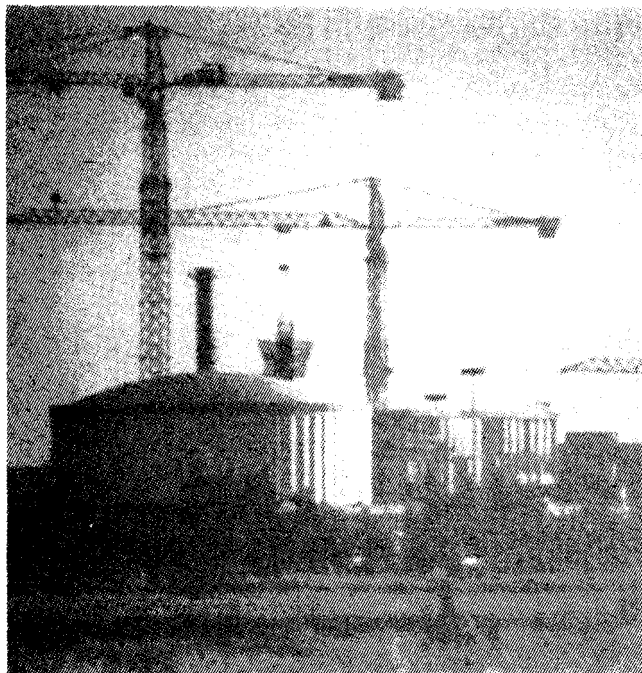


Warfare surfaces on 'nonproliferation'

by Judith Wyer



Israel's attack on Iraq's nuclear facility June 7 has benefited a global oligarchy bent on gaining control of nuclear technology and limiting the development of the emerging nations. The media around the world greeted the Israeli terrorist assault with the same refrain, that the raid proves the necessity of enforcing nonproliferation, since the raid sets a precedent for future attacks by rival developing states with nuclear facilities.

The argument originates with such groupings as the Aspen Institute, the Club of Rome, and the Brandt Commission. For this elite, nonproliferation means ending future nuclear development within the Third World and placing stringent controls on an industrial state's use of nuclear technology. Perhaps the news media's despicable silence on the issue of Iraq's sovereignty reflects the fact that these oligarchical forces openly promote the creation of supranational governing bodies to replace sovereign nations' rightful control over the use and transferral of nuclear technology.

This was demonstrated by a senior official at the Aspen Institute, who responded to the Israeli attack by calling for a new global "Baruch plan" to regulate all

nuclear technology and "surrender national sovereignty of nations." (See interview below.) Such a posture effectively dooms the developing states in the long run to a fixed-resources arena of economic growth.

The Osirak reactor

The destruction of the Iraqi reactor was aimed at undercutting the potential of the wealthiest sector of the developing world, the oil-rich Arab states, for unbounded economic growth. Last year Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, in discussing the Iraqi nuclear program's importance for Arab-wide development, warned that "the Zionists and their supporters used to work on the assumption that the Arabs were backward people . . . but the Arab nations are on the verge of a new age. . . . They will successfully use atomic energy for industry."

Baghdad has repeatedly denied Israel's allegations that they were developing the capability to make bombs.

Such facts have been widely ignored. Instead, a gallery of nonproliferation and disarmament advocates have been carted before television cameras to argue that a number of developing states, including Brazil, Pakistan, and Egypt, are on the verge of building the bomb. These same circles are leveling similar attacks at the industrial states such as France and Italy, which have extended a transfer of nuclear technology to the developing sector.

The actual purpose of the Osirak facility

An alliance of Israeli and Khomeiniite Iranian intelligence agencies has been working since 1979 to overthrow the government of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and undermine the most promising developing country in the Arab world. The June 7 assault on the Iraqi nuclear research facility is the focus of a broader collaboration between the Begin government and backward Iranian mullahs aimed against Arab economic development and modernization.

The conspiracy against Iraq's nuclear program began in 1979 when Khomeini's secret police, the Savama, and the Israeli Mossad joined forces against the West European suppliers of nuclear technology to Iraq.

