

'Chicken-hawks' Create Own 'CIA' in Pentagon

by Edward Spannaus

As part of their effort to drag the United States into civilizational warfare in the Middle East, the Rumsfeld-Wolfowitz Cabal has created its own intelligence and covert-operations units to by-pass U.S. intelligence agencies. The purpose of this new "CIA"—the "Chickenhawk Intelligence Agency," it might be called—is to "cook the books" with fraudulent intelligence analyses, in order to justify an attack on Iraq, seen as the opening shot for implementing their imperial doctrine of global pre-emptive warfare. The Rumsfeld-Cheney war drive is opposed within much of the Pentagon uniformed military, the intelligence community, and within the State Department and the diplomatic corps who are responsible for dealing with once-allied nations who now oppose the Bush Administration's reckless war drive.

As *EIR* noted in the editorial, "Not Again!" of our last issue, we had been advised by well-placed U.S. intelligence sources, that a new "Iran-Contra"-type operation is being run out of the Pentagon, with the same sort of secret, parallel government which was responsible for the illegal drugs-and-arms deals of the 1980s involving Iran, Afghanistan, and Central America.

War Over the War

This has now resulted in a situation of open warfare within the Bush Administration. And, as is normal in such circumstances, such internal warfare is carried out through leaks and stories planted in the news media. Some leading, recent examples:

- The creation of a special intelligence unit by Rumsfeld and his deputies, already operating, was reported in a front-page article in the *New York Times* of Oct. 24, and then in the *Washington Post* the next day. The *Times* reported that the special unit was created to search for evidence of Saddam Hussein's links to Al-Qaeda, or other information "that the nation's spy agencies may have overlooked," and that its creation reflects "frustration on the part of Mr. Rumsfeld, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul D. Wolfowitz and other senior officials that they are not receiving undiluted information on the capacities" of Saddam Hussein and "his suspected ties to terrorist organizations."

Unnamed Bush Administration officials cited in the article charged that "the top civilian policy makers are intent on politicizing intelligence to fit their hawkish views on Iraq." The *Times* also quoted a DOD official saying: "Wolfowitz

and Company disbelieve any analysis that doesn't support their own preconceived conclusions. The CIA is enemy territory as far as they are concerned."

Both the *Times* and the *Post* reported that the special unit was set up by Doug Feith, the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy, who, as *EIR* has reported, is also responsible for the operations of Richard Perle's Defense Policy Board, which is running today's "Iran-Contra"-type covert intelligence operations.

The "Feith-and-Bum Corps" uses high speed scanners and computer software to "go over" every CIA and DIA report they can lay hands on, conducting "data mining;" to "glean individual details that may collectively point to Iraq's wider connections to terrorism, but which may have been obscured by formal assessments that play down the overall Iraqi threat."

- An article published in the Oct. 28 *Philadelphia Inquirer*, reporting on the "bitter fight" between the Pentagon and the CIA over Iraq intelligence, said that a major source of contention is the Wolfowitz group's heavy reliance on intelligence supplied by the London-based Iraqi National Congress and its head, Ahmed Chalabi. It cited a senior U.S. military official, who "expressed grave fears that civilian officials in the Pentagon might be blindly accepting assertions by Chalabi and his aides that a U.S. invasion would trigger mass defections of Iraqi troops and a quick collapse of Iraqi resistance."

"Our guys working this area for a living all believe Chalabi, and all those guys in their Bond Street suits, are charlatans," said one official. "To take them for a source of anything except a fantasy trip would be a real stretch. But it's an article of faith among those with no military experience, that the Iraqi military is low-hanging fruit."

The *Inquirer* article also quoted Richard Perle claiming that the CIA's analysis of the Middle East "isn't worth the paper it's written on."

- Confirmation of another element of *EIR*'s previous reporting, on the reactivation of U.S. Army special warfare units—such as the infamous "Yellow Fruit" from the 1980s—came in an Oct. 27 *Los Angeles Times* article by William Arkin. "Frustrated by intelligence failures, the Defense Department is dramatically expanding its 'black world' of covert operations," the *Times* said, noting that Rumsfeld is building up "an elite secret army" centered around the Army's Intelligence Support Activity (ISA), which operates today under the code name of "Gray Fox." (It was ISA's "Yellow Fruit" unit which erupted in scandal in the mid-1980s, and which carried out much of the "Iran-Contra" covert operations which were generally attributed to, or blamed on, the CIA.)

Arkin reported that Rumsfeld wants to use these units to provoke actions by terrorist groups and states, which would open them up to "quick-response" attacks by U.S. forces. This is reminiscent of the commando raids which provoked the so-called Gulf of Tonkin incident in 1964, which was used for a massive escalation of the Vietnam war.