

Sharon's 'Dagan Plan' For Mideast Bloodbath

by Dean Andromidas

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has been implementing a secret plan whose aim is to eliminate Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, crush all Palestinian resistance, and wage further war throughout the Mideast. Sharon's plan was revealed in the country's largest-circulation daily, *Yediot Aharonot*, on Dec. 14-15, and then in the Dec. 18 *Le Monde* of Paris. They dramatically confirm warnings issued by U.S. statesman Lyndon H. LaRouche and *EIR*, that Sharon, the tool of a powerful Anglo-American faction, is being used to launch a religious "Thirty Years War" in the Middle East.

In *Yediot Aharonot*, Alex Fishman wrote that Sharon has "cold bloodedly" sought the physical elimination of Arafat. Fishman wrote that Sharon's moves to get Arafat "out of the game," were spelled out in "the Dagan plan," drafted "even before the election" of February 2001. Reserve Gen. Meir Dagan was Sharon's security adviser during his electoral campaign; as *EIR* reported, Sharon assigned Dagan to sabotage the mission of U.S. Middle East envoy Gen. Anthony Zinni (ret.), when Dagan was named as head of the security committee to confer with Zinni.

Dagan and Sharon are responsible for bringing Hamas' spiritual leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, back to Gaza from his imprisonment in Israel in 1997, an action taken against Arafat's successful crackdown on Hamas in 1996-97. In September 1997, Sharon and Dagan had planned to have the Mossad assassinate Hamas leader Khalid Mishaal in Jordan, a provocation to spark an upsurge in Hamas retaliatory terror. But the operation was bungled, and the Jordanians arrested the Mossad hit-team; as part of the deal to secure their release, Sharon personally negotiated for Israel to release Hamas leader Yassin and return him to the P.A.!

Based on two premises, the "Dagan Plan" stipulates: "First, Arafat is an assassin; one doesn't negotiate with an assassin. Second, the Oslo Accord is the worst misfortune that has ever struck Israel, and everything must be done to destroy it." The Dagan Plan aims, says *Yediot Aharonot*, by means of a vast operation of escalating intensity, to progressively isolate the Palestinian President both internally as well as diplomatically.

The newspaper's sources confirm that the Sharon government decision to declare Arafat "irrelevant," ostensibly in response to the Dec. 12 suicide bombings, had actually been taken weeks before. The Dagan Plan foresees that once the Intifada uprising is suppressed, Israel "will negotiate separately with the dominant Palestinian forces in each territory —

with responsible Palestinians from the security forces, intelligence, and even the Tanzim" (Fatah). This is a crude attempt at "cantonization" of the Palestinian territories, which some Israeli ministers advocate. Nonetheless, according to Fishman's sources, the attempts to speak with "other forces" than those loyal to Yasser Arafat "produced nothing," because everyone knows that only Arafat can make decisions regarding peace negotiations, a fact recognized by the international community.

U.S. Must Act Now

Unless the United States, in concert with its European allies, decisively stops Sharon, he will lead the world into a new and unstoppable Middle East war. Sharon's Dagan Plan is aimed at ushering in the clash of civilizations concocted by the likes of Zbigniew Brzezinski and Samuel Huntington. Such a war, LaRouche warned, will lead to the destruction of Israel itself.

For 15 months since September 2000, *EIR* has exposed that, behind Sharon's schemes, stand very powerful political circles in the United States; their policies are those of the perpetrators of the ongoing military coup against the United States, initiated by the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon (see accompanying chronology). Within the Bush Administration, this group has been led by Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz and Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage. From outside the administration, Sharon's loudest supporters have been the networks around Henry Kissinger and Richard Perle. They are the ones who are pushing to target Iraq, Iran, and other Muslim countries for "Phase II" of the "global war against terrorism." Sharon is their man, whom they can count on to lead the region into war, even if the Bush Administration decides not to take the Iraq bait.

Lyndon LaRouche's Oct. 12 statement, "The World To Be Seen From Sunday" (*EIR*, Oct. 26), which exposed that the Sharon government planned to create a "breakaway ally" war provocation, is confirmed by the existence of the Dagan war plan.

The opposition leader in Israel's Knesset (parliament), Yossi Sarid, appealed to President George Bush to stop Sharon's march to war, in a statement in the *New York Times* on Dec. 20: "President Bush should be reminded that when Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is given an inch he takes a mile. That when he gets a green light he will not stop at a red one. Washington should inspect Sharon's moves carefully." Sarid recalled the 1982 Lebanese war, when Sharon was Defense Minister: "The present moment reminds me of the Summer of 1982, at that beginning of the war in Lebanon. . . . The United States should be extremely worried about intensification of Israel's military actions against the Palestinian Authority. If Mr. Arafat falls, he will not necessarily be replaced by Hamas or the Islamic Jihad, as often predicted. It is more plausible that complete anarchy would succeed him, an anarchy that would generate more violence and terror. Israel

Truth Will Out: Sharon's Government Is Fascist

Despite the most intense political pressure against stating the ugly truth about the Sharon government, that truth has been stated in blunt terms: by a group of prominent South African Jews on Dec. 8, and by the German daily *Der Spiegel* on its editorial page.

