

and a Hamas-run Gaza Strip. Both sides would be vying to prove that they are more effective in terrorizing Israel, through suicide bombings and rocket attacks, the general warned, and this would make life unbearable in the Jewish state.

Arab sources have added that in his recent trip to Washington, Lebanese Druze leader Walid Jumblatt was given a similar offer of “covert military aid” to take on Hezbollah inside that war-ruined nation, which still hasn’t recovered from its 15-year civil war (1975-90). Such covert operations, aimed at provoking the neo-cons’ beloved perpetual warfare throughout the Eastern Mediterranean region, do not depend on Pentagon muscle, so the departure of Donald Rumsfeld from the scene, and his replacement by former CIA Director Robert Gates, a Brent Scowcroft and James Baker III ally (and presumable a Dick Cheney enemy), does not necessarily interfere with the game.

In fact, as the Democrats prepare to take back control of the U.S. House and Senate in January 2007, they face a world map of hot-spots, all set to blow, with the slightest provocation (see map, p. 53).

Several senior Washington intelligence veterans, and one regional vice president of a major U.S. defense firm, say that their greatest fear—between now and the New Year when the Democrats take the keys to Capitol Hill back—is a “Gulf of Tonkin” incident, a provocation covertly arranged originating from Washington, that would provide the pretext for war. The most likely target of such a scheme: Iran. The most likely architect of such an operation: Dick Cheney and his remaining coterie of neo-con troublemakers and whatever assets they have recruited from within the Special Forces community and the “black operations” side of the intelligence community. One burning question is whether President Bush has already signed a Presidential Intelligence Finding, authorizing these covert tricks.

On Oct. 10, 2006, the web-based magazine *World Politics Watch* ran a provocative story, echoing the new neo-con scheme, under the headline “Mideast Realignment: Could Iran Unite Arabs and Israelis?” Noting the rumors, officially denied by both sides, that Prince Bandar had secretly met in Jordan with a top Israeli government official, Frida Ghitis wrote that “a handful of Middle East observers were not surprised to hear of possible talks between Israel and the kingdom. That’s because they predict a major realignment will reshape this region. The cause,” she continued, “of this gradual but far-reaching political transformation is fear of Shi’ite Iran by Sunni Arabs. As a result, the traditional enemy of Arabs, Israel, could gradually begin developing a subtle but powerful alliance with Sunni Muslim regimes in the Arab world. . . . It is this natural convergence of interests that has the potential to recast the political landscape from the traditional one of Arabs versus Israelis, which has dominated the Middle East since the late 1940s, into a Sunni vs. Shi’a alignment, with Israel and Sunni governments on the same side.”

This, Washington sources emphasize, is the latest neo-con wet dream. For years the neo-cons have been preaching their own brand of Leon Trotsky’s “Permanent Revolution,” masked in the cry for “democracy.” From the start of the Bush-Cheney regime up to recent months, the number one target of these latter-day Jacobins had been what Middle Eastern historians referred to as the “Sunni Stability Belt,” the ruling combination of hardline monarchies and dictatorships that kept the oil patch safe and stable from the time of Sykes-Picot (1916) on. Now that the neo-con “Shi’ite Card” has turned Iraq into Hell-on-Earth, the flexible neo-con fantasists have modified their rhetoric, to suddenly find common cause with the very Sunni Arab monarchs and dictators whom they targetted only months ago, with such schemes as their 1996 “A Clean Break.”

The neo-cons are shameless sophists, who have no problem distorting the truth beyond recognition—if it suits their goal of perpetual power. Will the Sunni Arab lions and the Israelis be so stupid as to walk into this trap?