At that time, a mysterious terrorist bombing in France destroyed a partially assembled nuclear plant slated for shipment to Iraq, provoking a public outcry in Paris that the Mossad was responsible.

The bombed Osirak nuclear construction site in Iraq.

Admiral Eugene LaRoque, the head of the Washington-based Center for Defense Information, jubilantly welcomed the Israeli raid, because it strengthens "global disarmament and limiting national sovereignty through control of technology." The linkage between nonproliferation and disarmament stressed by LaRoque and the Aspen official is part of an evil maneuver involving a commission headed by the Socialist International's Olof Palme to draw the Soviet Union into an agreement to limit technological growth (see *EIR*, June 16). Not coincidentally, the Aspen spokesman named former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance as the most qualified candidate to head a supranational commission to enforce nonproliferation. Vance is a member of the Palme Commission on Disarmament; the Aspen official bemoaned the fact that it was the Soviet Union's refusal to accept this concept of limiting nuclear technology which stifled the Baruch Plan.

But this time around Vance et al. intend to raise the stakes by, if necessary, staging other dangerous incidents such as the Israeli raids in order to force the U.S.S.R. into a nonproliferation agreement under the guise of disarmament and therefore limit Soviet economic and military growth.

Meanwhile, the Palme Commission's upcoming meeting in Moscow will reportedly discuss the Iraqi raid.

In early 1980, the head of Iraq's nuclear program was mysteriously murdered in France. A few months later, the only living witness to the crime was run down and killed on a Paris street by a speeding car.

Simultaneously, the Savama-controlled terrorist group, the Committee to Safeguard the Islamic Revolution, began a wave of terror in Europe against anyone associated with Iraq's nuclear program. In August 1980 this group sent letters to five French firms threatening them with terrorist reprisals if they did not break off all relations with Iraq. The bombing of an Italian company also working with Iraq's nuclear authority was linked to Iranian terrorists.

A month later, just after the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war, Iranian fighters raided the nuclear facility missing the building housing the Osirak reactor. Israel openly lauded the attack, and Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zippori offered to provide Iran with Israeli intelligence enabling them to make a more effective second raid against the reactor.

In the last month, Israel has condemned Iraq for its aggression against Iran in the 10-month old Gulf war, and has clandestinely supplied Iran with military support.

Interview

Aspen calls for a 'new Baruch plan'

A senior official at the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies involved in the Brandt Commission report on suppressing Third World industrialization made the following comments in a June 10 interview provided to EIR.

Q: What does the Israeli bombing of the Iraqi nuclear facility mean for the future of the world nuclear industry?

A: It certainly changes the entire picture. It opens up the entire nuclear question for debate on the level of immediate action, as opposed to thought and planning. It will affect every country. There can be no status quo ante after an act like this, just as there can be no status quo ante after the formation of Solidarity in Poland. It puts the question of nuclear proliferation on the immediate urgent public agenda of secretaries of states and chancelleries around the world.

Q: What will happen then?

A: It has now become clear that existing institutions don't measure up to the real problems of nuclear proliferation and the entire arms race. We need new institutions far beyond those of SALT and the existing arms control negotiations. This changes the entire atmosphere of disarmament and requires bolder solutions.

We need a new international wise men council on a much higher plane, a small group of the best minds to come up with ideas that cross a certain historic threshold. Such a wise men council must finally accomplish what Bernard Baruch, Dean Acheson, and John J. McCloy tried to do after the war to contain the very first spread of nuclear energy, which contains the seeds of the greatest surrender of the sovereignty of nations in history. Unfortunately, the Soviet Union turned it down. We need a group like the Baruch Plan now, a commission to study all the alternatives, which will be one of those historic new international organizations which takes a quantum jump, an organization of the historic new quality of the Lend-Lease program which brought us into World War II, of NATO, and of the Marshall Plan.

SALT and a bilateral U.S.-Soviet negotiations process are not enough. In this new process we need to examine the role of the alliance and perhaps change its basic structures. It includes how we treat our allies.

