

The Catholic Bishops, the National Council of Churches, and virtually all other major denominations have strongly opposed the war in Iraq. They have agreed that such a conflict does not fulfill the requirements of the ‘just war’ theory. . . .

“We as former members of Congress have come together to proclaim in every way available to us our opposition to a war rejected by America’s closest allies in the world. The proposed war could bring unthinkable tragedies to the world. It could alienate the Muslim communities in the 48 Islamic nations. It could create countless refugees, destabilize parts of the Middle East, and further alienate millions of people and scores of nations from the United States.

“The opposition of the former members of Congress here is based on moral, religious, and strategic reasons. It is the wrong war at the wrong time and for the wrong reasons. . . .”

*After having been rebuffed in attempts to meet with President Bush on the war and other matters, members of the Congressional Black Caucus took to the House floor on March 18 to plead for a diplomatic solution.*

**Rep. Donald Payne (D-N.J.):**

“We are opening a door to an era which de-emphasizes diplomacy and devalues peaceful solutions through negotiations. Before we risk the lives of young men and women in uniform, as well as countless civilians in both the Middle East and our own country, shouldn’t we do everything in our power to find a peaceful solution to the situation in Iraq?”

**Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.):**

“We are worried that the war on terrorism is taking a back seat to a pre-emptive strike on Saddam Hussein. Yes, every country should be able to defend itself, but we’re in no danger from Iraq. Striking Saddam is not fighting terrorism.”

**Sen. Robert Byrd (D-W.V.), “Today, I Weep for My Country,” March 19:**

“. . . No more is the image of America one of strong, yet benevolent peacekeeper. . . . Around the globe, our friends mistrust us, our word is disputed, our intentions are questioned.

“We flaunt our superpower status with arrogance. After war has ended, the United States will have to rebuild much more than the country of Iraq. We will have to rebuild America’s image around the globe. . . .

“The case this Administration tries to make to justify its fixation with war, is tainted by charges of falsified documents and circumstantial evidence. . . . There is no credible information to connect Saddam Hussein to 9/11. . . . We cannot convince the world of the necessity of this war for a simple reason. This is a war of choice. Instead of isolating Saddam Hussein, we seem to have isolated ourselves.

“A pall has fallen over the Senate chamber. We avoid our solemn duty to debate the one topic on the minds of all Americans, even while scores of thousands of our sons and daughters faithfully do their duty in Iraq. . . .”

## The Men Working On the Cheney Gang

by William Jones

We knew that “something wicked this way comes” when the elusive Vice President Dick Cheney suddenly appeared on most major TV networks on March 16. This particular Vice President, generally preferring to play a low-key role, is almost always in the center of policy deliberations. The low profile only serves to diminish public interest in the real importance he holds in this Administration, and that is the intention. If there ever were a “gray eminence,” Dick Cheney is it.

Nevertheless, now that the LaRouche movement’s broad exposure of the “New Empire” doctrine is being echoed internationally, the Vice President’s role in making this Administration’s policy is becoming ever more obvious. The publication of the September 2002 National Security Strategy, with its notorious pre-emptive strike doctrine—even implying the possible use of mini-nuclear weapons—initially met with shock; but, it has allowed a public airing of the fact that this outlandish doctrine originated in the 1992 Cheney Defense Department. The story of how the Cheney Pentagon shop tried to foist the “pre-emptive strike” doctrine on an unwitting, but unwilling, President George Herbert Walker Bush; and how Bush rejected it, after a concerted effort of then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Colin Powell, National Security Advisor Gen. Brent Scowcroft, and Secretary of State James Baker III, has shed some light on the hitherto-unknown cast of characters which has migrated with the former Defense Secretary to the Vice President’s quarters in the Old Executive Building.

### Chicken-Hawk Team of 1990-92

On May 21, 1990, then Undersecretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz gave a briefing at the Pentagon, on what we now know as the “pre-emptive strike” doctrine. While that briefing has never been made public, its general outlines were reflected two years later in 1992 in Cheney’s Defense Policy Guidance, portions of which—although it remained classified—were leaked to the *New York Times* and caused an uproar.

