
Interview: Laith F. Shubeilat

'The United States is punishing Jordan'

Mr. Shubeilat is a member of the Jordanian Parliament and past president of the Jordanian Engineering Association. He was interviewed by telephone by Joseph Brewda on Dec. 15.

EIR: One of the little-known effects of the Anglo-American-imposed blockade of Iraq is great economic hardship in Jordan, since Iraq had been Jordan's major trading partner. How would you describe the situation?

Shubeilat: Jordan has been greatly dependent on Iraq economically since the beginning of the Iran-Iraq War, which had all the blessings and aid of the Americans and their allies. Many industries and companies were established, to start with, completely depending on the Iraqi market, i.e., the feasibility of most of our industries had the Iraqi market in their favor. Needless to add, Aqaba had become the main seaport for merchandise to and from Iraq, to the extent that our highways from Aqaba to the Iraqi borders had to have complete new capital investment after being destroyed by the extra heavy traffic they were subjected to. If you add to that perspective, the huge number of trailers and transport companies especially, established explicitly to serve the transit transport to and from Iraq, and the agricultural produce being exported to Iraq (and to the Gulf countries which boycotted our products due to our balanced political position), you can but conclude that our whole economic being is undermined heavily by the situation.

EIR: There are charges that the Anglo-Americans are imposing a de facto embargo on Jordan as punishment for your state's effort to prevent a war. What is your view?

Shubeilat: Yes, there is a complete Anglo-American-imposed blockade on Jordan, rising to the level of piracy, as it is not, in any way, based on international will or discussion. On the contrary, all U.N. reports show Jordan as completely abiding by the international embargo. The U.S. is punishing Jordan for its true feelings rejecting this embargo.

We are not punished for committing adultery, so to speak, but rather for refusing to call it marriage while abiding by its imposed practice!

The Anglo-Americans are out for war, applying a plan to invade the Gulf from long ago. Some references: General Eisenhower's memoirs, and ex-U.S. Ambassador Akins's article in the *Los Angeles Times* two months ago; not forgetting your articles and those of Mr. LaRouche weeks before

the Iraqi invasion, about the coming Mideast war and the conspiring to prepare a pretext. Kuwait was asked by the U.S. to exert unusual economic pressure on Iraq, which the latter described in the Baghdad Arab summit as a declaration of war, asking for interference by the Arabs to help in stopping this aggression. Moreover, Kuwait, always claimed by Iraq to be an Iraqi governate, took advantage of Iraq's engagement in the eight-year war to creep 75 kilometers further into Iraqi soil. This was confirmed by Mr. Edward Heath, who, as British foreign secretary, drew the original frontier lines.

Jordan is being punished for keeping its bridges open for use in a peaceful settlement which, if it takes place, will be due to the giant efforts and tremendous courage of our little state, whose bridge to Iraq, and hence peace, will be the only main bridge available and not blown up by mad warmongers.

We have been begging the world and international justice, so to speak, to apply U.N. resolutions securing the withdrawal of the Zionists from our lands for several decades. But instead, the colonialization of our lands, against all international laws and human principles, has been going on under the eyes of the international community, and the U.N. Security Council is refusing to pass resolutions even to investigate the terrible conditions of occupation, thus protecting the aggression against Arabs and robbery of their lands. At the same time, the U.S. is driving the U.N. to take the whole world into war for the Iraqi Arabs' aggression against their Kuwaiti Arab neighbors, showing typical U.S. double standards when issues touch its interests or the interests of its pet monster Israel.

EIR: What do you see as Israel's policy toward Jordan and the region in this period? Do you think an Israeli effort to carry out the "transfer" of large numbers of Palestinians on the West Bank to Jordan or some other Arab states is imminent?

Shubeilat: Israeli policy toward Jordan is geared toward eventually occupying it for expansion; that's why the Sykes-Picot conspiracy [the World War I-era British-French secret treaty carving up the Ottoman Empire, then including Arab lands] created a poor Jordan, without resources and with the longest frontiers, next to the Jewish state. After digesting Palestine, the little pet monster will swallow Jordan. However, in the meantime, with the pouring of hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews into Israel, Israel fears that the occupation of Jordan will not be swallowed easily, as the Intifada [Palestinian uprising] will gain strength from the Jordanian people, while the Israelis will have a larger area to defend and handle. The transfer of the Intifada into Jordan is the better solution for them, via transferring huge numbers of Arab Palestinians into Jordan, creating trouble in Jordan to further help prepare the ground for a forthcoming expansion. I think the transfer plan is imminent.