

Sharon in Sept. 11-Type War Provocation?

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Among senior intelligence analysts in the United States, the Arab world, and Israel, the fear is growing that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is about to covertly launch a Sept. 11-type terrorist attack targetting the United States—in order to drag President Bush into war against Iraq. Two factors may be impelling Sharon to take such provocative steps.

First, there is a growing chorus of leading U.S. military figures, active duty and retired, and Republican Party foreign-policy mandarins, who are publicly opposing the war against Saddam Hussein's Iraq. On Aug. 25, former Secretary of State James Baker III added his name to the list of opponents of a unilateral American attack on Iraq, on the op-ed page of the *New York Times*. The previous day, the *Tampa Tribune* had reported that Gen. Anthony Zinni (USMC ret.), who was the previous Commander-in-Chief of the Central Command, and now an adviser to Secretary of State Colin Powell, came out strongly against an Iraq attack.

Zinni also assailed the group of Bush Administration neo-conservative war advocates who never served a day in uniform. This grouping—including Paul Wolfowitz, Richard Perle, James Woolsey, Rep. Tom DeLay (R-Tex.), and even Vice President Dick Cheney—is being widely referred to as the “chickenhawks” (see box). “It’s pretty interesting,” Zinni told an audience in Tallahassee, Florida, “that all the generals see it the same way, and all the others who have never fired a shot and are hot to go to war, see it another way.”

The second factor that may be driving Sharon and his backers toward a false-flag 9/11-type terror attack in the United States, is his falling popularity in Israel. It is almost a certainty that there will be a government crisis before the end of the year, and early elections over Israel's dire economic crisis and the inability of the Sharon government to agree on a budget that can pass the Knesset (parliament).

In recent weeks, Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna, a decorated, retired general, has declared his intent to run for the

Labor Party chairmanship and nomination as candidate for Prime Minister. He is committed to reviving the peace process, and has endorsed President Bush's “two-state” solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict. His emergence as a “new Yitzhak Rabin” peace-maker, has added to Sharon's desperation and willingness to take risks.

The Ashcroft Spy Scandal Factor

One factor emboldening Sharon to want a “made in Baghdad” or similar terror attack, on U.S. soil or against American targets abroad, is the cover-up of the Israeli spy scandals, led by U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft. These spy networks form an integral part of the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

Within hours of the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, reports surfaced that a group of Israeli nationals, ostensibly working for a moving company in New Jersey, had been detained by the FBI for suspicious behavior, behavior which had been reported to police in Hoboken, New Jersey. It was later confirmed that the men were working for the Israeli Mossad foreign intelligence agency, and that the moving company was a Mossad front.

Further revelations established that the Hoboken team was part of a vast Israeli military spy operation that had been activated throughout the United States beginning no later than early 2000, and which continued to operate following the Sept. 11 attacks. In early 2002, it became clear, as first reported in *EIR's Executive Alert Service* on Dec. 4, 2001, that U.S. intelligence and security agencies were investigating this. Fox-TV, later that month, established the existence of a Drug Enforcement Administration report on more than 100 arrests of Israelis suspected of surveillance in the United States, between January 2000 and July 2001.

Sources report that the Senate Judiciary Committee is now reviewing evidence that the Israeli espionage probe has been covered up, top-down, by Ashcroft's Justice Department.

Lyndon LaRouche, Democratic Party 2004 Presidential pre-candidate, issued a call on Aug. 27 for the cover-up to end. He warned that continuing effort by Ashcroft to suppress the spy scandal would increase the likelihood of another 9/11-type attack on the United States, and, by constituting reckless disregard for the national security of this country, would be cause for Ashcroft's removal.

Iraq War, Palestinian Mass Expulsion

LaRouche also warned that a staged terrorist incident against a U.S. target—whether orchestrated by Sharon or by Sharon-allied covert networks inside the U.S. military/intelligence apparatus—could impel President Bush to violate the Constitution by launching a unilateral military action against Iraq without consulting with Congress, and without proof of Iraqi involvement. This kind of action would delight the President's enemies, who might then move to impeach him.

