

## EIR Feature

# Is Bush courting a Middle East war and new oil crisis?

by Webster G. Tarpley

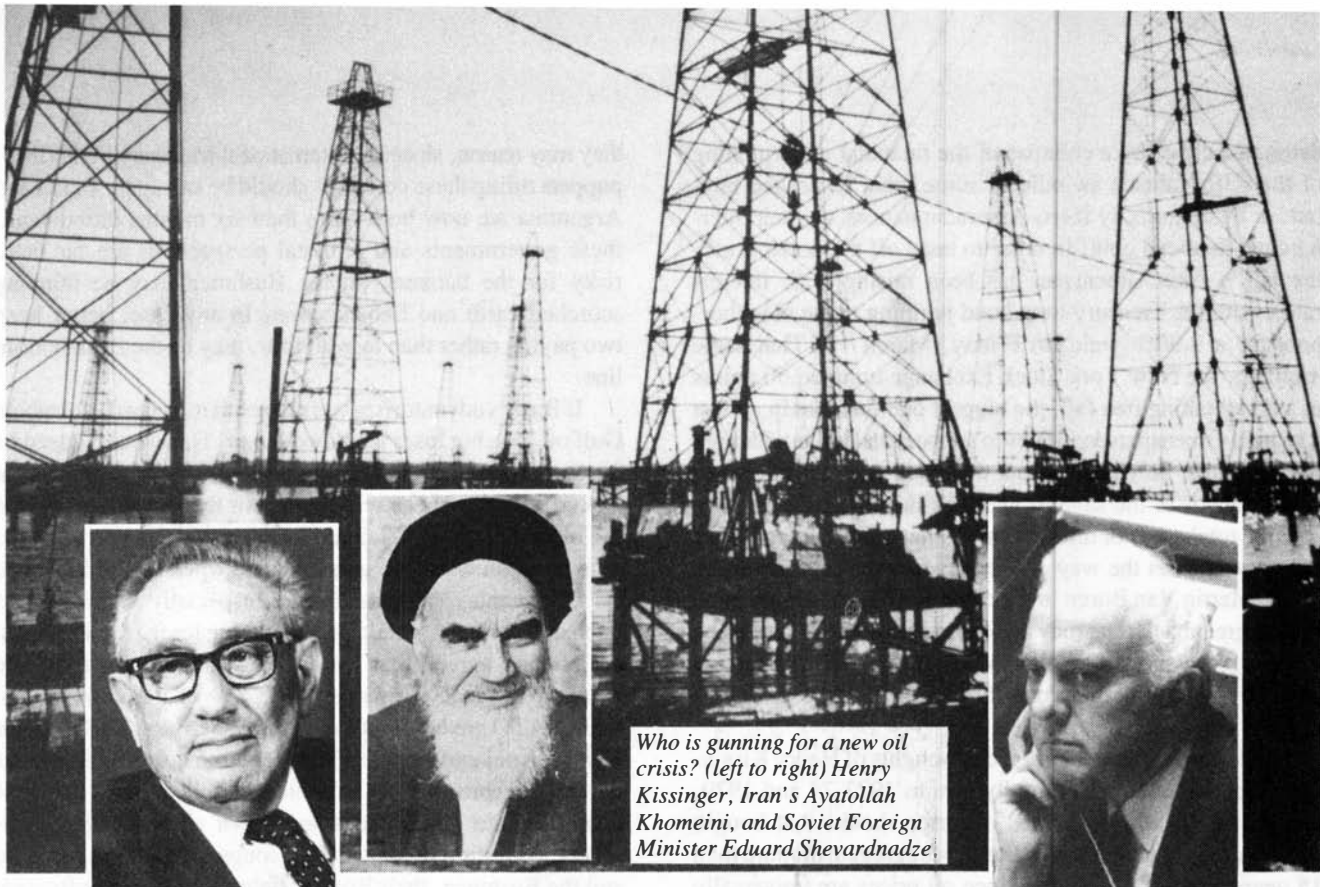
*The following analysis was released from Washington, D.C. on March 19, 1989.*

