

Mideast War Pushed by 'Eurasian War Party'

by Dean Andromidas

Everyone in the world is asking: Why isn't the United States intervening to stop the ongoing carnage in the Middle East? Speaking before a press conference on Aug. 7 in Gaza, Palestinian Planning Minister Nabil Shaath declared, "The only way to end this is for a third party to come and tell us, 'Tomorrow morning at 6, you will begin to implement the Mitchell Report.'"

The same question is being asked in Israel, despite the supposed 70% popular support for Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. In an Aug. 6 commentary in the *Jerusalem Post*, David Kimche, former Director General of Israel's Foreign Ministry, called it a moral necessity for Israel to end its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, while commenting on European criticism of Israel's violation of Palestinians' human rights in the current conflict.

Kimche writes, "We are one of the only countries in the world today that rules over another people with an army of occupation, and this is high on the list of transgressions of human rights. . . . We can shout from the rooftops that we consider Judea, Samaria and Gaza to be an integral part of historical land of Israel . . . but what matters to enlightened people of Europe, Canada, Australia, and the U.S. and elsewhere is that an entire people is being held hostage, under occupation, and that is something which public opinion in those countries is no longer willing to accept. . . ."

Kimche concludes, "In the long run, however, there will be only one answer, and that is to end the occupation, not only because of Israel's place in the family of nations, but more so because of ourselves; because of the terrible damage that the continuing occupation is wreaking on us, on our morals, our behavior, on Israeli society as a whole."

His comments should be taken very seriously in Washington. While Nabil Shaath's is the appeal of the weaker party for protection, Kimche's is an appeal for protection from the immoral effects of Israel's continued deployment of superior force. Kimche is a seasoned member of his nation's policy establishment, who has been personally involved in every major aspect of Israeli foreign policy over four decades.

Why does the Bush Administration continue to do nothing to stop the conflict? Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. has warned that the drive for war does not come from the Middle East, but from powerful Anglo-American factions, especially financial circles in London and Wall Street. Confronted with an unfolding systemic economic cri-

sis threatening the global financial system, they are willing to launch a clash of civilizations—a modern religious Thirty Years War—to crush the alternative policy based on a Eurasian economic development perspective. Middle East policy is being run by a group that can be defined as the "Eurasian war party."

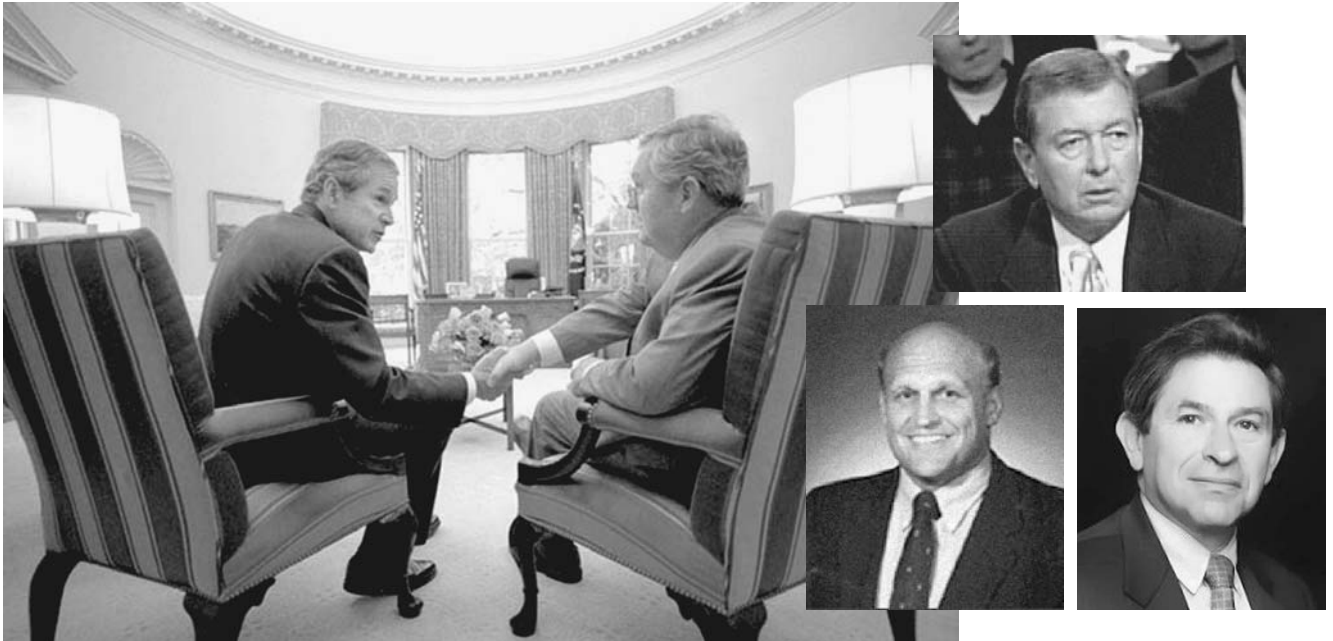
The War Party in Washington

Middle East policy in Washington is being conducted by key individuals, who are the real controllers of Ariel Sharon. These policy-makers are planning, not simply a new Middle East war, but a religious war, calculated to spread through the Eurasian continent, according to Samuel Huntington's scenario for a "Clash of Civilizations."

