

Editorial

How To Get Out of Iraq

How to get the United States out of the catastrophically deteriorating situation in Iraq: That is the question of the week, and the hour. In fact, there are many people on all sides of the policy issue, who want to get the U.S. out, but, so far, no practicable plan has been put on the table.

On the pro-empire side, the proposal is to get NATO to step in as an international police force for the American occupation. This, especially in light of the systematic and successful Iraqi resistance attacks on non-U.S. forces in Iraq recently, has so far been a non-starter. As for other anti-war forces who would like to see withdrawal, they are caught between their desire to “save face,” and to minimize the losses. This has even led many war opponents to call for staying to fight.

In stepped Democratic Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche on Nov. 27, with a three-step proposal for U.S. withdrawal, and restoring the Iraqi Constitution. His proposal is now circulating broadly in the U.S. capital, in major urban areas, and in policy layers internationally by means of the Internet. Given LaRouche's stature in the Arab world, as the only American political leader with a consistent record in favor of an equitable Middle East peace, his proposal for turning matters over to the Iraqis through the United Nations, for promoting the restoration of Iraq's 1958 Constitution, and for freeing former Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, is sure to be a touchstone for discussion about a solution.

The urgency of the question of U.S. withdrawal was underscored dramatically three days after LaRouche issued his proposal, with the events in Samarra, Iraq. In that town on Nov. 30, U.S. forces encountered an ambush of a qualitatively new sort, which a senior U.S. intelligence source in Washington has told *EIR*, “shook the foundations” of the U.S. military.

What was different in Samarra was that, for the first time since the beginning of the asymmetric warfare, an Iraqi force stood its ground in a fire fight, and was willing to die, rather than hit and run. While this resulted in a higher number of Iraqi casualties, military as well as innocent civilians, it demonstrated a new

level of determination on the Iraqi side, which the Americans have not expected.

The added dimension of the shock to the United States, the source continued, was the accurate intelligence that the Iraqi partisans had on the American convoy going into Samarra, carrying a large quantity of newly printed Iraqi currency. This means that the Iraqis have better intelligence on the U.S. military forces than the Americans have on the Iraqis—a fact with ominous implications for the near future. And if the Iraqis follow up on this incident with similar determination to stand up and fight, the source said, the U.S. would need over 2 million troops to “secure” the country—a total impossibility.

Having assessed the Iraqi nationalist determination to resist American occupation as a reality, LaRouche has determined that the U.S. can only lose by staying in Iraq. As he put it in his statement, “Now, as sometimes, the humiliation of one's own government, when done for the sake of freeing that government from self-destructive practices, is the most patriotic act of all. We should not be awed by scoundrels who, like Vice-President Cheney and his Richly-endowed I. Lewis Libby, wrap their wicked deeds in the name of ‘patriotism.’ ”

LaRouche's concept comes from his historical understanding of American interests, as informed by the principles of the 1648 Treaty of Westphalia. According to that document, which ended the Thirty Years War, the basis for long-lasting peace lies in sovereign nation-states adopting policies of forgiveness of their enemies, and of fighting for “the advantage of the other” nation. Thus, whereas the United States may appear to be “giving in” to Iraqi demands, its very concessions to Iraq's legitimate demands for sovereignty, will lay the basis for peaceful cooperation internationally.

Watch for echoes of LaRouche's proposal, and an active debate, especially within the Arabic-language media. More importantly, access LaRouche's full statement from www.larouchepub.com and stimulate debate among your own colleagues. The implementation of LaRouche's proposal may be more crucial to your future than you think.