

Israeli Patriots Need U.S. Support Against Netanyahu and His Fascists

by Michele Steinberg

Dec. 5—In early November, a strategic fight broke out publicly in Israel over the decision by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Ehud Barak to go to war against Iran—a fight that has been raging in Israel, but has been nearly invisible in the United States, blacked out of television, radio, magazines, and newspapers.

If Americans want to know what the fight for peace is in Israel, they should turn to the websites LPAC-TV (www.larouchepac.com) and *EIR* (ExecutiveIntelligenceReviewOnline.com), the sources on the strategic interventions of Lyndon LaRouche. LaRouche has been personally involved for four decades—since the early 1970s—with Israeli institutions that have fought against the foolhardy war plans.

In a Dec. 5 segment on LPAC-TV <http://www.larouchepac.com/warroom>, LaRouche talked about the powerful intervention by U.S. military circles against the Anglo-imperial war plan that threatens to unleash a thermonuclear war starting in the Middle East, and the parallel resistance in Israel.

“There’s a faction inside Israel, which, in the course of the early 1970s, recognized and agreed among themselves, that the Israeli war against the Arabs was a mistake,” said LaRouche. “And during that period, I had a relationship with the core of the Israeli leadership, from the Labor Party, on that issue, the old veterans of Hashomer Hatzair (The Youth Guard), largely.

“And they came to me, and responded to me, and we responded to them, on the question of the effort to prevent the fascist wing of Israel from taking over. And we engaged in a fight; and we were actually collaborating in the fight against a new war, against a takeover by the right wing, and the right wing was a bunch of fascists. And they still are! The same thing is there now.

“So now, practically, in the way the resistance from within Israel, from that circle, which are the same circles that I knew back in the early 1970s, that circle is



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A public backlash has erupted in Israel against the insane plan of Prime Minister Netanyahu (right) and Defense Minister Barak (left) to go to war against Iran—but has been blacked out of the mainstream U.S. press.

now organizing the resistance against Israel going in to play the game for the British, for the war. And that’s a part of reality, which we have to take into account.”

Israeli Fight vs. Bibi’s Armageddon

While it is only the United States that can stop the British Empire’s drive for war, the high-decibel resistance to attacking Iran from the highest levels of Israel’s military and security institutions is out in the open. And not only have they spoken out, but according to an explosive *Ha’aretz* report on Dec. 2, former Mossad chief Meir Dagan formed a “strategic alliance” with retired Defense Forces chief of staff Gabi Ashkenazy, and Shin Bet security service chief Yuval Diskin, regarding Iran, “as a counterbalance to the line espoused by Netanyahu and Barak.”

And rather than limit their concerns to press conferences and speeches, after he left the Mossad in January 2011, Dagan took their concerns to the State Comptroller’s office, where he met Yaakov Or, head of the agen-



Flash 90

Former Mossad chief Meir Dagan has formed a “strategic alliance” with other retired defense and intelligence officials against the Netanyahu-Barak war plan: “An attack on Iran is the stupidest thing I ever heard,” said Dagan.

cy’s security division, after meeting with comptroller Micha Lindenstrauss himself, according to *Ha’aretz*.

The State Comptroller’s Office has enough power to step in on the affairs of any Israeli coalition government, but whether that is a factor in stopping Netanyahu and Barak’s recklessness at this time is not known.

While British and American news media luridly cheer for an Israeli attack on Iran, and hype the lying distortions in the Nov. 18 report on Iran by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as an excuse for military action, here is what leading Israelis have been saying.

“An attack on Iran is the stupidest thing I ever heard,” said Dagan, the man who is no soft-liner but has been called the head of the “world’s most efficient killing machine.” While the statement was made in Spring of 2011, it has been republished and repeated thousands of times in the Israeli media since then, especially since the Dagan group blew the whistle on the Netanyahu-Barak war plan.

“I decided to speak because when I was in office, Diskin, Ashkenazi, and I could block any dangerous adventure,” said Dagan, according to the London *Guardian* on June 3, 2011. “Now I am afraid that there is no one to stop Bibi [Netanyahu] and Barak.”

“Israel should give international sanctions on Iran more time,” said Moshe Ya’alon, a former chief of the Defense Staff of the Israeli Defense Forces, in *Ha’aretz* Nov. 4. “[I]f military action did become necessary, under no circumstances would Israel conduct such an operation on its own.”

“If anyone can save Israel from catastrophe it is the Israel Air Force commander Maj. Gen. Ido Nechushtan,” wrote strategic analyst Reuven Pedatzur on Nov. 4 in *Ha’aretz*. Nechushtan has to tell “the prime minister and the defense minister that an Air Force attack on Iran cannot achieve its goals. Nechushtan must act with national responsibility. It would not be a display of defeatism, but rather one of supreme responsibility in an era when the decision-making process has gone dangerously haywire. Only he can stop the train speeding to collision in Iran’s skies.”

“The State of Israel cannot be destroyed,” said former Mossad chief Ephraim Halevy, to Israel’s *Yediot Aharanot* Nov. 4. “An attack on Iran could affect not only Israel, but the entire region for 100 years.”

“The growing *haredi* [Jewish religious fundamentalist] radicalization poses a bigger risk than Ahmadinejad... [T]he ultra-Orthodox extremism has darkened our lives,” he added.

“Have the prime minister and defense minister settled on a decision, just between the two of them, to launch a military attack on the nuclear facilities in Iran?” wrote Nahum Barnea, one of the leading Israeli columnists, on Oct. 28 in *Yediot Aharanot*. “This question preoccupies many people in the defense establishment and high circles of government. It distresses foreign governments, which find it difficult to understand what is happening here: On the one hand, there are mounting rumors of an Israeli move that will change the face of the Middle East and possibly seal Israel’s fate for generations to come....”