Inside Israel, the real policy-making force behind the war, is the military and military-intelligence establishment, led by Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) generals under Chief of Staff Shaul Mofaz. Mofaz is a hawk, appointed under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (Likud), who has surrounded himself by a staff that thinks in purely military terms. It is this grouping that is backed and egged on by the Eurasian war party. That party's diplomatic component is led by Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, a former naval officer with four tours of duty in the Vietnam War, who could even teach Sharon a war crime or two—from Operation Phoenix in Vietnam, then-Vice President George Bush's Iran-Contra operation, or, as President, his Gulf War.

The best illustration of what has made Armitage key to the Eurasian war party was his role in the U.S.-Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce, where he was director before entering government. This is the organization responsible for turning this former Islamic republic of the Soviet Union into the cornerstone of Anglo-American efforts to dominate the oil and gas regions of Central Asia. As director, Armitage was given orders by its "Honorary Council of Advisors," which has included former Bush Secretary of State James Baker III, Henry Kissinger, Vice President Dick Cheney, and the mad anti-Eurasia geopolitician, Zbigniew Brzezinski. Although they represent powerful Anglo-American energy interests, their concern goes far beyond dominating the oil and gas of Central Asia and the Caspian Sea. Their main objective is to prevent and undermine any forms of economic cooperation among Russia, China, and India, which would draw in the other countries of Central Asia, Europe, and Japan.

Brzezinski has been the most enthusiastic advocate of the "Clash of Civilizations" policy outlook in Washington policy circles. He has been intimately involved in supporting the radical Islamic Chechens for destabilization of Russia's Islamic regions; not surprisingly, they now have Azerbaijan as a base of operations. As for Armitage, since taking up the number-two position in the State Department, he has spearheaded the hard-line anti-China policy, while following policies that would increase tensions between China and Taiwan. A great backer of the "rogue state" concept, Armitage has harshly criticized South Korean President Kim Dae-jung's



President George W. Bush with Rep. Charles Norwood (R-Ga.) on Aug. 1, and Bush's stable of "Clash of Civilizations" lieutenants (clockwise from top): Attorney General John Ashcroft, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, and Deputy Secretary of State Richard Lee Armitage.

attempts at rapprochement with North Korea.

Paul Wolfowitz, Deputy Secretary of Defense, exemplifies the military component of the "Eurasian war party." He has been a member of the Israel lobby's Washington Institute for Near East Policy (WINEP), the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), and a host of other right-wing think-tanks, as well as the RAND Corp. However, his horizons go way beyond the summit of the Israeli-occupied Syrian Golan Heights. Wolfowitz has been one of the chief advocates of the geopolitical policy aimed at preempting any broad cooperation among the nations of the Eurasian land-mass, and sees it as the cornerstone of U.S. strategic doctrine.

In 1992, as undersecretary of defense in the Sir George Bush administration, Wolfowitz authored a 46-page Pentagon "guidance document" maintaining that, with the collapse of the Soviet Union and with German reunification, the United States "must maintain the mechanism for deterring potential competitors from even aspiring to a larger regional or global role. . . . Amerca's political and military mission in the post-Cold War era will be to insure that no rival superpower is allowed to emerge in Western Europe, Asia or the territories of the former Soviet Union."

Wolfowitz's strong support for Israeli hawks is rivalled by his Taiwan policy, aimed at provoking China and creating tensions, if not war, in East Asia.

Ashcroft's Christian Fundies

A July 30 White House meeting between Bush officials and representatives of hard-line American Zionist organizations, also included several evangelical, or Christian funda-

mentalist, organizations. It was a group that represents organizations that mobilized millions of voters for George W. Bush, and is very close to Attorney General John Ashcroft. The group delivered a threat to the administration, of the loss of this, Bush's most important power base, if the White House tries to rein in Sharon by calling for a cease-fire or sending an international observer force with U.S. backing. This assessment of the meeting came from Herb Zweibon, president of Americans for a Safe Israel, who was a participant.

It should not be surprising that, days later, Vice President Dick Cheney infamously stated there was "justification" for Sharon's policy of having Palestinian leaders and militants assassinated. On Aug. 6, the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* reported that the Cheney statement represented a broader view within the administration, which was now tilting towards Sharon's hard-line position. National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice reportedly counselled supporting Sharon, because the "views of the Jewish community" must be considered for the reelection campaigns of both the President's brother, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, and Bush's own hopes for reelection in 2004.

