

Now, it's the Zionist-Turkish lobby

by Joseph Brewda

"The present policy of Germany corresponds to that of Hitler Germany." So said Turkish President Turgut Özal on March 29, after Germany suspended its arms sales to Turkey in protest of the use of those arms in attacking Turkish and Iraqi Kurds. That same day, a cartoon in *Hurriyet*, a leading daily, depicted German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher with a swastika armband giving a Hitler salute, while *Sabah*, Turkey's largest newspaper, editorialized that "only a strong Turkey can prevent a German *Drang nach Osten*."

Simultaneous with this unprecedented attack, the U.S.-based World Jewish Congress denounced German Chancellor Kohl for meeting Austrian President Kurt Waldheim (see page 54), who the WJC and the U.S. government have claimed is a Nazi war criminal. At the same time, the Center for Security Policy, a Washington-based Zionist lobby group chaired by former Reagan-Bush Defense Department official Frank Gaffney, denounced Germany for cutting off Turkish military aid, for allegedly supporting the Kurdish terrorist PKK group, and for the Kohl-Waldheim meeting. "With friends like Germany, does Turkey need enemies? Bonn's arms cutoff amounts to support for terrorist PKK," the headline of one of Gaffney's statements read. The group had earlier claimed that German exports built the Iraqi military machine that threatened Israel.

This propaganda barrage is all the more curious, because a coordinated Turkish/Israeli war against Syria, allegedly because of its support for Kurdish guerrillas, might be in the offing. Since 1989, and especially since the Gulf war, the Turkish and Israeli lobbies have worked closely together.

How it got set up

In 1989, Richard Perle, the former Reagan-Bush Defense Department assistant secretary, formed International Advisors, Inc. (IAI), whose sole task is "to assist in the efforts for appropriation of U.S. military and economic assistance" to Turkey, according to its own statement filed with the Department of Justice. Perle had known Özal since at least 1983, when Özal came to power as Turkish prime minister. After leaving government in 1987, Perle flew to Ankara to propose that Turkey create an organization detailed to lobby the U.S. Congress on military appropriations concerns. According to Turkish sources, Perle pointed to the efficiency of the Zionist

lobby as a model for Turkey. He should know. In 1970, Perle was caught on a National Security Council wiretap giving classified information to the Israeli Embassy in Washington; in 1978, his long-time associate Stephen Bryen was the subject of a Justice Department investigation for similar reasons, although no indictments were issued to either man. Both are associated with networks that sponsored and protected convicted Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard.

Partners in Perle's firm, which receives \$875,000 a year to lobby for Turkey, include Morris Amitay, the former executive director of the American Israeli Policy Action Committee (AIPAC), Israel's unofficial lobby organization in Washington. Other partners include Mark Feldman, the former deputy legal adviser of the State Department under Judge Abraham Sofaer, the official who "bungled" the Pollard case. Douglas Feith and Michael Mobbs, two former underlings of Perle at the Pentagon, are also partners. All of the firm's partners are advisory board members of the Center for Security Policy, which is now leading the charge against Germany. The director of that organization, Gaffney, is another former Perle aide.

Turkish sources say that Paul Henze, the former CIA station chief in Ankara and now at Stanford Research Institute, and Heath Lowery, reportedly the former CIA section chief in Istanbul under Henze, who now heads the Washington-based Institute on Turkish Affairs, work closely with Perle, as does Rep. Steven Solarz (D-N.Y.).

The Pentagon sponsor

The main interface between the U.S. and Turkish military and corporate establishments has been the American Turkish Friendship Council (formerly known as the American Friends of Turkey). Perle, Solarz, Henze, and Lowery have all sat on its board. The group serves as a conduit for U.S. orders to Turkey. It is here, Turkish sources say, that Turkey was told to deepen its relations with Israel. Key board members include Morton Abramowitz, who retired as ambassador to Turkey this past year, and had previously served as the chief of State Department intelligence; and Robert Strausz-Hupé, who as ambassador to Ankara in 1983, reportedly selected Özal as the new prime minister, according to an acknowledgement note by Özal later leaked to the Turkish press. Former U.S. Attorney General Elliot Richardson, whose clients have been key to the arms trade with Iran, and Princeton professor Bernard Lewis, the architect of the "Arc of Crisis" strategy of encouraging wars and revolutions throughout western Asia and the Middle East, are also key figures.

It was at the council's 1989 annual conference that Gen. James Vaught, the former head of U.S. forces in Turkey, proposed that U.S. ground troops be stationed there, to free up the Turks to deal with Iraq and Syria. The first phase is now complete; the second might soon begin—with the aid of Israel.