Is the Bush administration preparing a military attack on Iran, Libya, Syria, or other Middle East nations in a flight forward intended to cut off or destroy a significant part of the world's oil supply and drastically raise the dollar price of crude on world markets? A worldwide pattern of events monitored on Palm Sunday by *Executive Intelligence Review* suggests that such a move may be in the works. If the script does indeed call for a Middle East conflict and a new oil shock, it can be safely assumed that Henry Kissinger, the schemer behind the 1973 Yom Kippur War, is in the thick of things, through National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft and the State Department's number-two man Lawrence Eagleburger. Orchestrating new revelations of facts and inventions about Iranian and Libyan terrorism appear to be Henry's bosses at the British Secret Intelligence Service, MI-6. There are also indications that if a military action does come about, it will be conducted under the aegis of the British-American-Soviet condominium of world power-sharing, with the Soviets perhaps being granted a free hand to run amok on their own in such places as Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

London, needless to say, is playing a many-leveled game, providing findings designed to goad the United States into a military adventure, and preparing to cash in from a rise in the price of North Sea Brent, while also getting ready to play the anti-American card throughout the Arab and Islamic world.

### **Why the flight forward?**

Why should the Bush administration now be a candidate to launch an attack on Libya and Iran, with large-scale hostilities likely in the Gulf? The basic answer is, as part of a manic flight-forward fit of "American Century" megalomania designed to distract attention from the fiasco of the new President's first 60 days in office. The motivations of the British-manipulated Bush administration can be summed up under the following three headings:



1 — Politically, any regime confronted at home with crises that seem insoluble within the universe of discourse defined by its repertoire of approved methods, policies, and procedures is tempted to launch a diversion in the form of a foreign military adventure. In the case of Bush, the series of debacles that have studded the new administration's debut have already partially wrecked the Bush-CIA gameplan of setting up an imposing, authoritarian regime capable of riding roughshod over the Washington bureaucracy, the Congress, trade unions, and popular resistance to austerity. Bush's dictatorial aspirations have been frustrated by the congressional defeat of the Tower nomination. The diplomacy of the President and his secretary of state in Europe and Asia has been marred by many reverses. The President's budget has failed to satisfy the austerity demands of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) crowd, and Treasury Secretary Brady's maladroit handling of the savings and loan crisis and the international debt crisis—centered for the moment in Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil, and other Ibero-American nations—has caused alarm in the City of London and in other financial centers: "Bush Bumbles" was the epigrammatic headline of Evelyn Rothschild's London *Economist*. The first days of Bush are increasingly compared to the last days of Carter. Bush's Hundred Days are looking less and less like Franklin D. Roosevelt's and more and more like Napoleon's—at the end of which the Emperor was sent into exile at St. Helena and disappeared from history forever.

The political reckoning involved in an attack on Libya and/or Iran is made more attractive by the Salman Rushdie

*The Satanic Verses* affair, a certified joint provocation by the KGB and MI-6 (see article, below), which has whetted the general public against Khomeini and specifically locked large parts of the left wing and other intellectuals into an anti-Khomeini, anti-Islamic stance. Inside the United States, a hit against Khomeini would be popular, especially in the light of reports now surfacing on the 1988 Lockerbie, 1985 Gander, and 1980 Itavia airplane disasters. From Bush's point of view, military action in the Middle East and an oil crisis would have the added benefit of greatly increasing the role of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and its related apparatus. The powers of the FEMA-Continuity of Government "creeping coup" apparatus would increase even further if Bush were to declare a state of national emergency, as Truman did in late 1950, during the Korean War, to say nothing of what would happen if the Congress were to declare war. In either case, Kissinger's stooges and certain CIA types would see to it that very little in the way of human rights and political rights would remain in force.