The Jewish organizations represented in the July 30 meeting were the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) and Americans for a Safe Israel. The stances of both are clear: that Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat is a terrorist and that Israeli should make no territorial compromises. The West Bank (a.k.a. Judea and Samaria) and Gaza Strip belong to Israel, and Israel should be given all the military support needed to keep them. Both organizations had lobbied vigorously for Ashcroft's nomination as Attorney General.

The Christian fundamentalist organizations included the

Religious Roundtable, represented by Ed McAteer; Michael Little of the Christian Broadcasting Network; representatives of the Christian Embassy in Jerusalem; and the Christians' Israel Public Action Committee. These groups are the "dispensationalist" current among evangelicals, whose doctrine bears an uncanny resemblance to Samuel Huntington's "Clash of Civilizations." Spread by British evangelist John Nelson Darby in the 1870s, this doctrine's central tenet—supposedly based on the St. John's Book of Revelation—is the return of the Jews to Zion, the rebuilding of Solomon's Temple, and an apocalyptic battle at Armageddon, where God will appear with His army and battle the Antichrist. After the mass destruction of mankind, including two-thirds of the Jews, there will be the so-called Rapture whereby God's elect, the dispensationists, will be carried off to Heaven.

Televangelist Hal Lindsey, in his book *The Late Great Planet Earth*, updated this doctrine to cohere with modern times. In the 1970s, with the Cold War still on, the Antichrist was the European Common Market, the "northern power" was the Soviet Union, while the "southern confederacy" was an Arab-African coalition headed by Egypt. The Kings of the East were represented by Communist China. The names in this basic geopolitical scenario have, of course, been revised since Lindsey's book, but the substance is the same.

John Ashcroft is not just allied with these groups, but as a leading member of the evangelical Pentecostal Church, is one of their "co-believers." Southern Baptist dispensationalist Ed McAteer, who hails from Al Gore's Memphis, Tennessee, heads the so-called Religious Roundtable, which brings together representatives of many major Christian fundamentalist ministries, televangelists, and related right-wing political action committees. It includes Jerry Falwell, founder of the Moral Majority, Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), Heritage Foundation founder Paul Weyrich, and many others. It is a network that can potentially reach out to millions.

The Christian Embassy in Jerusalem actually represents the interests of the Christian fundamentalists in Israel and is their main conduit of financial support for the illegal Jewish settlements throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They work with such organizations as the Christian Friends of Israeli Communities, which organizes fundamentalist congregations all over the United States, to "adopt a settlement" through fundraising and other activities. All of this is to hasten the "end times" by building up the state of Israel in preparation for Armageddon.

The number of groups, congregations, and voters involved far surpasses anything the so-called "Jewish lobby" could mobilize. What appears to be tremendous support in the U.S. Congress, both among the right-wing "Southern Strategy" Republicans such as Jesse Helms, and the New Democrats, aligned with former Vice President Al Gore and his running mate Sen. Joseph Lieberman (Conn.), can to a large extent, be traced to these Christian fundamentalist currents.

March to Stop NATO Breakup of Macedonia

by Umberto Pascali

A demonstration of thousands of Macedonian-Americans waited for hours in front of the U.S. State Department on Aug. 9, while its leaders met with U.S. officials within. The Kosovo Liberation Army, effectively supported by NATO, was running amok just over the border, in the north of Macedonia, and Macedonia's sovereignty was at risk.

On Aug. 8, the Macedonian government had de facto accepted the proposal (essentially, an ultimatum) of the "international facilitators"—UN Ambassador James Pardew and European Union envoy François Léotard—which could lead soon to a process of national partition. Under this "deal," the KLA then committed its largest massacre to date against Macedonian soldiers, and its worst atrocities against civilians in the Tetovo area, north of the capital, Skopje.

The KLA has been able to hit Macedonian military targets with the utmost precision. Recently the German magazine *Der Spiegel*, in an exposé that included interviews with the present and past German defense ministers, dealt with the issue of the KLA's communications. "Thanks to U.S. assistance the KLA's command center was set up in Arachinovo [on the outskirts of Skopje], with direct satellite phone connection to the Pentagon," wrote the magazine. "The U.S. forces in the Balkans has low-orbiting satellites and its own mobile communications system that enables encrypted telephone calls. . . . The KLA however, can use the Americans' exclusive communications network with a radio circuit of its own."

An Aug. 10 KLA operation showed the use of these intelligence capabilities available to the terrorist gangs: Mines were placed on the road from Skopje to Tetovo, immediately before an Army convoy was to pass, killing eight soldiers and wounding as many. Macedonians discovered a well-organized KLA operational base in Skopje; according to official reports, the KLA team had been prepared to murder relevant Macedonian officials. The team had been preparing its attacks in Arachinovo. When Macedonian police raided the base, among the casualties was the head of the team, "Commander Teli," an Albanian (not Macedonian) citizen, wanted for terrorist acts by several countries.

Macedonia Destabilized

The situation of virtual civil war, led to the resignation of the Macedonian Army Chief of Staff, while, despite the