabid, Jabotinskyite, racist regime under Netanyahu and Ariel Sharon's direction, armed with the world's fifth-largest arsenal of nuclear bombs.

Despite reports that Israel's nuclear arsenal is governed by secret treaty agreements with the United States that forbid

any Israeli pre-emptive nuclear strike, such paper understandings would in no way would deter Netanyahu or Sharon. Given the control over all nominally “Islamic” terrorism by British intelligence, in league with Sharon-allied factions of the Israeli Mossad, a terrorist massacre inside Israel, such as the string of bombings that led to Netanyahu’s election, cannot be ruled out. Such a British/Israeli-ordered bombing would suffice to “justify” an Israeli pre-emptive strike against Baghdad, and, perhaps, even against such other targets as Iran, Sudan, or Libya.

The “terror card” is already being played against President Clinton in another way. On Feb. 19, the FBI arrested two men in Las Vegas, Nevada, and charged them with possession of a “weapon of mass destruction.” William Leavitt and Larry Wayne Harris were arrested in possession of six vials of what is thought to be anthrax, a deadly biological agent. Harris was formerly linked to the Aryan Nation, an offshoot of the British-Israelite movement, closely associated with the British intelligence services. Like clockwork, the next day, Feb. 20, the *Daily Telegraph* ran a story by Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, charging that the Iraqi regime was behind the Aryan Nation, and that the group had received money from Saddam Hussein during the 1991 Persian Gulf War. The message of Evans-Pritchard’s flagrant piece of black propaganda: President Clinton had better bomb Saddam back to the Stone Age.

The same day that Leavitt and Harris were being arrested, a bomb went off at a General Motors car dealership in Athens, Greece, which was widely characterized as an anti-American terror attack, linked to the Clinton administration’s threats to bomb Iraq.

President Clinton has thus been a target of a blackmail campaign to manipulate him into believing that if he does not take military action against Iraq, Israeli lunatics will take matters into their own hands, and the Middle East conflict will mushroom into World War III.

Tavistock shock trauma

It is of special significance that the convergence of the “Lewinsky Affair,” the new eruption of an Iraq conflict, Netanyahu’s provocations in Washington, and the sudden outbreak of anti-American irregular warfare, occurs at a time when the Clinton administration bears special responsibility for devising a solution to the global financial crisis. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin provoked hysteria among private bankers when, on several occasions, beginning in December 1997, he declared that he personally preferred not to give “one nickel” to bail out speculators. As LaRouche has emphasized, any solution to the collapse of the global financial and monetary system requires U.S. Presidential leadership. Therefore, a collapse of the Clinton Presidency, at this time, would have horrible consequences for the planet.

Clinton’s enemies are well aware of this. A review of the chronology of events in mid-January of this year, suggests that the President was, indeed, the target of a series of orches-

trated shock-traumas, aimed precisely at distracting him, and bringing down his Presidency. The world’s foremost psychological warfare center, the London Tavistock Institute, a branch of British intelligence, pioneered the use of group shock-trauma to produce irrational behavior.

It is in this context that Netanyahu’s sabotage of the Washington summit merits special attention.

In the week leading up to the “Lewinsky Affair” eruption, the permanent bureaucracy at the Department of Justice launched an across-the-bow attack against the Clinton administration, using the string of independent counsel probes to simultaneously hit Labor Secretary Alexis Herman, former Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy, and former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros. Prosecutor Kenneth Starr demanded and obtained a deposition of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. All of these actions were taken in the days leading up to the President’s long-scheduled Jan. 17, 1998 deposition in the Paula Jones civil case.

Unbeknownst to the White House, by no later than Jan. 12, Linda Tripp, Starr’s “deep throat” in the Lewinsky and related scandals against Clinton, had delivered 20 hours of illegally taped conversations with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky to the independent counsel’s office. The next day, Tripp was fitted with a wire to enable the FBI to record a lunch meeting with Lewinsky at a hotel in Pentagon City, to obtain “clean” corroboration of the allegations about President Clinton, already recorded on the illegal tapes.

On Jan. 16, Tripp again arranged a lunch meeting with Lewinsky. This time, FBI agents intercepted Lewinsky and bullied her into a hotel suite, where she was held for ten hours and pressured, without a lawyer present, to become a “sting agent” for Starr, in his effort to entrap the President. During much of Lewinsky’s ordeal, Tripp sat in an adjacent hotel room, conferring with other members of the Starr team. Later that same day, Tripp met at her Columbia, Maryland home with attorneys for Paula Jones. She provided them with a detailed briefing on the illegally obtained Lewinsky tapes, and on the results of the FBI-wired meeting, obtained by Starr.

The next morning, Jan. 17, when President Clinton arrived for his deposition, he was ambushed by the Jones lawyers, who asked him a battery of detailed questions — all based on Tripp’s highly dubious account.

On Jan. 18, as Prime Minister Netanyahu was arriving in Washington, neo-conservative “talking head” William Kristol, a supporter of Netanyahu’s intransigent policy toward the Palestinians, who is the editor-in-chief of the Rupert Murdoch-funded *Weekly Standard* magazine, hinted that a major new sex scandal was about to hit the President. The Lewinsky story hit the front page of the *Washington Post* three days later, just days before United Nations chief weapons inspector, Richard Butler, helped trigger the current confrontation with Saddam Hussein, by telling Israeli reporters that the Iraqis had enough chemical and biological weapons to wipe out the population of Tel Aviv.