2 — Financially, despite the extraordinary support coming from certain Tokyo financiers, the U.S. dollar is approaching the end of its tether. In other words, the long-awaited second crash, announced by Black Monday in October 1987, is now upon us. London and Zurich insiders have been expecting a cataclysmic drop in the dollar sometime very soon, with predictions varying from right away to sometime a month or two after the July 14 Paris conference of the Group of Seven industrialized nations. These same sources have ventured the prediction that the dollar crash would be

detonated either by a collapse of the financial underpinning of the RJR Nabisco swindle or some other leveraged buy-out, or by defaults by Ibero-American nations on their international financial debt. In order to head off the dollar crash, the BIS's Alan Greenspan has been raising U.S. interest rates, with the Treasury long bond jumping to the neighborhood of a 9.30% yield on Friday, March 17. That same morning, the New York Stock Exchange tumbled 50 points in a breathtaking free fall, the biggest one-day loss in almost a year. If Greenspan continues to support the dollar with high interest rates, he will blow out the stock markets, blow out what remains of the savings and loan institutions, and detonate the total crisis of the system. At that point, George Bush definitively goes the way of Herbert Hoover or, to be more exact, Martin Van Buren in the crash of 1837. The only hope for the greenback thus may appear to the White House to be a quick fix by way of an oil shock, entailing the destruction or interruption of perhaps one-third of the world's daily output.

Under such circumstances, the thoughts of Henry Kissinger's London controllers fondly turn to 1973-74 and 1979, the two artificially concocted oil price shocks that bought their international financial system an aggregate of more than 15 years of extra longevity. Since oil prices are universally quoted and paid in dollars, the moribund greenback would be the short-term beneficiary of a big hike in the Rotterdam spot price. And indeed, the futures prices of West Texas Intermediate, North Sea Brent, and other grades have been levitating upwards in recent days, as if the markets were anticipating something that would drive the prices up. If prices go up, the British would benefit from their North Sea fields. The Soviets would benefit greatly, since the inability of their export crude to command hard currency on world markets of late has much exacerbated their internal economic breakdown. The Soviets also agree with the idea of wiping out a large part of the Arab world and Iran; this is the essence of their Middle East policy.

And Texas would benefit, with higher oil prices being greeted by Jim Wright, James Baker, Lloyd Bentsen, and other Texas fast-buck political heavies—a point that is also not lost on Bush. Tiny Rowland, Armand Hammer, and others like dearer oil. The New Yalta condominium has no use for cheap crude.

In Ibero-America, a jump in the oil price would mean a flow of dollars into the coffers of Mexico and Venezuela, increasing the ability of these two nations to meet their payments to the New York banks. There are indications that Bush league strategists regard it as imperative to prevent a Venezuela-style insurrection from gripping Mexico, and that they may think they can reach their goal through this stratagem, while also restoring to Venezuela some ability to pay. Of course, expensive oil would spell instant national bankruptcy for Brazil and Argentina, which the Bushmen see as further away. Better to keep Mexico and Venezuela paying,

they may reason, since the International Monetary Fund (IMF) puppets ruling these countries should be salvaged. Brazil and Argentina are now both more than six months into default; these governments and political perspectives are far more risky for the bankers, so the Bushmen may be thinking scorched earth and Lebanization. In any case, better keep two paying rather than lose all four, may be the Bush bottom line.

If Bush's adventurism were to result in a cutoff of Arabian Gulf oil, one big loser would be Japan. This would indeed be a treacherous way for Bush to reward certain gentlemen in Tokyo who have been willing to pour their good money into the black hole of the U.S. dollar over the past year, and the rage in Japan would be indescribable when the oil bill came in. Continental Western Europe, especially Germany and nuclear-poor Italy, would be another big loser. The Bushmen are already agreed that Europe is to be cut adrift and the Atlantic Alliance terminated. The CIA is destabilizing the main NATO governments, especially Germany's Chancellor Helmut Kohl and France's President François Mitterrand, as part of the process; an oil shock would precipitate these countries into chaos and bring down all existing governments, conjuring up quite a few coups d'état. That seems to suit the Bushmen, their British controllers, and their Russian partners just fine.