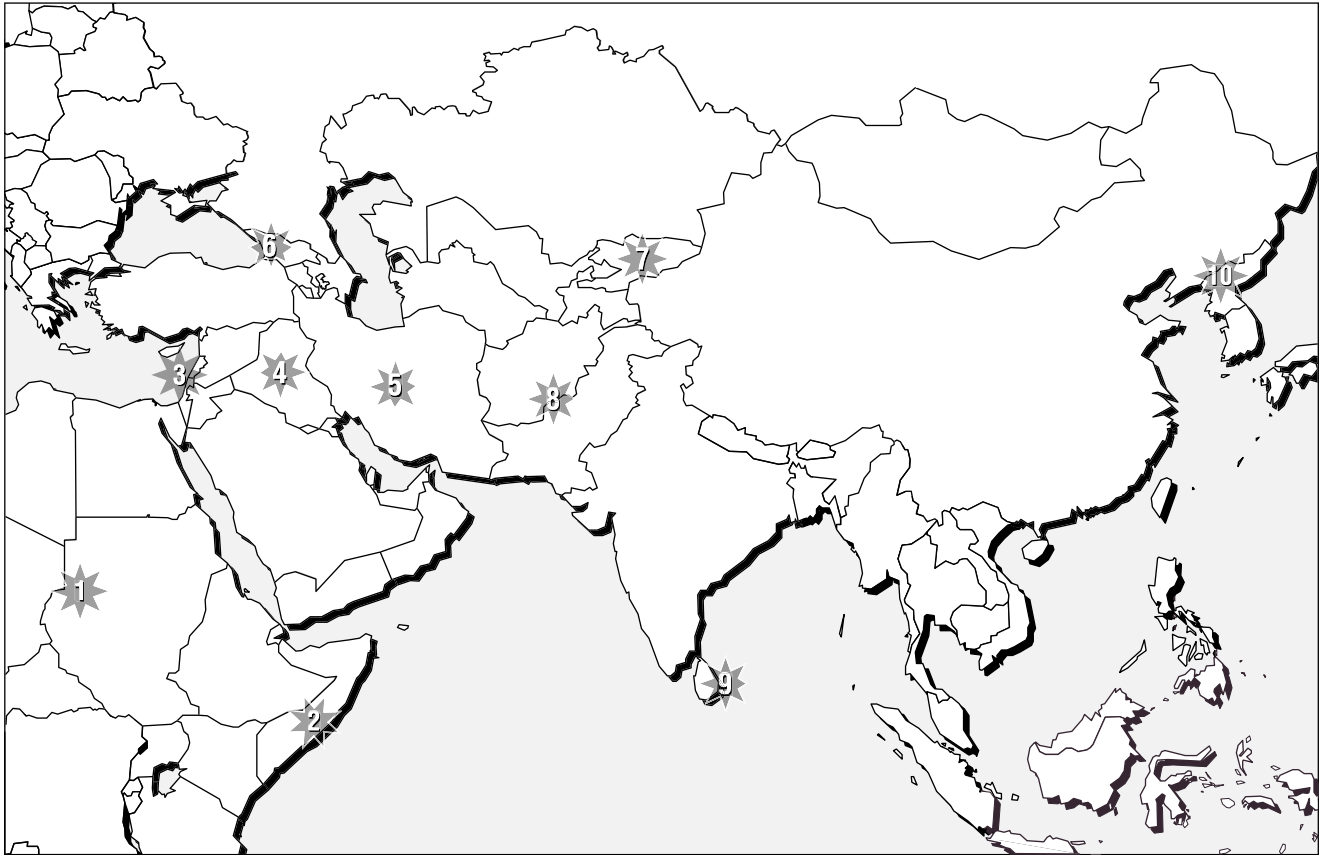
Stay tuned.

Bush-Cheney Policies Proliferate Hotspots

The wave of irregular warfare, which has been set off by the Bush Administration’s pursuit of an Anglo-Dutch global imperial strategy, has put the world on the edge of conflagration. In fact, none of the conflicts shown in this map has been generated by local forces, or causes, but by the financial oligarchy’s international strategic drive for the elimination of the nation state. Without immediate action toward impeachment of the Anglo-Dutch puppets Cheney and Bush, one of these hotspots is likely to be chosen as a military target in the very near future.

1. Darfur region of Sudan: The UN Security Council passed resolution 1706 on Aug. 31, under U.S. prodding, which opens the door for armed intervention in this vast western region of Sudan, where bloody civil conflict already reigns. The resolution calls for the UN peacekeepers, if invited by the Sudan government to replace African Union forces, to operate under Chapter VII, which authorizes the use of all necessary means in the areas of deployment of its forces in Sudan. (See article.)

2. Somalia: Ongoing warfare between groups, some of them Muslims reputedly linked to al-Qaeda, and others linked to the U.S., threatens to internationalize this conflict.



3. Palestinian Territories: The Israeli Army has been carrying out increasingly violent actions within the Gaza Strip, the most recent of which killed 19 Palestinian civilians, most of them women and children. The Israeli attacks are aimed, among other things, at preventing the creation of a unity government between Hamas and Fatah within the Territories as a whole.

4. Iraq: The escalating bloodbath, which killed over 100 U.S. soldiers in October, and continues to kill over 100 Iraqis every week, is ongoing, even after the elections.

5. Iran: Negotiations between Iran and the “international community” remain at a stalemate, while the Bush Administration and its allies at the UN try to push through further provocative sanctions leading to military action. U.S. and NATO military deployments in the area show the danger of imminent aggression against Iran.

6. Georgia/Russia: While Russian President Putin and Georgian President Saakashvili are on a path of diplomacy, at present, the Georgians continue to be backed by certain Western forces in their provocative stance—as part of the overall Anglo-Dutch offensive against a revived Russian nation-state.

7. Kyrgyzstan: A U.S.-backed coalition of politi-

cal activists and NGOs is making its third effort this year to bring down the Kyrgyz government of Kurmanbek Bakayev and Prime Minister Feliks Kulov. An opposition rally led to violent clashes with police on Nov. 7, but has been suppressed for the moment.

8. Pakistan/Afghanistan: The U.S. bombing of a *madrassa* (religious school) in the Bajaur tribal region of Pakistan killed over 80 people on Oct. 31, and has set off heated agitation, including threats of suicide bombings, against the Americans. This conflict is a spillover of the increasing aggressivity of the Taliban in Afghanistan, which has taken over an increasing amount of territory. It is considered only a matter of time before the violence also spreads to Kashmir.

9. Sri Lanka: Fighting between the Tamil Tigers and the government has been escalating dramatically over recent weeks, leading to an increasing death toll among civilians.

10. Korea: Neo-con spokesmen in the United States continue to call for military confrontation with North Korea, following its nuclear test, despite China’s announcement that the North Koreans have agreed to come back to the Six-Party Talks.