The basic themes are: That the United States had become the world’s sole superpower, whose policy task must be to prevent the development of any competitors. It foretold a world in which U.S. military intervention would come to be seen “as a constant fixture” of the geopolitical landscape, and Washington would act as the ultimate guarantor of the international order. Indeed, the draft guidance failed to even mention the United Nations. “We will retain the pre-eminent



*Vice President Cheney has emerged from “undisclosed locations” to prominence as war approached—according to a lunatic policy he pushed as Defense Secretary from 1990-92. Here (right to left) Paul Wolfowitz, Cheney, and I. Lewis Libby give Iraqi oppositionists their instructions on March 6.*

responsibility for addressing selectively those wrongs which threaten not only our interests, but those of our allies or friends, or which could seriously unsettle international relations,” the draft said. The United States “must maintain the mechanisms for deterring potential competitors from even aspiring to a larger regional or global role.” It described Russia and China as potential threats, and warned that Germany, Japan, and other industrial powers might be tempted to re-arm and acquire nuclear weapons if their security were threatened, which might start them on the way to competing with the United States.

These ideological children of University of Chicago fascist Leo Strauss, were attempting to live out their wildest geopolitical fantasies. Luckily, some Bush “41” Administration officials, living in the adult world, put their feet down. Together, Scowcroft, Powell, and Baker quashed the proposal. It was only to be taken off the shelf and dusted off, when Bush 43 was sworn into office.

### **Cheney’s Shadow National Security Council**

While the more prominent figures in this conspiracy, such as Paul Wolfowitz and Richard Perle, are almost household words by now, some of the men working on the Cheney Gang deserve much more public exposure.

**Irving Lewis Libby:** A key member of the Cheney Pentagon operation, “Scooter” is the Vice President’s Chief of Staff. Libby’s service as lawyer for fugitive mobster Marc Rich has been well-documented by *EIR*. Libby served at the Bureau for Special Projects at the State Department’s Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs; and later on the Cox Commission’s staff, whose director was C. Dean McGrath. McGrath now serves as the Deputy Assistant to Libby, and they make up the nucleus of the Cheney “triggersmen.”

**Eric Edelman:** A former Ambassador to Finland with

extensive background on Russian and East European affairs, Edelman was executive assistant to Strobe Talbott, Bill Clinton’s special adviser on Russia. Edelman worked closely on bringing the Baltic states into NATO and was awarded the Gediminas Prize by Lithuania for his efforts. He has now been named U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, where he will undoubtedly be a key player for the Cheney Gang in pitting that country against Russian influence in the Central Asian republics.

**C. Dean McGrath:** Chief of staff to Rep. Chris Cox (R-Calif.), when Cox was appointed to head up a commission to investigate alleged transfers of sensitive technology to China. The real purpose of the commission was to throw a monkey wrench into the Clinton Administration’s China engagement policy. Although the commission was “bipartisan,” the “investigation” was actually an ideological rallying point for the neo-conservative anti-China lobby. One of its chief members, former Clinton Commerce Secretary William Reinsch, publicly disassociated himself from the commission’s conclusions, which were clearly vectored to prevent further U.S. aerospace cooperation with China.

**Stephen J. Yates:** Senior Policy Analyst for China at the neo-conservative bastion, the Heritage Foundation, before joining the Cheney Gang. While at Heritage, Yates wrote numerous papers calling for the United States to upgrade Taiwan’s defense assistance, by passing the Taiwan Security Enhancement Act; missile defense cooperation with Japan; and greater ease for diplomatic visits from Taiwan. Yates openly stated that no U.S. official should ever use the phrase “one-China policy”—which was the official U.S. policy—which he characterized as outdated.

**John Hannah:** Chief adviser for Cheney on Middle East affairs. Hannah was managing director of the pro-Likud Washington Institute for Middle East Policy and a critic of the Oslo Accords peace process. He was instrumental in organizing Cheney’s visit to the Middle East in February 2002, which effectively pulled the rug out from under Secretary of State Powell and his special envoy, Gen. Anthony Zinni, who were working to bring the Israelis and Palestinians together. Hannah called for a tougher line against Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, claiming that “Arafat has never had the trust of Bush.” Some State Department officials attribute to Cheney, getting Bush to reject any role for Arafat in the Mideast peace negotiations.

**Zalmay Khalilzad:** Special Assistant to the President for the Gulf and Southwest Asia, he is presently “trouble-shooter” of the Administration’s Iraqi opposition gambit and the “enforcer” in getting Turkey to allow American use of its airspace for the war on Iraq. Khalilzad was a key player in Cheney’s Pentagon shop in 1991. In the mid-1990s, he wrote a short book, *From Containment to Global Leadership?*, which incorporated the earlier Wolfowitz Pentagon briefing. He recommended that the United States “preclude the rise of another global rival for the indefinite future [and] be willing to use force if necessary for the purpose.”