The "Declaration of Conscience" published by two Jewish heroes of the South African national liberation struggle—Ronnie Kasrils and Max Ozinsky—has caused such a stir that "there's never been a debate in the South African Jewish Community quite like this," according to a third co-signer, Stephen Friedman, quoted in the *Washington Post* on Dec. 19.

The Declaration, entitled "Not In My Name," directly compares and equates "the oppression experienced by the Palestinians under the hand of Israel, and the oppression experienced in South Africa under apartheid rule." Many white Jews fought against the apartheid system with the African National Congress. Ronnie Kasrils, for example, was an African National Congress military leader, and is

now South Africa's Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry.

Also on Dec. 18, *Der Spiegel's* chief editor Rudolf Augstein likened Israeli Prime Minister Sharon, to Hitler. Augstein wrote, "Ariel Sharon wants war, he has left no doubt about that. Two decades of peace efforts have been pushed aside by him. He sees Yasser Arafat as the main culprit to blame for his forced withdrawal from Lebanon in 1982. Sharon wanted to make Lebanon an Israeli protectorate. He would also compose a protectorate over Palestine, today, if they would only let him do it."

Augstein wrote, "Sharon keeps him [Arafat] hostage and is waiting for his political end. In history, there have been precedents under a different prefix. When Hitler had signed his devil's pact with Stalin, he waited with utmost impatience, for the fall of the Chamberlain government [in Britain]. The [German] Foreign Ministry found it difficult to make clear to him that an even worse enemy, Winston Churchill, would step in to take his place."

Israel's Ambassador to Germany, Shimon Stein, promptly wrote a letter to Augstein, denouncing any "historic analogy or something resembling a comparison between the prime minister of the Jewish state and the non-person who wanted to destroy this people."

would not be able to bear chaos and a power vacuum in the Palestinian areas. It would almost certainly be forced to enter the West Bank and Gaza militarily, reoccupying the refugee camps and Palestinian towns like Nablus and Hebron in full force. Perhaps this is the outcome that Mr. Sharon planned from the very start, but it would be a calamity, and the United States must help prevent it.

"So far," he warned, "American engagement has not been sustained enough to make a difference. . . . Washington must not leave the two sides to sort out their problems on their own when this fierce conflict threatens stability in the Middle East and the entire world."

The Assassination Of Arafat

The other victim of the Dagan Plan was U.S. Mideast envoy Gen. Anthony Zinni (ret.). Even the Israeli press confirmed that it was Sharon, not Palestinian terrorists, who sabotaged the mission and forced his recall to Washington. Akiva Eldar wrote in *Ha'aretz* on Dec. 18 that contrary to the claims of international media, Zinni had not blamed Arafat for the collapse of his mission. "Diplomats who earned Zinni's confidence heard something different," wrote Eldar. "They say that Zinni told them that he's going home under the impression that Ariel Sharon made a strategic decision to isolate Arafat and never to speak to him, for better or worse."

While the United States has kept silent on Sharon's "strategic decision" to never again work with Arafat, former chief

of Israeli military intelligence Gen. Shlomo Gazit (ret.) wrote a critique in the *Jerusalem Post*: "As long as Arafat is alive, he is functioning. Whether he is in Gaza, Ramallah or even in exile in Tunis—he is the elected chairman of the Palestinian Authority. . . . He, and only he, is the man who has to give the Palestinian approval to any agreement with Israel, whether on the national or the local level. . . . Whoever decided Arafat is irrelevant is deluding themselves. . . . I fear the government has chosen the path that will guarantee the opposite. We have chosen the path that will make Arafat yet more relevant to his people. No nation would put up with an external attempt to humiliate their elected leader, with an attempt to delegitimize him. The Palestinians are no less sensitive to their honor than we are." Gazit concluded, "In these circumstances, neither side has a choice: From now on they will let their explosive charges and assault helicopters do the talking."

Analyst Yoel Marcus, writing in *Ha'aretz* on Dec. 18, agreed that Sharon's intention is to have Arafat assassinated. "Labelling Arafat as a non-partner immediately arouses suspicions that he's next on the hit list. . . . Let's say 'pragmatic parties' in the Palestinian Authority, the kind 'we can speak to,' bumped him off. Isn't it obvious that the country would erupt in a bloodbath? Who would believe that Israel had no hand in it?"

