

National News

Pat Robertson Urges Assassination

Televangelist Pat Robertson, speaking of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Robertson's "700 Club" TV show on Aug. 22, said: "If he thinks we're trying to assassinate him, I think that we really ought to go ahead and do it. . . . We have the ability to take him out, and I think the time has come that we exercise that ability. We don't need another \$200 billion war to get rid of one, you know, strong-arm dictator. It's a whole lot easier to have some of the covert operatives do the job and then get it over with." Robertson added that we need to stop Venezuela from being a "launching pad for Communist infiltration and Muslim extremism."

Prior to Robertson's statement, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld had made critical remarks about Venezuela. Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) responded with a letter to Rumsfeld, saying, "I suggest it may be very helpful to U.S. efforts to secure Venezuela's cooperation in our joint attack on drug interdiction if the rhetoric would be reduced."

Robertson is a strong supporter of the lunatic "spoon-bender" faction in the U.S. military which was exposed in last week's *EIR*. According to a May 28, 2004 article circulated by Religious News Service, at the time of the controversy over Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence Gen. William "Jerry" Boykin's attack on Islam as a "Satanic" religion, Robertson's Christian Coalition started an on-line petition in support of Boykin and posted it on its home page. Robertson's 700 Club asked Chuck Holton, a former Army Ranger who had served under Boykin in Somalia, to attend a church service at which Boykin spoke, record it, and then report on it for Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network, which he did.

Venezuelan Vice President José Vicente Rangel described the Robertson affair as "a very delicate situation. . . . There is a legal measure in the United States that condemns and punishes statements of this nature," referring to laws dealing with television broadcasts. "The response from the U.S.

government and its legal institutions . . . puts to the test the U.S. government's anti-terrorist discourse."

Bush-Cheney Iran Nuke Claims Debunked

A study conducted for the International Atomic Energy Agency concluded that traces of weapons-grade uranium found in Iran came from contaminated equipment bought from Pakistan, and are not a sign of any Iranian nuclear bomb program, according to a front-page story in the *Washington Post* on Aug. 23. The secret nine-month IAEA study was carried out by a panel of scientists from the United States, France, Japan, Britain, and Russia.

The *Post* quoted an anonymous senior U.S. government official as saying, "The biggest smoking gun that everyone was waving is now eliminated with these conclusions." The study confirmed Iran's contention about the uranium traces and refutes Bush Administration claims. The findings will reportedly be released to the IAEA in the first week of September.

Mohammad Saeedi of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization commented, "Accurate scientific investigation by the IAEA has proved that U.S. accusations were unfounded."

Schwarzenegger Project Is in Big Trouble

The "Schwarzenegger Project," launched by synarchist kingpin George Shultz in the Summer of 2003, may be on its last legs, according to an Aug. 29 article in the weekly newspaper *New Federalist*. Shultz's plans for "sweeping reforms" to loot the economy of California have been dashed by the inability of his "Golem," Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, to either cajole or terrify legislators to back his destructive plans to "streamline" state government, leaving Shultz and his banker friends with one last hope: that desperate and frightened voters

will give the Governor near-dictatorial control over the budget process, by voting for Proposition 76 on Nov. 8.

This ballot initiative, titled "The Live Within Our Means Act," but known among the cognoscenti as "The Make Arnie Dictator Act," would give the Governor the power to bypass the legislative process in order to make across-the-board spending cuts when revenues fall below expenditure levels. Neoccons around the country are hoping it will pass, to set a precedent for other states.

Shultz backed Hollywood figure and boorish prankster Schwarzenegger for Governor during the October 2003 Recall election, believing that his celebrity would enable him to convince Californians to slash their own throats, by giving the "Governator" the power to impose brutal austerity measures. But Arnie's status has fallen from that of a political behemoth to being the butt of jokes. His approval rating in the polls has dropped from above 60% last December, to around 33% today.

Drive Grows for Bush To Abandon Iraq Policy

"What I think the White House does not yet understand, and some of my colleagues: The dam has broke on this policy. . . . It won't be four years. We need to be out. . . . Staying the course is not a policy."

Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-Neb.) made this tough statement about the Iraq War on ABC's "This Week" on Aug. 21. His statement came in the wake of remarks by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker, that the Army was preparing for the possibility of keeping the current level of soldiers in Iraq (approximately 138,000) for another four years, as a "worst case" scenario.

Hagel, a Vietnam veteran, had voiced skepticism about the war before the Administration launched it, and has maintained a realistic appraisal of the "progress" being made. "I don't know where he is going to get these troops," Hagel told ABC. "There's no way America is going to have 100,000 troops in Iraq, nor should it, in four years. It would bog us down. It would further destabilize the Middle East."