

Turkey is being set up, temporarily, as the new regional strongman

by Joseph Brewda

The Bush administration's rapid policy shift toward active intervention against Serbia, not only means that Secretary of State James Baker is in the process of double-crossing his Serbian friends; it means that Turkey is being set up for a similar fate. For just as U.S. establishment circles are feverishly moving to build up Turkey as a new regional strongman, all the ingredients are coming into place for drawing Turkey into what could easily devolve into a suicidal Turkish-Iranian, or even a Turkish-Russian war, around any number of erupting crises (**Figure 1**).

Three days before Baker and the Anglo-American press suddenly threatened military action against Serbia, several retired and active CIA, U.S. State Department, and Pentagon officials announced the policy shift at a May 19 conference of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of B'nai B'rith. "A new Desert Storm must take place to stop Serbian dictator Milosevic," former U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Robert Neumann told the two dozen participants, denouncing Europe for having failed to act.

Others at the event called for similar actions against Armenia, whose conflict with Azerbaijan was compared with Serbian slaughter of Croats and Bosnians—a highly misleading comparison. In fact, the Serbian invasion of the former Yugoslavian states, and the developing war between Armenia and Azerbaijan, were both deliberately provoked by the Anglo-Americans and Russia.

"The U.S. must either accept its status as the sole remaining superpower or face disorders of the type which led to World War I," Heath Lowery, director of the Institute of Turkish Affairs and reportedly former CIA section chief in Istanbul, insisted. Other speakers concurred that nationalism, irredentism, revanchism, and xenophobia were the worst threats that the West faced today, and if unchecked, would usher in a period comparable to that before or after World War I, or even to the Thirty Years' War which killed half of the German population in the 17th century. "Euphoria" over the collapse of communism, was repeatedly denounced from the podium, while dispassionate analysis and even pessimism was praised.

But just three days before the ADL conference, on May 16, Lowery sang a different tune when chairing the founding conference of the World Turkish Congress in New York City. There, 300 participants were whipped up by speakers who lay claim to former Soviet Central Asia, the Balkans, the Caucasus, and Arabia, and were warned that Turks faced slaughter by Armenians and Slavs of all varieties. Maps were circulated defining "Turkestan" as carved out of the former Soviet Union, including not only all the former Soviet Turkic republics, but also Tajikistan, which is ethnic Persian, as well as "Uighurstan," better known as Xinjiang province of the People's Republic of China. Even Kazan, the former headquarters of the Mongols, which was conquered by the Russians in the 16th century and which is only 500 miles from Moscow, was claimed.

Lowery's two-faced behavior is entirely consistent with how his crowd plans to manipulate Turkey.

A permanent Desert Storm

In his opening remarks to the ADL conference, which he chaired, Yonah Alexander, research director of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), piously warned against the nationalist revival which followed the collapse of communism. Setting the theme for the conference, which was entitled "Ethnic, Religious, and Racial Intolerance in the Post-Cold War World," Alexander warned that the post-imperial disintegration of the U.S.S.R., nationalist wars of the sort seen in former Yugoslavia, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, the violation of human rights, all represent grave threats to the West that demand action.

Alexander was followed by Ambassador Richard Schifter, the former U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state in charge of human rights, who railed against uniform support for self-determination in the Balkans, the Caucasus, or elsewhere. Hungary, for example, he said, is making new demands to redraw the map with Romania to restore its old territory, much as Hitler had decreed that Romanian territory be restored to Hungary. Serbia has demanded enclaves in

FIGURE 1

Wars and potential wars involving Turkey



Croatia. Countries like Nigeria, Liberia, Sudan, Burundi, Uganda, India, Burma, and Peru, he argued, systematically suppress minority rights in their lands. Such nations must follow the positive example of Switzerland, which guarantees minority rights. The world must not allow one Serbian combat plane to get off the ground, to set an example to the rest of the world, he concluded.