Q: What has been the response in Washington?

A: My first goal is to set up a U.S. wise men council which must be nonpartisan, made up of visible, respected people who have been public servants, and people whose voices could not be ignored, such as [former Secretary of State] Cyrus Vance.

Q: Are you talking with Haig or the State Department?

A: Let's say I'm planning this with people who, if they became interested, are in a position to do something about it.

Q: What is the response in Europe?

A: I had dinner with Helmut Schmidt when he was here and he was interested in new approaches to disarmament and the relations between the U.S. and its allies. He is interested in actively pursuing disarmament, and decreased military budgets in the West. I also met with [French Foreign Minister] Claude Cheysson, and he and Mitterrand are in favor, as are the Dutch and the British.

President Reagan will have to respond if the council is set up properly, with people who can't be ignored. They're being forced to learn by such historic incidents as those of this week. This is forcing a shift. It's going to force them to turn to this kind of help [i.e. Aspen] whether they like it or not. It will force the President to be more flexible—it's on his plate now. The issue won't go away.

Q: You mean there will be more such incidents?

A: I think so. Look at Pakistan and India. If a regime like Pakistan's seems to be slipping, and they had had it, they might easily bomb an Indian nuclear plant. Brazil and Argentina could have the same situation. Any rising industrializing society can now produce some kind of nuclear device—Korea, Taiwan, Brazil, even Saudi Arabia wants one. The Israeli action raises the specter that they are all liable to be in Iraq's shoes.

The situation has crossed a threshold, and we need new international laws to deal with this so that countries like Israel will not feel they have to take matters into their own hands. We need to get past the situation where nation-states have control over these things.

It also extends to arms sales, which must be controlled. A top Venezuelan recently asked me why the U.S. is selling planes to Venezuela, which could create a conflict between Venezuela and Colombia, which wants to prevent a Venezuelan buildup. Just as France shouldn't have been building that reactor in Iraq, we shouldn't have been selling arms to Israel—or to the Saudis.

Q: Can't the LDCs have peaceful nuclear power?

A: Iraq has oil, what do they need nuclear power for? There is no separation of peaceful and military uses of

nuclear energy. We must set up a legal system with international controls.

Q: Doesn't this mean controlling Third World development policy and economic policy?

A: Yes—especially their use of resources. They shouldn't have nuclear power, and they will have to develop their own sources of energy. There is going to have to be international discussion by the wise men council and other forums of what kinds of development are appropriate. The recent action has made the situation very, very messy. There are all sorts of technologies which are not adequately controlled internationally, and the Third World does not have adequate resources to develop them in any case. There is going to have to be a slowing of the tempo of development in line with international considerations—and the politicians who don't like this are going to have to deal with it.

Q: What about the population problem?

A: As I said, the situation is very, very messy. Population is a serious international security problem, and it is just these sorts of problems which will have to be increasingly dealt with by international agencies. Politicians won't like this.

Q: Can you use this forum to advance population planning policies?

A: We will start with the technology question.

Q: Do you see a rise in insurance and loan rates for nuclear exports?

A: Certainly, insurance rates are already going up, and loan rates have certain risk premiums. I think this will become an increasing factor. This incident is just a part of an acceleration of events which will force the process. I also expect pressures on food and water, serious shortages during the next year. Then I expect that the Euromissiles negotiations will become a big point on this question, that the European allies increasingly will be unwilling to place these missiles on their soil unless the U.S. agrees to set up international disarmament negotiations. Then the entire question of inflation and defense budgets is going to accelerate the issue.

Q: Do you see a shift in the Reagan administration?

A: This is a test. We're looking to see how seriously this will shake people up. It may take more such incidents. Many countries are dependent on export of nuclear plants for jobs and may continue to insist on exporting. If we can cut defense budgets, there will be more money for other things [i.e., domestic reflation make-work] and that will help. The question is how long will it take, how many such events will it take, before people see our institutions are inadequate?