Other parts of the world, including most of Africa and many developing nations, would simply cease to exist. Since energy costs are a main component of farming, a hike in the oil price would guarantee that the food crisis of 1989 would become even more severe. Some aspects of this situation are treated in a recent study issued by the United Nations International Labor Organization in Geneva. This report concludes that Middle East instability makes conflict in that region likely, leading to an oil cutoff. The report then explores the consequences in terms of forced austerity, food rationing, and authoritarian crisis management.

3 — Politically, Bush is confronted by the imminent blowup of the Tower-Muskie-Scowcroft, Inouye-Hamilton-Cheney-Rudman, and Thornburgh Irangate coverups. Recent signals in the British, Israeli, Austrian, and other European media indicate that Irangate will re-detonate as Bushgate within a few weeks at most. Bush's role as the overlord of all Reagan-era covert operations through his leadership of the White House Special Situation Group and Crisis Pre-Planning Group is so notorious that circles around the Democratic National Committee, Clark Clifford, Katharine Graham, and others are boasting that they can use Iran-Contra blackmail to force Bush to do whatever they command under the threat of swift impeachment. There are those around the Democratic National Committee who would like to make this situation into a permanent arrangement, but this is unlikely. Blackmail leads ineluctably to escalated extortion by the blackmailer, and then to the attempt of the blackmailee to eliminate the blackmailer when the extortion becomes intolerable.

erable. The one way Bush might hope to suppress the dirty story of Irangate is by war. As long as he is bombing Iranian and Libyan oil fields, the press will pay scant attention to the past arms deliveries to these countries, and this could be backed up by de facto wartime censorship. In effect, Bush may be plotting the biggest obstruction of justice in all history: to wipe out the proof of his leading role in Irangate by flattening the entire nation of Iran.

Intelligence sources close to NATO intelligence in southern Europe confirm that something big in the way of military conflict and oil shock is now in the works. They compare what is being planned to a "new Pearl Harbor," and recall that Pearl Harbor was itself a setup by Roosevelt, the result of the manipulation of Japan, and intended in turn to produce certain policy changes inside the United States. Something along these lines, these sources say, is intended by the schemers behind the looming event.

In terms of the immediate buildup to a military move, it is clear that someone has decided to "solve" a series of airplane disasters, to solve them all at once, and to solve them in a way that targets Iran, Libya, and possibly Syria as incorrigible terrorists. Of course, all these governments are terrorist; it is possible, but not yet proven, that one or all of them blew up the airplanes in question. Even in the (unlikely) event that all charges brought forward now were strictly true, we would nevertheless be obliged to detect a blatant pattern of hyping public opinion, especially by Anglo-American sources, in a way that points unmistakably towards military retaliation against the countries that are now suddenly fingered. In general, any account of such terrorism that does not prominently feature the U.S.S.R. is highly suspect.

## A spate of revelations

What to make, therefore, of the chaotic pattern of revelations being issued from London on the forces behind the explosion of the Pan Am jet last Dec. 21 in the skies above Lockerbie, Scotland? On Friday, March 17, a number of London papers quoted "senior government sources" in asserting that the identity of the bomber or bombers would be revealed within a week. Other British sources have alleged that one of the terrorists has already been arrested, probably in Germany, although the German BKA denies this. The story is being hyped suspiciously by such intelligence-connected broadcasters as Pierre Salinger of ABC News. One Tory MP has accused "hysterical Americans" of wanting to use the handling of the case by Transport Minister Paul Channon as a club against Mrs. Thatcher. Channon's BBC interviews have indeed betrayed great agitation. But the Lord Advocate of Scotland, Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, has dismissed the reports that terrorists have been identified as "wild and irresponsible speculation," while a source at Scotland Yard quoted in the London *Observer* of March 19 wonders out loud: "I don't know what the politicians are playing at."

