

Editorial

'Winning' Fallujah, Losing the War

With the declaration of "victory" by both the United States military and the Iraqi puppet government, the Bush Administration has once again repeated the quintessential accomplishment of the U.S. military in Vietnam: We have destroyed a city in order to "save" it. Every such "victory" simply hastens the day in which the United States will be forced to admit defeat in the criminal adventure it began with the war against Iraq.

Knowledgeable military sources are reporting, under cloak of secrecy when necessary, that the insurgency which once held Fallujah, is growing, not shrinking. A very senior retired military intelligence source told *EIR* on Nov. 18, that "the insurgencies are growing organically from the discontent of the Sunni Arab population, and that these insurgencies will continue to grow, recruiting new members and continuing to resist U.S. forces."

Lyndon LaRouche commented, "They have made all of Iraq, greater Fallujah."

In a Nov. 9 commentary, published on *aljazeera.net*, former United Nations weapons inspector Scott Ritter warned that the attack on Fallujah was an exercise in futility. "Far from facing off in a decisive battle against the resistance fighters," Ritter wrote, "it seems the more Americans squeeze Fallujah, the more the violence explodes elsewhere. It is an exercise in futility, akin to squeezing jello. The more you try to get a grasp on the problem, the more it slips through your fingers."

Events of the past week bear out Ritter's warning. Huge swaths of Iraq are now in open rebellion against the U.S. occupation, and the security situation has become so tense that even members of the Allawi government are now mooting the possibility that the elections scheduled for January will have to be postponed. The slaughter which occurred in Fallujah, and the cruel conditions under which refugees from that city are currently living, are propelling more Iraqis into the resistance to the U.S. occupation, a very bloody resistance.

Nor is it simply Iraq and its inhabitants who have suffered as a result. The pace of death and injury among U.S. troops has increased dramatically during the month

of November. By Nov. 16, the Pentagon's own official tally was reporting 93 American troops dead since Nov. 1 and 806 wounded; since the war began, the totals are 1,210 dead and 8,956 wounded. Fully 7.7% of the deaths and 9% of the total wounded, have occurred in the month of November.

The situation is not going to improve, without a dramatic change in the American approach. In fact, some knowledgeable U.S. analysts are reporting that the occupation may already have created a situation in which a breakup of the Iraqi nation is nearly inevitable. And the chances for a successful long-term American occupation are privately acknowledged to be non-existent.

Of course, to a large grouping within the military-intelligence Establishment, these realities have been obvious for a long time. Many leading personalities actually opposed the war, and they have repeated, again and again, that the approach of "killing all the insurgents" is simply going to increase the number of insurgents. The neo-cons and Cheney have heard them, and thrown their advice in the garbage. The Cheney objective is *not* to win the peace, but to spread destruction, mayhem, and chaos.

Thus, it is for good reason, that some members of the Establishment, including close associates of former President Bush, have responded to the re-election of the Cheney-Bush team with near-panic, as visions of the destruction of the world's cheapest oil fields loom before their eyes.

But will their weighing-in be sufficient to lead the Bush Administration to change course? Will they act before the pace of death escalates even further, killing many more people and killing any chance of peace?

Even today, LaRouche's Southwest Asia doctrine remains the only workable approach on the table to pull the region out of chaos. Some Arab leaders have told *EIR* that LaRouche's approach will be discussed, informally at least, at the upcoming Sharm el-Sheikh conference of Iraq's neighbors. It's high time it became a leading topic in Washington, D.C., as well.