

obligations. If the PLO cannot comply with these minimal standards, then it can be neither a hope for the future nor a proper interlocutor for the present. To prepare for this, Israel may want to cultivate alternatives to Arafat's base of power.

Open Letter to President Clinton

This letter demanding war on Iraq was sent to President Bill Clinton and the press on Feb. 19, 1998. In the list of signers below, those now holding positions in the Bush Administration appear in bold-face.

Dear Mr. President,

Many of us were involved in organizing the Committee for Peace and Security in the Gulf in 1990 to support President Bush's policy of expelling Saddam Hussein from Kuwait. Seven years later, Saddam Hussein is still in power in Baghdad. And despite his defeat in the Gulf War, continuing sanctions, and the determined effort of UN inspectors to ferret out and destroy his weapons of mass destruction, Saddam Hussein has been able to develop biological and chemical munitions. . . .

Iraq's position is unacceptable. While Iraq is not unique in possessing these weapons, it is the only country which has used them—not just against its enemies, but its own people as well. We must assume that Saddam is prepared to use them again. This poses a danger to our friends, our allies, and to our nation.

It is clear that this danger cannot be eliminated as long as our objective is simply "containment," and the means of achieving it are limited to sanctions and exhortations. . . . Only a determined program to change the regime in Baghdad will bring the Iraqi crisis to a satisfactory conclusion. . . . Saddam must be overpowered; he will not be brought down by a coup d'état. But Saddam has an Achilles' heel: Lacking popular support, he rules by terror. The same brutality which makes it unlikely that any coups or conspiracies can succeed, makes him hated by his own people and the rank and file of his military. Iraq today is ripe for a broad-based insurrection. We must exploit this opportunity.

Saddam's long record of treaty violations, deception, and violence shows that diplomacy and arms control will not constrain him. In the absence of a broader strategy, even extensive air strikes would be ineffective in dealing with Saddam and eliminating the threat his regime poses. . . . What is needed now is a comprehensive political and military strategy for bringing down Saddam and his regime.

Once you make it unambiguously clear that we are serious about eliminating the threat posed by Saddam, and are not just engaged in tactical bombing attacks unrelated to a larger strategy designed to topple the regime, we believe that such countries as Kuwait, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia, whose coop-

Story of Perle Gang's Dual Role Spreads

According to a wire of Agence France Presse from the Arab League Foreign Ministers' meeting in Cairo on Sept. 4-5, the fact that most of the Bush Administration's Iraq war-planners had also been war-planners for the Israeli Likud party government of Benjamin Netanyahu was a point of discussion at that meeting.

The wire says the Arab world appears, for once, to be unanimous in its opposition to the U.S. plan to overthrow the Iraqi regime, which Arabs see as a project designed to seal Israeli domination of the Middle East. President George Bush's argument, that Saddam Hussein must be toppled because of the alleged threat from his weapons of mass destruction program, "has fueled suspicious of a hidden agenda to remodel the region to Israel's advantage," writes AFP's Maher Chmaytelli.

His story concludes: "While the Arab street is fond of conspiracy theories, some have found what they believe is evidence of a plot in the U.S. and Israel itself.

"Israel's Institute for Advanced and Political Studies published a study in 1996 called 'A Clean Break, a New Strategy for Securing the Realm,' which lays out ideas for remodelling the region starting with Iraq.

" 'Israel can shape its strategic environment, in cooperation with Turkey and Jordan, by weakening, containing, and even rolling back Syria.

" 'This effort can focus on removing Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq, an important Israeli strategic objective in its own right, as a means of foiling Syria's regional ambitions,' said the report."

eration would be important for the implementation of this strategy, will give us the political and logistical support to succeed.

Signed:

Rep. Stephen Solarz; **Richard Perle**; **Elliott Abrams**; Richard V. Allen; **Richard Armitage**; Jeffrey T. Bergner; **John Bolton**; **Steven Bryen**; Richard Burt; Frank Carlucci; Judge William Clark; Paula J. Dobriansky; **Douglas Feith**; Frank Gaffney; Jeffrey Gedmin; **Fred C. Iklé**; Robert Kagan; **Zalmay M. Khalilzad**; Sven F. Kraemer; William Kristol; Michael Ledeen; Bernard Lewis; R. Adm. Frederick L. Lewis; Maj. Gen. Jarvis Lynch; Robert C. McFarlane; Joshua Muravchik; Robert A. Pastor; Martin Peretz; Roger Robinson; Peter Rodman; Peter Rosenblatt; **Donald Rumsfeld**; Gary Schmitt; Max Singer; Helmut Sonnenfeldt; Caspar Weinberger; Leon Wienseltier; **Paul Wolfowitz**; **David Wurmser**; **Dov. S. Zakheim**.