They are playing at something. The London *Sunday Ex-*

*press* of March 19 claims to have information according to which West German detectives are allegedly searching for a Libyan terrorist known as "the Professor." According to this account, the Professor constructed a bomb hidden in a radio cassette recorder which blew up Pan Am Flight 103. He is said to have been in Bonn, Germany from Dec. 13 on, leaving the country on Jan. 6. Above all, he is alleged to have worked out of the Iranian Embassy in Bonn with the help of Iranian diplomats. According to the *Sunday Express*, the FBI confirms that the Germans are looking for "the Professor."

At the same time, the Canadian Transport Department has leaked a report that challenges the official explanation of the crash of an aircraft at Gander, Newfoundland, in December 1985, which killed 248 U.S. servicemen. The Canadian Aviation Safety Board had concluded that the crash was due to icing on the wings, but the new version says that no satisfactory explanation has been found. This opens the way for attributing the crash to terrorism—perhaps Iranian and Libyan terrorism.

At the same time, even the U.S. press is suddenly very interested in the mysterious mid-air explosion over the Mediterranean of a DC-9 of the now-defunct Italian airline Itavia in June of 1980. An Italian investigating magistrate, Vittorio Bucarelli, has received a report from a panel of six experts that asserts that the plane was most likely destroyed by a missile. Over the years, Italian press accounts have raised the possibility that the plane was downed by a missile, and that the missile was fired by a Libyan, American, or French military aircraft. Here is another incident that could be attributed very soon.

Part of the same pattern is also the explosive device placed in the vehicle driven by the wife of Captain Will Rogers of the *USS Vincennes* in San Diego, with strong indications of Iranian responsibility. Together with this must be seen the strange remarks of the FBI's Buck Revell before Congress.

In the midst of all the attention for Libya, there is the attention of the London papers for a certain Miss Pamela Bordes, employed as a researcher at the British House of Commons. Miss Bordes, a former Miss India, has stated that her sexual liaisons with various figures could bring down the government, and she is being widely compared to Christine Keeler, the prostitute who was shared by U.K. Defense Minister Profumo and the Soviet military attaché. Miss Keeler's activities led to the resignation of Profumo and to the fall of the Macmillan government in 1963-64. Miss Bordes has been linked to British MPs, editors of the *Sunday Times* and the *Observer*, the British sports minister, and also flew frequently to Paris to meet with Col. Ahmed Gadaff al Daim of Libyan military intelligence, a cousin and clansman of the Libyan dictator. Interestingly, Miss Bordes has also been linked to one Paul Halloran, a journalist for the British leak sheet *Private Eye*. Halloran has been linked to Iran gun-running in cahoots with Hoiward and Tucker in the Aspin case (see *Investigation*).

## The curious case of Pamela Bordes

by Mark Burdman

What began March 12-13 as a sizzling British sex scandal reminiscent of the Christine Keeler-Profumo affair that helped bring down Britain's Conservative government in 1963-64, has rapidly been transformed into a scandal of an entirely different sort: New light is shed on the "Iran-gate complex" of Anglo-American intelligence.

Miss Bordes's reported connections involve Irangate figure Adnan Khashoggi of Saudi Arabia, and a journalist in London, Paul Halloran of *Private Eye*, an associate of U.S. intelligence operative Gary Howard. Howard's collaboration with the circles of then-Vice President Bush in operations against the jailed Lyndon LaRouche is one of the time bombs now ticking in American politics.

On March 12, London's *News of the World* tabloid revealed that Bordes, who had been a House of Commons research assistant with security clearance since October 1988, was actually a high-priced call girl, who had evidently managed to sell her services to much of the City of London. The affair quickly threatened to cause embarrassment to a lot of people, including newspaper editors, politicians, and the like. Pamela herself told the tabloid

*The Sport* a few days later, "The city would grind to a standstill if I spoke out"—in exchange for a million pounds-sterling. She said her revelations could make the Profumo scandal look like a "teddy bear's picnic."

