

Israel is prepared for new wars

by Joseph Brewda

Within days of the Feb. 27 cease-fire in the Gulf war, the formerly “restrained” Israel was set on a course toward war, including a final showdown with its Palestinian population. The elimination of Iraq as a military power, and perhaps even as a sovereign nation, has left Israel and Syria as the sole remaining regional powers. This vacuum has left Jordan and the Palestinians, which politically allied with Iraq, particularly vulnerable.

That Syria might itself be a new target was indicated on March 10, when Israeli Housing Minister Gen. Ariel Sharon appeared on Israeli television to threaten that “people are talking about peace with Syria, but it is loaded with new Scud missiles.” Sharon is the strongman of the current Israeli cabinet.

On March 6, President George Bush outlined to a joint session of Congress “new security arrangements” which would make U.S. occupation of the Persian Gulf permanent. In the same address, in an apparent sop to the Arabs, Bush also talked about a “new initiative” for Arab-Israeli peace. He even referenced U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338, which call upon Israel to withdraw from the Occupied Territories that it has held since 1967. There is no danger that that initiative will succeed, any more than any of the others—as the Bush administration well knows.

A new ‘bantustan’

Arriving in Israel on March 11, Secretary of State James Baker reportedly briefed Israeli officials on the “new thinking” he had supposedly found among Arab nations on the question of peace with Israel. Following his discussion with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy that day, Baker told the press that he was merely in Israel “to listen, to cajole, to plead” for peace, including the exchange of land for peace.

For his part, Levy said the option for peace is still “open,” but only if the Palestinians accept the so-called 1989 Shamir Plan. This plan, better termed a provocation, provides for “limited self-rule,” and only led by Palestinians who have never belonged to the Palestine Liberation Organization. “Limited self-rule” includes the Palestinians’ control over their post offices and sewage system. It does not give them the right to an army or even a police force, the right to make treaties with nations other than Israel, or even, as State Department asset and World Zionist Congress Vice President

Arthur Herzberg stated in the March 9 *New York Times*, the right to control their own immigration policy. None of the 2 million Palestinians living outside the territories will be allowed to return.

Levy had himself earlier told French radio that such “self-rule” would never mean an actually sovereign state. “Imagine a Palestinian state in Judea and Samaria [the Israeli term for the West Bank]! It would mean the end of Israel.”

Other Israeli spokesmen were more frank, even to the extent of rejecting the notion of “self-rule” altogether. One such is Agriculture Minister Rafael Eytan—who has publicly compared Palestinians to “cockroaches.” In an Israeli radio interview on March 8, Eytan ranted that Arabs are “incapable of making peace with us,” and that what Bush has called for—land for peace—means “the destruction of the State of Israel.”

Another example is Knesset member Geula Cohen, who said on March 10 that the “go-ahead” for the stabbing deaths of four Israeli Jews by an Arab assailant earlier that day had been “given by President Bush in his remarks about land for peace.” Cohen, who has been closely associated with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir since both were leaders during the 1940s of the Zionist terrorist Stern gang, called for a “cleanup operation” against the Arabs.

On March 9, the Israeli government released documents showing that it is planning to build housing units for 88,000 incoming Soviet Jews in the Occupied Territories, even though it had earlier promised Washington that it would never house these immigrants there.

Such defiant talk serves U.S. disinformation purposes quite well, notably the claim that Israel cannot be controlled by the United States, or even that it controls Washington.

Carving up Jordan?

Yet despite such games, a Palestinian “entity” of sorts might be created. On March 13, Canadian oligarch Conrad Black authored an article in his *Financial Post* of Toronto entitled, “Everything Now in Place for a Pax Americana.” Black is the owner of Hollinger Corp.—which owns the *Jerusalem Post*—together with Henry Kissinger and Peter Lord Carrington.

Black writes, “This great triumph of international law, secured by American sword bearers upholding the escutcheon of the United Nations, should be completed by a serious peace offensive.” Since Black and company are the actual controllers of both the Bush and Shamir regimes, his words bear close attention. He adds, “A Palestinian entity, the timing and extent of whose sovereignty would be subject to discussion, should be carved largely from Jordan. Israel would happily yield Gaza and the eastern fringe of the West Bank.” And what about the Jordanian view of being so “carved up”? “Anglo-American patience with King Hussein, the world’s most accomplished chameleon, has been strained.”