

# British Foreign Office, U.S. State Department Plan Iraq Provocation

by Dean Andromidas

The London-based "Indict" organization, backed by the U.S. State Department, has launched a mobilization to indict Iraqi leaders for war crimes. According to a British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) report, Indict has turned over information to the U.S. State Department and other governments on alleged war crimes of key Iraqi leaders. The initiative hopes to force the U.S. and European governments to issue international arrest warrants against Iraqi leaders, including Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz. The move is part of a series of operations to create the media and political groundwork for a military strike against Iraq. Such a move would further destabilize the region, especially given the current collapse of the Camp David talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

## Made in Great Britain

Indict was founded on Jan. 15, 1997, at the British House of Commons, on the initiative of British Labour Party Member of Parliament Ann Clywd, who is the organization's chairperson. The only purported purpose of its existence is to seek the formation of a United Nations-sponsored war crimes tribunal, modelled after those for the Balkans and Rwanda. On April 16, 1997, Indict was also launched in Washington; it got a statement of support from President William Clinton on May 8. In November 1997, an effort, led by Sens. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) and Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), succeeded in getting both houses of the U.S. Congress to pass a resolution supporting Indict, and calling for an international tribunal to put Iraqi leaders on trial for war crimes. This support, both political and financial, increased with the passage by the U.S. Congress of the Iraq Liberation Act in October 1998.

Although Indict's website reports that the organization has an executive committee and a board of advisers, a representative for the organization refused to name any of them, except to say that Ann Clywd was chairperson. All callers are referred to Clywd, who failed to return any calls to *EIR*. Nonetheless, the organization boasts of statements of support from former British Prime Ministers Margaret Thatcher and John Major, as well as current Prime Minister Tony Blair. Other supporters include leading lights of the international human rights mafia, including Lord Avebury and Danielle

Mitterrand, and organizations including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International.

On the Washington side, the organization joins the chorus of politicians and policymakers calling for a hard-line policy against Iraq. This group includes Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.), former U.S. Rep. Stephen J. Solarz (D-N.Y.), as well as Richard Armitage, a Pentagon official in the Reagan-Bush administrations. Among this crowd can be found Richard Perle, a leading member of U.S.-based right-wing Zionist policy circles and a foreign policy adviser to Presidential pre-candidate George W. Bush.

Indict is also linked to the London-based Iraqi National Congress, particularly Ahmad Chalabi, and the Washington-based Iraq Foundation. Both groups coordinate the activities of the Iraqi opposition outside Iraq.

According to the BBC report, U.S. roving Ambassador for Human Rights David Scheffer stated that the United States is using the list compiled by Indict in its efforts to get the United Nations Security Council to set up an Iraqi war crimes tribunal.

The Indict list includes Saddam Hussein; Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and former Foreign Minister; Ali Hassan Al-Majid, a senior military commander and Saddam Hussein's cousin; Barzan Al Tikriti, Saddam Hussein's half-brother, as well as his two sons, Uday and Qusay; Taja Yasin Ramada, Vice President of Iraq; Iztat Ibrahim Al-Douri, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Iraqi Armed Forces; Watban Ibrahim Hassan Al-Tikrit and Sabawi Ibrahim Hassan Al Tikriti, both half-brothers of Saddam Hussein who hold high positions in the regime.

The dossiers for the indictments are said to be based on information drawn from debriefing Iraqi alleged victims, as well as thousands of documents seized in Kuwait in 1991 by U.S. forces, and from northern Iraq by Human Rights Watch and the U.S. government. These documents are being stored at the University of Colorado.

The priority target for indictment is Deputy Prime Minister Aziz, who has functioned as international spokesman and negotiator for the Iraqi government, and as such is the most well-travelled. Aziz is often at the United Nations in

New York, or in other major cities in Europe and elsewhere. He was on his way to Moscow when the BBC story was published.

Nonetheless, even the BBC reported that the chances of the United Nations creating an international tribunal are next to nil, because of French, Russian, and Chinese opposition. In fact, the latter two nations have been calling for the United Nations sanctions against Iraq to be lifted.

