

# Arab League Secretary Rejects Attack on Iraq

by William Jones

Amr Moussa, the Secretary General of the League of Arab States, warned in a speech at the National Press Club in Washington on Feb. 6, against U.S. military action against Iraq. "We cannot condone or accept any military action against an Arab country," Moussa told reporters. Asked about President Bush's "axis of evil" including Iraq, Iran, and North Korea, Moussa replied, "The evil we see is the evil [perpetrated] in the occupied territories. Our views don't coincide with those of President Bush."

The head of the Arab League, an organization representing over 22 Arab nations, had arrived in Washington from New York, where he had delivered to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan a message from Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, indicating a willingness to begin discussions on implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions regarding Iraq. Annan had indicated that he was prepared to receive a delegation from Iraq.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, who has, in the wake of the Bush enunciation of the "axis of evil," been fully occupied in convincing his coalition partners that the United States is not about to embark on some sudden military action against one or more of the countries named, was rather dismissive of the latest Iraqi initiative. Speaking before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Feb. 6, Powell said sarcastically, "There is reporting this morning that the Iraqi regime has asked the UN to have a discussion. It should be a very short discussion."

## Götterdämmerung in Palestine

During the question-and-answer period at the National Press Club, *EIR* posed a question to Moussa: "It has been revealed in the Israeli press that members of Israeli Defense Forces are studying the Nazi methods used in the Warsaw Ghetto in order to deal with the 'Palestinian question.' Since the world reacted strongly against the 'ethnic cleansing' of the Milosevic regime, should this not also provoke a similar outcry from international opinion?"

"I have always said that the situation in the occupied territories is more extreme than people generally believe," Moussa replied. "The hundred or so Israeli officers, who are now protesting, have revealed some of what is actually going on in the occupied territories. These have been even more detailed than what the Arab world has been saying." (See article in this section.)



*Arab League Secretary Amr Moussa: "Our views don't coincide with those of President Bush."*

"I will steer way from a description of the horrors perpetrated," Moussa said, "but the description of the Israeli officers should not go unnoticed." While avoiding characterizing Prime Minister Sharon's policies as fascist, as did Lyndon LaRouche's statement circulating widely in Washington that day, Moussa returned several times to the revelations by the Israel officers regarding the policies of the IDF in the West Bank. "Sharon must cease the type of actions that have been revealed by these Israeli officers," Moussa said.

## The Key Role of Arafat

"The peace process must remain in place," Moussa said. "We are now entering the worst-case scenario. The role of the United States is, in our judgment, crucial. It must be the role of an honest broker to call on both sides to honor their commitments." Moussa warned against the present policy of attempting to marginalize Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. "I hope the policy of isolation [of Arafat] will be reconsidered," he said. "It is incomprehensible that Israel should choose who is to be the Palestinian leader."

While he expressed regret that President Bush had not yet met with Chairman Arafat, Moussa felt that the visit, again, of Prime Minister Sharon to Washington, could be an opportunity for the United States to influence the situation. "The U.S. must do everything to convince Mr. Sharon to do what he must do in order to secure peace in the region," Moussa said, emphasizing that the alternative would spell catastrophe for the region—and for the world.

"We call on the U.S. to perform that leading role. There must be a road map. It must show that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. The present situation cannot continue. Otherwise, it will affect stability in the entire region. It will be harmful not only to the parties, but to the entire Middle East."