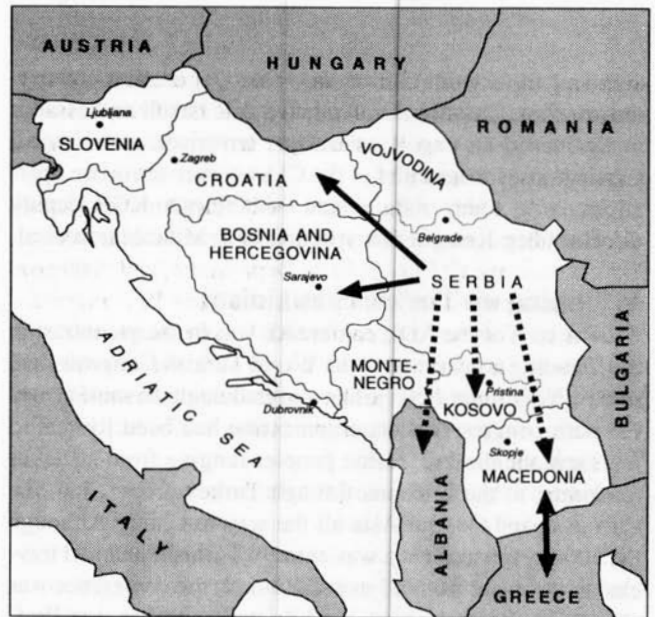
Heath Lowery continued on the theme, claiming that the Serbian assault against the Muslim Bosnians is merely the continuation of a 400-year drive to eliminate the presence of the Turks and Muslims in Europe, and that the Armenian conflict with Muslim Azerbaijan represents a more recent drive to eliminate Turkish presence from the Caucasus. Lowery correctly projected a near-future Serbian invasion of Kosovo province, which is ethnically Albanian, followed by an invasion of Macedonia, and possibly even a Serbian war with Albania (Figure 2). All this, Lowery noted, would draw in other powers. He also warned of an Armenian annexation of disputed Nagorno-Karabakh, a region of Azerbaijan, followed by an assault on Nakhichevan, also part of Azerbaijan (Figure 3). Such wars demand U.S. intervention, he concluded.

Carl Gershman, the chairman of the National Endowment for Democracy, a National Security Council funding conduit with specialization in running coups, also denounced the expected Serbian intervention into Kosovo. He claimed that nations which do not respect human rights have no right to national independence, and strongly implied that in the new world order, the sovereignty of former colonies is reversible.

Alberto Coll, the deputy assistant secretary of defense in charge of special operations/low-intensity conflict, defined what the United States must do in the face of the supposed challenges addressed by earlier speakers. "Atavistic, xenophobic regimes can not be tolerated," Coll said, referencing Serbia. "The U.S. must intervene," he added, "but selectively," since the United States is not able to carry out more than two such operations at the same time.

FIGURE 2

The Balkan crisis



Coll claimed that separatist movements often threaten U.S. national security by overturning the balance of power of various regions, citing as an example separatist movements in Turkey and Czechoslovakia. Upgrading the interventionist role of a reorganized United Nations, is one way to proceed, he added, because it reduces U.S. political exposure.

Another way to intervene, he might as well have added, is to deploy client states such as Israel, and now Turkey (see box page 35).

Other speakers who elaborated on these themes included Penn Kemble of Freedom House, a reported CIA front; Ambassador Robert Oakley, the former ambassador to Paki-

FIGURE 3
The Caucasus crisis



stan and former director of the State Department counter-terror office; Shlomo Ben Ami, the first Israeli ambassador to Spain and an expert on Basque terrorism; and Vincent Cannistraro, former chief of the CIA counter-terrorism operations, who today runs a firm with former KGB deputy director Oleg Kalugin that specializes in Mideast terrorism.

Whipping up Turkic chauvinism

The tone of the ADL conference was in sharp contrast to the founding conference of the World Turkish Congress held in New York three days earlier—even though the same crowd ran both congresses. The organization had been formed to represent the diverse Turkic peoples ranging from enclaves remaining in the Balkans, through Turkey proper, into the Caucasus and Central Asia all the way to China. Although the 300-person audience was entirely Turkish, and had traveled to the event from all over the world, the conference was chaired by Heath Lowery, and its main speaker was Prof. Justin McCarthy, who, like Lowery, had served in Turkey with the Peace Corps, and has since gone on to be an expert in Turkish affairs.

The main theme of McCarthy's emotionally charged presentation was that since the 1750s, the Russians have used "exemplary terrorism" to drive the Turks out of the Caucasus and Europe, repeatedly inflicting genocide through forced migrations, especially through sponsoring Slavic and Armenian insurgencies. McCarthy warned that the same process is under way today, with the Armenians moving to slaughter Turks in Azerbaijan and the world doing nothing because they are Muslim. Meanwhile, the Turks and Muslims of Western Thrace (Greece), and the Turks of Bosnia face oppression or slaughter by the Greeks and Slavs, and the world does nothing. "The U.N. intervened to protect the Croatians,

but will nothing about the Bosnians, or the Azeri victims of Armenian aggression," McCarthy concluded, with the implicit message that the Turks must act to protect themselves.

Meanwhile, the Anglo-American press has been repeatedly warning of the danger of nuclear-armed Islamic fundamentalists of the Iranian variety dominating Central Asia, and has praised Turkey's secularism as an appropriate model. And unlike previous periods, the Anglo-American media now overtly supports Azerbaijan and Turkey, rather than Armenia. The Turks evidently think they have a deal with the Anglo-Americans.

Although most attention is now focused on the Balkans, a Turkish adventure in the Caucasus is probably the way in Turkey is being set up to fall. The Azeri region of Nakhichevan is run by Geidar Aliyev, the former Soviet deputy premier and KGB boss of the Caucasus. Even as a Soviet official, Aliyev had advocated a Soviet takeover of northern Iran, using the Azerbaijan claim to Iranian Azerbaijan as the mechanism. Azerbaijan's dominant party, the Azeri Popular Front, demands such "reunification."