### **An International Arrest**

The most likely scenario to set up such a tribunal, would be to utilize the International Torture Convention and the Geneva Convention. The latter has universal jurisdiction, and would simply require an indictment from an individual signatory country. Thus, a U.S. or a European court could issue an indictment, which would lead to an international arrest warrant being issued by Interpol. Several precedents have already been set for this, the most recent being that issued by a Spanish court, and supported by a Belgium court, against former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet.

The BBC reports that the United States has begun to pressure European governments to enforce such arrest warrants. The arrest of a key Iraqi leader, such as Aziz, in a major European capital, would obviously generate an instantaneous media event, which would help lay the groundwork for a new "Iraq crisis."

This latest provocation in the making is not an isolated effort, but dovetails with renewed efforts by both the United States and Great Britain to force Iraq to accept a new United Nations weapons inspection team, which it has so far refused to do.

In this regard, the activities of former United Nations weapons inspector Richard Butler, currently "diplomat in residence" at the New York Council on Foreign Relations, parallel those of Indict. Butler has been on an international tour promoting his new book, *The Greatest Threat: Iraq, Weapons of Mass Destruction and the Crisis of Global Security*. In it, among other outrageous comments and scenarios, Butler writes about how Saddam Hussein could deploy terrorists to set off chemical or biological weapons in a New York City subway.

During the recent Camp David summit, Butler deployed to Israel, where he gave presentations before the Israeli Knesset (parliament) and other forums. He tried to convince his hosts that Aziz has told him that Iraq still possesses chemical and biological weapons reserved for the "Zionist entity." His trip was sponsored by the right-wing Israel- and Washington-based Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, and its kindred organization, the Washington-based American Enterprise Institute. It was also financed by the New Atlantic Initiative, another international right-wing organization founded by Thatcher (see "BAC Extremists To Gather in Bratislava," *EIR*, April 28, 2000, and "Bush-British Loonies Plot New Confrontations," May 12, 2000).

## London, Wall Street Now Turn To Sever Chiapas from Mexico

*The following statement was issued on July 26 by the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA) of Mexico, the co-thinker group of U.S. Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., in light of the upcoming Aug. 20 gubernatorial elections in the Mexican state of Chiapas.*

After assuring the continuity of the economic looting policies of [Mexican Presidents] Carlos Salinas de Gortari and Ernesto Zedillo, by orchestrating the election of Vicente Fox as the next President of Mexico, the London-Wall Street financial oligarchy is now readying the next step in its drive to destroy the Mexican nation-state: installing Protestant pastor Pablo Salazar Mendiguchea as Governor of the state of Chiapas, in the Aug. 20 elections.

As its spokesmen scarcely conceal, the Anglo-American oligarchy is drooling with greed over the imminent possibility of repeating in Mexico, the territorial and institutional disintegration which they have achieved in Colombia. They seek to destroy the sovereign nation-state, and replace it with shattered "narco-republics" whose financial flows can serve to prop up Wall Street's insolvent speculative bubble.

Do you want to hear it from their own lips? Robert Pastor, an adviser to Democratic Presidential candidate Al Gore and a Latin American affairs expert who has been associated for decades with former President Jimmy Carter, the Trilateral Commission's puppet, told a journalist in the middle of July that Chiapas is "a portion of Central America," which "has not yet emerged from the guerrilla wars of the 1970s and '80s, and the Mexicans have ruled Chiapas with an iron hand." Salazar, Pastor added, "whom I met, . . . represents both the Fox and the PRD [Democratic Party of the Revolution] coalition, both the left and the right. . . . Now, if he were to win, I think that solving the problem of Chiapas would become a lot easier." In other words, what Pastor says is that Chiapas is not part of Mexico, and that the obstacle to "resolving" the Chiapas conflict has been the central government, as it has functioned up until now.

During the Carter Presidency, Pastor served as Director of Latin American and Caribbean Affairs at the National Security Council under Zbigniew Brzezinski. In 1986, Carter named Pastor director of the Latin American Program at his Atlanta-based Carter Center, at which post Pastor remained