In this urgent call for open national debate, Barnea described Netanyahu’s twisted megalomania: “Ahmadinejad is Hitler; if he isn’t stopped in time, there will be another Holocaust. There are those who describe Netanyahu’s attitude on the matter as an obsession: All his life he dreamed of being Churchill; Iran gives him the opportunity. The popularity he gained as a result of the Shalit [prisoner exchange] deal didn’t pacify him: the opposite, it gave him a sense of power.”

By early November, Netanyahu was livid and feeling the heat. To stop the debate, he ordered the head of Israel’s Shin Bet (equivalent to the FBI in function) to launch an investigation into the leaking of sensitive Cabinet discussions about an attack on Iran. Dagan shot back, daring Netanyahu to indict him for leaking secrets.

And rather than being silenced, Dagan is relentlessly fighting the Netanyahu insanity. On Nov. 30, he took the



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Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has drawn a sharp line between the United States and Israel, on policy toward Iran. "I'm not sure the Israelis share our assessment," he said, diplomatically.

microphone on Ilana Dayan's radio program, "Facts," where he again warned that the war danger is not over.

"I'm very troubled," Dagan said, according to *Ha'aretz's* report. "What I understand [from Barak's statement] is that Israel must act within that time frame. I don't share that appraisal."

Ha'aretz senior reporter Amos Harel added his commentary to Dagan's interview with Dayan:

"Dagan believes with all his heart that he has a duty to prevent a military attack at this time. He may be expected to continue warning against this in future as well.

"The defense minister, prime minister and finance minister will not be able to stop me from expressing my opinion. We are not living in a non-democratic state," he said.

"Dagan last night expressed concern for possible mistakes made by Israel's leadership. He explained that if a decision takes shape to attack Iran, it is up to him to warn of the imminent disaster. He said an offensive now would be entering 'a regional war with eyes wide open. This is necessary only when we're attacked or when the sword begins to cut the flesh.'

"He added that Iran would react with missile fire, as would Hezbollah, Hamas 'and in view of Syria's problematic situation, there's a good chance the Syrians would join in...'

"I can't predict the number of fatalities in such an attack," he said."

'Get Back to the Damn Table'

On Nov. 17, as the post-IAEA report war frenzy was at its height, a well-placed U.S. intelligence source told *EIR* that the top U.S. military officials are feverishly working on a war avoidance track, but their main obstacle is British puppet Barack Obama.

According to the source, the generals conveyed personally to the President that it is the consensus of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, CENTCOM, and all of the other top military brass, that the Israelis must be told, in absolutely clear terms, that any military attack on Iran is thoroughly unacceptable, and would likely lead to world war.

President Obama was asked by the generals to convey this message to the Israeli Prime Minister, and the President reportedly refused. Obama responded that the U.S. has no control over Israeli policy and, if Israel is going to attack Iran, "it would be better for us not to know in advance."

This report of Obama's non-response to a British imperial Armageddon triggered by Israel is going viral in military and intelligence circles, and there are public indications that in spite of Obama, the message to Netanyahu and his fascists is being delivered.

On Nov. 30, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey drew a sharp line on Iran between Israel and the U.S., during an interview with Reuters. Asked if he thought Israel would notify the U.S. ahead of time if it decided to launch an attack on Iran, he flatly stated, "I don't know." He said the United States was convinced that sanctions and diplomatic pressure were the right path to take on Iran, along with "the stated intent not to take any options off the table"—language that leaves open the possibility of future military action, but does not emphasize it.

"I'm not sure the Israelis share our assessment of that," he said. "And because they don't and because to them this is an existential threat, I think probably that it's fair to say that our expectations are different right now."

The statement was no game-changer, but Barak felt the heat, and told Israeli Radio on Dec. 1, "We have no intention, at the moment, of taking action, but the State of Israel is far from being paralyzed by fear; we don't need big wars." A few days later, however, Barak was back to his "war on Iran before it's too late" script.

On Dec. 2, another message to Israel was delivered,

this time by U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, who told the annual “We Are All Israel Lovers” forum at the Brookings Institution’s Saban Center, that a military attack on Iran is *not* U.S. policy.

An attack would not stop the Iran nuclear program, Panetta said; first, it would only set it back two years, “at best.”

“Of greater concern to me,” Panetta continued, “are the unintended consequences, which would be that ultimately it would have a backlash and the regime that is weak now ... suddenly instead of being isolated would get the greater support in a region that right now views it as a pariah.”

The United States would “obviously be blamed,” Panetta added, “and we could possibly be the target of retaliation from Iran, striking our ships, striking our military bases ... [and] there are economic consequences to that attack, severe economic consequences that could impact a very fragile economy in Europe and a fragile economy here in the United States.”

But what has the Netanyahu camp in wild panic reaction was not the “rational” argument against an attack

on Iran, but Panetta’s rare expression of what well-informed military circles in Washington now say about Israel, i.e., that it has become a strategic liability.

This simple truth came out when Panetta was asked what steps Israel should take toward the Palestinians.

“Just get to the damn table,” Panetta shot back. “I understand the view that this is not the time to pursue peace, and that the Arab awakening further imperils the dream of a safe and secure, Jewish and democratic Israel. But I disagree with that view.”

In case the point was missed, Panetta reiterated, “We all know what the pieces are here for a potential agreement. We’ve talked it out ... we understand the concerns of Israel, understand the concerns of the Palestinians.... So first and foremost, get to the damn table.”

Netanyahu has no intention of negotiating with the Palestinians, nor breaking with the British imperial drive for global war.

The war danger is not passed, LaRouche warns, but it is unthinkable, and it can be stopped, here in the United States.

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