Rather than act decisively, the Bush Administration is following a policy of dangerous ambiguity, where Secretary of State Colin Powell reaffirms (as he did on Dec. 13) U.S.

support for Arafat as the recognized leader of the Palestinian people, yet does little to stop Sharon's ongoing military attacks on the Palestinian Authority. The net effect is that the political administrative infrastructure of the Palestinian Authority is being crippled, while Hamas-affiliated imams in the Gaza Strip deliver sermons denouncing Arafat.

The Dagan Plan demonstrates that there is no longer room to try to "convince" Sharon, that the path of negotiations and peace will bring Israel security. The Bush Administration and its European allies must act to convince the Israeli political class, that removing Sharon from power and neutralizing his generals is the only way to prevent the terrible "success" of the Dagan Plan.

EIR Warned About Sharon Step By Step

Ariel Sharon launched the current Palestinian "al-Aqsa Intifada" by marching onto the al-Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount on Sept. 28, 2000, with intention to spark the current conflict and bury the Oslo Accords.

Aug. 18, 2000: Lyndon LaRouche assessed the breakdown of the Camp David peace negotiations in "Water As A Strategic Flank: Where Clinton Failed," saying that President Bill Clinton had fallen into a dangerous trap when, under election campaign pressure, he sided with Israel Prime Minister Ehud Barak to blame Palestinian President Yasser Arafat for the collapse of the talks. This lie began the process, which

the Israeli press accurately characterizes as Sharon's secret plan: the de-legitimizing of Arafat. Sharon's war drive could then begin.

Oct. 13, 2000: *EIR* cover story, "Why The Fuse To War Was Lit In The Middle East," reported that Sharon's Sept. 28 provocation was hatched during Sharon's visit on Sept. 22 to New York, where he met with his financial backers. That same issue detailed Sharon's control of the "Temple Mount fanatics" apparatus, who planned to blow up the Muslim holy sites on Jerusalem's al-Haram al-Sharif, in order to rebuild Solomon's Temple.

Jan. 12, 2001: *EIR* reported LaRouche's warning that Sharon's election as Prime Minister would be a key component of a plan to launch religious war in the Middle East.

Feb. 16, 2001: *EIR* published LaRouche's call for a "Treaty of Westphalia" approach to the Mideast crisis.

April 20, 2001: *EIR* reported that Sharon was implementing "Operation Bronze," which appears to be very similar to the Dagan Plan. Operation Bronze had the minimum aim of crushing the Palestinian Authority, seizing no less than 60% of the West Bank; and the maximum aim of launching regional war.

May 4, 2001: *EIR* published LaRouche's widely circulated April 20 memo, "Nuclear War Now?" which warned of the threat that a nuclear war would come out of Sharon's aggression against the Palestinians.

July 6, 2001: *EIR* published LaRouche's statement, "Why Israel Would Now Lose A New Middle East War."

July 16, 2001: An *EIR* article, "Sharon's War Plan For Mideast Exposed," stated that Sharon was able to manipulate Hamas as his key tool to detonate the war.

Arafat: Hamas Are Sharon's Children

In interviews with leading Italian publications, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat went into some detail regarding the genesis and operation of Hamas. To *Corriere della Sera* on Dec. 11, he said, "We are doing everything possible to stop the violence. But Hamas is a creature of Israel which, at the time of Prime Minister [Yitzhak] Shamir [the late 1980s, when Hamas arose], gave them money and more than 700 institutions, among them schools, universities and mosques. Even [former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak] Rabin ended up admitting it, when I charged him with it, in the presence of [Egyptian President Hosni] Mubarak."

In an interview with *L'Espresso* on Dec. 19, Arafat said: "Hamas was constituted with the support of Israel. The aim was to create an organization antagonistic to the

PLO [Palestine Liberation Organization]. They [Hamas] received financing and training from Israel. They have continued to benefit from permits and authorizations, while we have been limited, even [for permits] to build a tomato factory. Rabin himself defined it as a fatal error. Some collaborationists of Israel are involved in these [terrorist] attacks. We have the proof, and we are placing it at the disposal of the Italian government."

When asked what he thought of "these sons of Palestine who blow themselves up and spread death among Israeli civilians," Arafat answered: "Israel does not allow us to live a normal life. Youth who have nothing to eat, who don't see any future in front of them, are easy prey of the Islamist movements, which have large amounts of financing at their disposal. And where the money comes from is known. President Bush froze in one bank in Texas alone, \$61 million. Where does this money come from?" The interviewer asked: "Where?" Arafat: "Ask the U.S. administration, which knows all the details. Ask the Italian government too, and some Arab countries."