Meanwhile, in Armenia, the dominant force behind the scenes is Serge Mikoyan, the KGB son of the decades-long Soviet intelligence chieftan Anastas Mikoyan. It was Serge Mikoyan and his allies who first lured Armenian nationalists into laying claim to Nagorno-Karabakh in 1987, in order to provoke an Azeri-Armenian war. Such demands are supported by Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Hovanesian, an attorney from Los Angeles who graduated from the Fletcher School of Diplomacy in Massachusetts, a favorite CIA recruiting ground. Edward Djerjian, the Armenian-American assistant secretary of state for Mideast affairs, is also involved in Caucasus intrigue, it is said.

How the Turkish-Israeli marriage was arranged

The new-found tactical alliance between Israel and Turkey was kicked off in New York City on April 27, at a gala celebration sponsored by the Quincentennial Foundation. The occasion was the celebration of the 500th anniversary of Sephardic (Spanish) Jews finding safe haven in the Turkish Ottoman empire. "For more than 500 years, the Jews of Turkey have lived peacefully in a land which is 99% Muslim," the literature of the foundation gushes. "Turkey is a historical example of people of differing creeds living harmoniously under one flag . . . a bridge between East and West."

Formed in 1989, the Quincentennial Foundation says it seeks to "foster understanding between Jews and Muslim" Turks, especially since the 20,000 members of the Turkish Jewish community continue to be a strong element in Turkish society, particularly banking and the news media.

A measure of the group's importance, was the presence Turkish President Turgut Özal at the April 27 event, in order to receive an award along with Turkish Prime Minister Suleiman Demirel, from the hands of former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

Target: Iraq, Syria, Iran . . .

According to the organizers of the celebration, the main purpose of the foundation has been to organize the Turkish-Israeli alignment, which first emerged publicly in the Gulf War against Iraq. Its objective is to foster an increasing strategic understanding between Turkey and Israel against such ostensibly common enemies as Syria, Arab terrorism, and Muslim fundamentalism, its officers report. A main focus is nuclear-armed Central Asia, which western propagandists claim is ripe for Iranian "fundamentalist" takeover. Syria and Iraq's alleged sponsorship of the Kurdish terrorism against Turkey and Arab terrorism against Israel, are also decried, with discussion centering on joint Israeli-Turkish military operations to eliminate Syria once and for all.

American activists in the foundation include Shoshana Cardin, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations; Howard Squadron, the former director of the American Jewish Congress; David Harris of the American Jewish Committee; Abraham Sofaer, the former counsel to the Reagan State Department; Anti-

Defamation League chairman Abraham Foxman; Stuart Eizenstat, the former top Carter aide; and Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.), an important Zionist lobby mouthpiece.

The Turkish Jews who formed the foundation, led by businessman Jak Kamhi, are largely drawn from the Turkish B'nai B'rith lodges. In August 1990, Kamhi led a delegation to an international convention of B'nai B'rith in Dallas, Texas which secured B'nai B'rith endorsement of the foundation, and a resolution praising Turkey for harboring Sephardic Jews. As the convention was going on, Israeli envoys such as former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres were meeting with Özal to plan Turkish-Israeli collaboration in the U.S.-led drive for war on Iraq.

Made in Washington

Among the foundation's main objectives, from a Turkish standpoint, has been to obtain the aid of the U.S. Zionist lobby in combatting Armenian propaganda against Turkey—a rather ambitious objective in that the Armenian lobby historically has worked very closely with the Zionist lobby. To that end, Heath Lowery, at a seminar following the recent gala, praised Ottoman policy toward the Jews, while American Jewish Committee operative George Gruen explained that the World War I Turkish slaughter of Armenians must be seen in the context of the Russian control of the Armenians.

The objective of the foundation from an Israeli and U.S. standpoint has been to rope in Turkey as an expendable, regional military instrument of the new world order. Simultaneous with the 1989 formation of the foundation, Turgut Özal hired former assistant secretary of defense Richard Perle to advise the Turkish government. Perle, who has frequently been accused of being an agent of the Mossad (the Israeli intelligence service), formed a firm called International Advisers, Inc. for this purpose, along with Morris Amitay, the former leader of the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee. Key figures in this network have been Zionist lobby mouthpiece Rep. Steven Solarz (D-N.Y.), and also former Perle aide Frank Gaffney, who recently has led a propaganda campaign against Germany for cutting off military aid to Turkey.

To ensure high-level mediation of this new relationship, senior Turkish officials associated with Özal joined the new foundation, including Fuat Bayramoglu, a former ambassador; Ogan Soysal, an Özal adviser also reportedly close to the U.S. government; Nezeit Demirkent, the owner of the newspaper *Dunya*; and Coskun Kirca, a former ambassador with reported close ties to the U.S. secret services.—*Joseph Brewda*