



Joseph Cirincione charged that the Bush Administration is "following the Iraq playbook, and is arguing a false choice between appeasement and war."

would even accomplish the supposed objective.

Cirincione's comments came after Kucinich had turned the discussion towards the consequences of a U.S. strike on Iran, noting that the Iraqi cleric Moqtada al-Sadr has already stated that he would order his militia to attack U.S. troops in Iraq if the U.S. hits Iran. Gardiner also noted that al-Sadr controls the Facilities Protection Service, which guards the oil pipeline infrastructure in Iraq, and which would be "destroyed very quickly." He also reported that the Iranians have moved missiles into firing areas that they used during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq War, which brings their missiles within range of U.S. troops in Iraq.

But looming behind these likely consequences is the backfire potential inside Iran, itself. Dr. Parsi blew apart the neo-con fantasies about regime change in Iran by pointing out what happened after Iraq invaded Iran in 1980. "In 1980, Ayatollah Khomeini was in the midst of a vicious political struggle for the future of the Iranian revolution," he said, "He had not consolidated his power, not yet." But then Saddam Hussein launched his invasion. "In spite of their differences, Iranians rallied around the flag. They united. Within weeks, more than 100,000 volunteers rushed to the front lines to fight the invaders. In fact, according to many experts, Ayatollah Khomeini and the Islamic Republic survived not in spite of, but because of the Iraqi attack." The same thing would likely happen in the event of a U.S. attack, he said, and the nuclear program would be accelerated, not stopped. He also said that Iranians in the United States have no love for the regime in Tehran, but they're also watching what's happening in Iraq and they feel "no envy" for what's happening there.

The panelists all agreed that the alternative to war is dialogue and negotiation, which the Bush Administration has not engaged in. "The hardest thing for me personally to understand," Kay said, "is the continued refusal to talk directly to countries like North Korea and Iran. . . . I fundamentally believe that the failure to engage in direct discussions is what

is at heart wrong with this process." Cirincione added that what Iran really needs is security assurances, and the United States has to be prepared to offer them. In addition to dialogue with Iran, Congress should also do its job. Cirincione said that there has to be a realistic threat assessment done by the intelligence community, it should be made public, and Congress should hold hearings on it, to include dissenting views.

Financier Interests Behind the War Drive

These assessments all assume that the drive for war originates from within the neo-cons inside the Bush Administration. In a statement issued on Oct. 9, Lyndon LaRouche clarified that "The war-drive comes from the Anglo-Dutch Liberal international financier faction. There are shadings of differences among elements of the international financier forces behind the war-drive, but the war-drive comes as much from within Europe itself as the U.S.A. This is the same faction as the Winston Churchill faction behind the Truman war-drive of April-May 1945 onward.

"The John Train case, as we have documented it, is the primary source of this threat to civilization. The neo-cons are merely the low-level lackeys of the Anglo-Dutch-synarchist alliance of financiers in the Venetian tradition and in the ghost of Prince Rainier of the neo-Nazi Monte Carlo lodge which includes the case of Henry Kissinger.

" 'Neo-con faction,' is therefore a serious error of strategic estimate of the nature of the European Anglo-Dutch Liberal core of what is being reflected in the U.S.A."

Rep. Dennis Kucinich

Another Confrontation In the Middle East?

Below is the Oct. 11 opening statement by Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio), at the Congressional oversight briefing. His remarks were entitled: "Is the Administration preparing for war in Iran? Is Iran an imminent threat?"

The news is filled with this Administration's strong statements and scary characterizations about Iran's ties to terrorists and its nuclear ambitions. In 2003, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said, "there's no question that there have been and are today senior al-Qaeda leaders in Iran, and they are busy" (*Guardian*, May 29, 2003); Richard Perle, then chairman of the Defense Policy Board, said, "Iran is exactly the case that the President has been talking about since Sept. 11" (CNN Capital Gang, May 31, 2003), or as Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld said in 2004, "Iran has for many years figured on the list of terrorist states. The possession of weapons of mass destruction by a terrorist state and the presence

there of a terrorist network presents a threat to the world” (BBC monitoring, Aug. 14, 2004)

The news is also filled with suggestions that the U.S. might already be moving against Iran and has been for many months. As early as 2003, the Administration was reportedly drafting war plans against Iran, according to a Russian newspaper. In 2004, the world press reported new U.S. military arrangements with Azerbaijan and Kazakstan, in 2006, Seymour Hersh reported the presence of U.S. troops in Iran; and just a few weeks ago, *Time* magazine reported that “prepare to deploy” orders were given to the Eisenhower task force, a group of Navy ships, to go to the seas off Iran, which would result in their deployment by Oct. 21.