For his part, Sharon would use the occasion of a U.S. attack on Iraq to launch mass expulsion of the Palestinian population from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This could trigger a general Mideast conflagration beyond belief.

One well-placed Arab intelligence source pointed to signs that Sharon is preparing to activate his longstanding "Jordan is Palestine" scheme. For the past month, the Israeli press has been full of violent attacks against the "Arabs of 1948," the Arab inhabitants who remained in Israel after statehood, and who now constitute 20% of the Israeli citizenry. These attacks may signal a move to expel them from Israel, as part of the

mass-transfer operation of Palestinians into Jordan.

Sharon is aware that the Bush Administration, in recent meetings with Jordan's King Abdullah II, has pledged that Israel will be stopped from carrying out the mass transfer if the United States goes to war on Saddam. However, one source warned that Sharon is already planning the overthrow of King Abdullah, and handing Jordan over to Islamic radicals linked to his own secret allies in Hamas. Sharon would use the overthrow of the Hashemite ruler as further "justification" for the ethnic purification of the West Bank and Gaza, claiming the need to expel all "terrorists" from Israeli-occupied lands.

A second source, whose information has not been independently verified, provided what he claimed were details of the terror plot. He says Rafi Eytan, former Mossad European operations director and Jonathan Jay Pollard spymaster, has been assigned by Sharon to set in place a "mega-terror" operation in the United States.

According to the source, Eytan, the target of an American arrest warrant for his role in the 1980s Pollard espionage affair, has been smuggled into the United States from Mexico, and is now believed to be in the Ohio area. Several associates of the late Rabbi Meir Kahane, of the Jewish Defense League terrorist organization, are said to be protecting Eytan.

Whatever the truth about the Eytan lead, the threat of a Sharon-staged terror provocation is deadly serious—and must be stopped now. One way to do that, LaRouche reiterated, is for Attorney General Ashcroft to end the top-down cover-up of the Israeli spy operations in the United States.

'Chickenhawks' Become Democratic Target

The threat of a fateful, spreading war being set off by neo-conservative ideologues who've never done active military service themselves—raised by veteran military figures such as Gen. Anthony Zinni in his Aug. 27 blast against an Iraq war—has been picked up by Democrats and press under the label, "Chickenhawks."

The *New Hampshire Gazette* has established its own "Chickenhawk Database," which provides the following official definition: "A chickenhawk is a term often applied to public persons—generally male—who (1) tend to advocate, or are fervent supporters of those who advocate, military solutions to political problems; and who (2) have personally declined to take advantage of a significant opportunity to serve in uniform during wartime. . . . There is another, less savory definition of the term chickenhawk. It is not relevant to this discussion." The *Gazette* then published a list of nearly 100 well-known GOP warhawks, who, it says, all share the background of hav-

ing dodged the draft.

Fred W. Crawford wrote an opinion piece entitled "Character Matters," in which he juxtaposed the Vietnam War military service of Congressional Democrats Dick Gephardt, David Bonior, Tom Daschle, and even Al Gore, to the four GOP Congressional dodgers—Newt Gingrich, Richard Armey, Tom DeLay, and Trent Lott.

Gene Lyons, a staunch Clinton supporter during the Richard Mellon Scaife-bankrolled impeachment drive of 1999, wrote an Aug. 21 op-ed, "Chickenhawk Day-Dreams," where he chided the Democrats for sitting on the sidelines during the debate over war in Iraq, and leaving it to Republican foreign-policy "realists" to battle it out alongside Gen. Colin Powell. Lyons cited the harsh confrontation between Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-Neb.), a decorated Vietnam veteran, and draft dodger Richard Perle, over the *Wall Street Journal* column by Gen. Brent Scowcroft (ret.) (which was also published with permission in last week's issue of *EIR*). Hagel had told the *New York Times*, "Maybe Mr. Perle would like to be in the first wave of those who go into Baghdad." Lyons added, "Unless they start producing 'Meet the Press' on location from the Baghdad Hilton, that won't happen."