

tween the Gaza Strip, governed by Hamas, and Egypt, because Hamas leaders have become regular visitors to the Egyptian foreign affairs ministry, and of the Mokhabarates, the military intelligence services of Gen. Omar Soleimane, potential successor to Mubarak.

Lebanon may be the beneficiary of the strategic shift now underway. Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Jordan reconciled with Syria, will have to pay the bitter price of having to force their Lebanese protégés of the majority to make concessions to the Damascus-allied opposition. Never, underlines could this regional configuration of forces, which favors the “radical currents,” have emerged without the insane behavior of George W. Bush in Israel and in Egypt.

Also important to understand how this victory occurred, is the fact that the United States made no apparent effort to sabotage the Lebanon accord, a sign of a renewed power struggle between the Bush-Cheney apparatus and what remains of the neoconservatives on the one side, and traditionalist American forces opposed to those policies, around figures like Defense Secretary Robert Gates and the majority of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff and the CIA, on the other. While it appears that these forces have won this battle, all observers agree that the war will not be definitely won, until Bush and Cheney are out of the White House, in January 2009.

According to Washington sources, the backdrop to the fight inside the Bush Administration is Vice President Cheney’s continuing push for military action against Iran, before Bush-Cheney leave office. Under “Global Strike,” the Strategic Command program, initiated by former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, under the so-called “revolution in military affairs,” the United States could launch long-range bomber attacks on Iran, on a moment’s notice. It is the continuing possibility of this scenario that has prompted Gates and others to warn that a new war in the Persian Gulf would be “catastrophic.”

The other great loser in this affair is France, which was totally absent throughout the crisis, and is now paying for its allegiance to the imperial faction in London, and its Cheney allies in Washington. Not only did France join in the virulent attacks against Iran and Syria, and heap support on the Lebanese pro-Bush Siniora government, but, following the end of its mission in Lebanon, it dismantled the experienced team of diplomats and intelligence officers around Jean Claude Cousseran which, at the beginning of the Sarkozy Presidency, had assembled all the conditions for a just solution of the crisis in the region.

### **How France Shot Itself in the Foot**

In a recent article, *Le Canard Enchaîné* reported that the French government was totally out of touch with the recent Lebanese crisis, thus paying for its support for the London-Cheney offensives in the region. “No important information reached Paris, either from the French embassies in Beirut or

Damascus, nor from the DGSE [foreign intelligence] correspondents. Better, if one dares to use that word, the French diplomats were reduced to having to phone Lebanese journalists or their Parisian colleagues to try to get some information! In a similar vein, they didn’t see anything coming last month, when Saudi Arabia,” mandated by the trans-Atlantic British empire faction, “pushed the Lebanese government to take on Hezbollah, taking the risk of igniting a new confrontation between Sunnis and Christians, on the one hand, and Shi’ites, on the other.”

*Le Canard* notes that, this time around, it was the Qatari Emir who led the peace negotiations, and not “by accident. His diplomats, and even he, himself, talk to everybody—to the Syrians, Hezbollah, the Iranians, to Hamas. Another advantage: The relations of the Emir with the United States are rather good. With France also: He played an active role, including financial, during the liberation of the Bulgarian nurses held in Libya.” Indeed, to make sure that the final Lebanon deal was not sabotaged after the fact, the Emir of Qatar flew to Riyadh, to meet with Saudi Arabia’s King Abdullah, to personally secure Saudi backing for the agreement.

The fact is, as one Beirut-based intelligence source reported, Hezbollah’s brilliant flanking of the Siniora/Hariri provocations, at the beginning of May, delivered a strategic defeat to those trying to provoke a new Lebanese civil war. The fact that Hezbollah demonstrated an ability to take over West Beirut in a 24-hour period, but worked closely with the Lebanese Army, in turning control over to the sovereign military force,

## **LaRouche Cites Turkish Role in Diplomacy**

Lyndon LaRouche on May 23 underscored the significance of the Turkish mediation in the recent Israeli-Syrian talks, citing the late Turkish leader Mustafa Kemal Atatürk’s (1881-1938) role in combatting the Anglo-French Sykes-Picot Treaty, which sought to carve up the former Ottoman Empire into French and British colonial spheres of control, in the aftermath of World War I. Atatürk countered the Anglo-French machinations by negotiating a firm border agreement with Syria. This assertion of the sovereign power of the governments of the region set a precedent which is now, once again, being pursued, to secure a permanent peace between Israel and Syria.