But on March 16, the story took an entirely different twist. The *London Evening Standard* made the sensational revelation that since September 1988, Miss Bordes had been an associate of Ahmed Qaddafi, a major in Libyan intelligence, cousin of Muammar Qaddafi, and brother of Said Qaddafi, the reputed head of Libyan intelligence. On March 23, the *Daily Mail* reported front-page that the director general of Britain's MI-5 intelligence service had "confirmed a link between Pamela Bordes and one of Colonel Qaddafi's closest aides. . . . He is a key figure at the centre of a web of international arms dealers and, with his elder brother Said, is implicated by security sources in a wave of terrorist activity."

The March 21 *Times* of London reported front-page that Ahmed Qaddafi is "thought by Britain's spymasters to be behind Libya's arms shipments to the Irish Republican Army." In early March, revelations in the British press said that 200 Members of Parliament were on a special hit list of the IRA.

How, leading British officials are now asking, could an "associate" of Ahmed Qaddafi have gotten security clearance in the British Parliament?

It now appears impossible to figure out the roots of the Bordes affair without turning to the shadowy world of intelligence operations, precisely of the sort for which Irangate is the model.

There are numerous other signs that something big is in the air. It was presumably not to make small talk that Syrian President Hafez Assad paid an extraordinary three-day visit to Qaddafi in Bengazi, where they were joined by Syrian Vice President Khaddam and the Libyan number two, Jalloud.

### War warnings from Moscow

The plot thickens further when we turn our attention to Moscow. Soviet spokesmen over recent days have been talking of war and the danger of war more openly than at any time since the Reykjavik summit. But then, in the last fortnight: Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze warned of the danger of a Middle East war and a worldwide nuclear conflagration growing out of it. Soviet Chief of Staff General Moiseyev has warned his own troops that NATO's aggressive intentions and doctrine mean that the danger of war is real. (Interestingly, at the same time, the General Inspector of the Federal German Armed Forces, Adm. Dieter Wellershoff, has publicly certified that the Soviet threat to Central Europe is undiminished and acute.) And then, Soviet First Deputy

Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov, the Russian ambassador to Kabul, has declared that a new regional war, between Pakistan and Afghanistan, has already started. With the mutual expulsion of military attachés by the United States and the U.S.S.R., and the arrest in Moscow of *glasnost* hero Grigoriants, the Soviets are in an ugly mood.

Knowledgeable observers of the mid-March Soviet enlarged Central Committee meeting are convinced that the full agenda of that meeting has not yet been revealed. Kremlinologists monitoring Soviet television report that the Central Committee meeting in question was attended by the commanders of all Soviet military districts, meaning that for the first time in living memory the entire Soviet military command was gathered in one place, in Moscow. TASS had also reported on March 15 that Gorbachov also met with a group of Soviet ambassadors, with the names of those attending and the agenda of the meeting not otherwise specified.

The Christian Democratic member of the German Bundestag Jürgen Todenhöfer has announced that the Soviets have kept over 10,000 troops in Afghanistan. The Wakhan Corridor especially is reported to be bristling with Soviet

On March 19, the *Sunday Times* reported that Ahmed Qaddafi had been a business partner of Tiny Rowland in 1981-83, heading a company called Tradewinds, which was a subsidiary (until it was disbanded in 1986) of Rowland's Lonrho PLC conglomerate. Rowland has been involved in Iran arms deals during recent years, both in association with Irangate conspirator Adnan Khashoggi and in other ways. As recently as January of this year, he made a secret trip to Teheran, accompanied by Donald Trelford, the editor of the Rowland-owned *Observer* Sunday weekly. British newspapers showed photographs of Pamela Bordes holding hands with Trelford.

On the same March 19, the *Times of India* added another twist to the story, reporting that she had been used as a go-between with the Iranians by Khashoggi, as part of the U.S.-funded covert scheme to arm the Contra insurgents in Nicaragua. The *Times of India* also reported her involvement with a strange India guru named Chandraswami and with the Sultan of Brunei, both of whom have also been conspirators in the Irangate complex of events. Chandraswami is close to Rowland.