As ranking member of the National Security, International Relations and Emerging Threats subcommittee of the Government Reform Committee, I have been trying to conduct oversight to get to the bottom of these questions. We have written to the relevant agencies. We even held a classified briefing. But the Department of Defense and the State Department refused to show up.

I repeat, the Department of Defense and the State Department refused to submit to questions from a committee of Congress about actions and plans against Iran.

The American people have a right to expect that their government will work, and that Congress will conduct oversight, and that the executive branch will submit to Congress’ questions. What does it say when agencies refuse to appear to answer Congress’ questions?

Their refusal to be accountable is the reason we are here today. We have five of the nation’s top experts on these questions related to Iran. They have reviewed the open sources, they have a lifetime of relevant professional experience, and they are here to discuss what the Department of Defense and the rest of this Administration don’t want told to the American people: a sober assessment of Iran’s nuclear ambitions and what, if any, threat it poses to Americans, and the real story of the steps this Administration is taking toward another military confrontation in the Middle East.

Rep. Ron Paul

Interventionist U.S. Policy Is a Failure

Below is the statement by co-sponsor Rep. Ron Paul (R-Tex.) to the Oct. 11 Congressional oversight briefing.

I am pleased to co-sponsor this very important event with my colleague, Rep. Dennis Kucinich, and I appreciate all the effort his office has made in organizing such a distinguished panel to discuss our Iran policy. I would just like to say a few

words about U.S. foreign policy in general, and as it relates to Iran.

The current “crisis” with Iran clearly underscores the moral, intellectual, and practical failure of the interventionist foreign policy that the United States has been pursuing over the past several decades. In 1953 we gained the enmity of the Iranian people when our Central Intelligence Agency overthrew Iran’s popular and democratically elected leader, Mohammad Mossadegh, over a shift in Iran’s oil policy. The Shah was installed in power, and thus began an era of brutal, dictatorial rule. In 1979, the Iranian people rose up to throw out a regime they viewed as an American puppet and relations with Iran have been strained ever since. In the brutal Iran/Iraq war in the 1980s, the United States again intervened, this time on the side of Iraq, to whose leader we shipped weapons and intelligence. Shortly after that we were back in the region to invade our erstwhile ally, Iraq, whose leader had suddenly become intolerable to U.S. foreign policy. It is dizzying.

The problem with interventionism is primarily the problem of unintended consequences. The above typifies how complicated these interventions can turn when allies become enemies and then allies again, and we have to re-intervene to address problems created by our initial intervention. It goes around and around, and it costs us billions of dollars. It makes us enemies across the globe. Does anyone wonder why the U.S. is no longer held in high esteem overseas?

Our interventionist foreign policy often creates more problems than it solves. Take Afghanistan, for example. The very people the United States trained and supported in their struggle against the Soviet invasion became the Taliban, which, as we know, harbored the terrorists who planned and carried out the attacks against the United States on 9/11. Thus the very weapons and training we shipped to Afghanistan to intervene in that conflict more than 20 years ago were used against the United States when we invaded Afghanistan after 9/11. Talk about unintended consequences!

Who does not believe that all this could have been avoided if we could only finally return to the foreign policy that was so wisely counseled by our Founding Fathers? It is worth revisiting the oft-repeated but seldom heeded quote by our sixth President, John Quincy Adams:

[America] goes not abroad, in search of monsters to destroy. She is the well-wisher to the freedom and independence of all. She is the champion and vindicator only of her own. She will commend the general cause by the countenance of her voice, and the benignant sympathy of her example. She well knows that by once enlisting under other banners than her own, were they even the banners of foreign independence, she would involve herself beyond the power of extrication, in all the wars of interest and intrigue, of individual avarice, envy, and ambition, which assume the colors and usurp the standard of freedom.