Of all the Irangate links, the most interesting is perhaps her association with Paul Halloran of *Private Eye*. It was *Private Eye* that first gave Bordes notoriety, with leaks in late 1988 about seedy aspects of her months-long affair with Andrew Neill, editor of the *Sunday Times* of London. Pamela was invited to the 1988 *Private Eye* Christmas Party. A column in a March 1989 edition of the biweekly, evidently written by Halloran, called Bordes "my protégé." The London *Guardian* of March 21 traces

the beginnings of the sensational Bordes saga to her attendance at that Christmas party.

One story circulating in London, is that Halloran has wanted to collect dirt on her relationship to Neill, to get back at Neill for the *Sunday Times*' April 1988 exposé of Halloran's links, dating back to the early 1980s, to U.S. intelligence operative Gary Howard. Howard was in liaison with C. Boyden Gray, counsel to then-Vice President George Bush, on matters pertaining to Irangate and to efforts to infiltrate organizations associated with Lyndon LaRouche. When Howard's relations to Gray and Bush's office began to be made public in March 1988 in the U.S. government's prosecution in Boston against LaRouche and several associates, that prosecution fell apart.

In another case in London during the spring of 1988, a British gun-runner, Michael Aspin, who was accused of fraudulent Iran arms dealings, claimed in his defense that he was acting on the basis of promises of U.S. government support for what he was doing. These promises, Aspin documented in court, were made by Howard. This defense was denied, and Aspin is now sitting in jail. Some believe that there was high-level political intervention into the case, either from the Thatcher government or the Reagan-Bush administration, to prevent any revelations that might have damaged Bush's electoral chances.

In any case, the threads on the Pamela Bordes story lead to some very interesting places. Some British investigative journalists wonder why she was invited to the American embassy on election night in November 1988 to celebrate the victory of George Bush.

military might (see *EIR*, March 24, 1989). One country that might be in the Soviet range-finder, Pakistan, continues in the throes of severe destabilization, with martial law declared in Karachi after a dozen people were killed by snipers.

In the Middle East, Israeli military spokesmen have been restating their longstanding policy of preventive war to avoid a defensive war of attrition that Israel feels it cannot win. For the first time in many years, guerrillas of the Abu Moussa organization have attacked Israel by way of Jordan. When these Palestinians were later captured by the Jordanians, Amman was faced with an ultimatum from Israeli Defense Minister Rabin to punish them severely, and an ultimatum from Damascus warning Jordan not to punish the guerrillas at all. In Lebanon, Christian militia and elements of the Armée Libanaise have adopted a policy of defiance toward the superior Syrian forces, a policy which makes no sense in military terms and which must have a farther-reaching goal.

Whatever Kissinger may be aiming at, he undoubtedly is arguing that he and his British masters have a "deal" with Moscow to cover all the eventualities. Kissinger thinks that a Middle East war and a new oil crisis could still be managed,

as they were in 1973-74. But even back then, the game almost went out of control. Numerous transformations of historical phase-space now separate us from the world of 1973. The world has become hyper-unstable. Whatever secret protocols may have been exchanged among London, Wall Street, and the Kremlin, they will become scrap paper shortly after the guns begin to shoot. The forces likely to be set into motion by the various scenarios on the Foreign Office tables lead through various singularities to outcomes that are wholly incalculable. The schemers are more than likely to be hoisted with their own petard.

Coming days will cast more light on what these signs of the times point to. But whatever evil design Kissinger, London, and Moscow are concocting, it is safe to say that they feel free to pursue it in large part because Lyndon H. LaRouche is jailed in Alexandria, Virginia. That ought to spur on all those who would be the losers if the plans outlined above ever come to pass—and that is to say the vast majority of the nations and people of the world—to redouble their efforts to free the leading American statesman of our time from the arrogant tyranny that holds him captive.