

Netanyahu's antics threaten Armageddon

by Joseph Brewda

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stepped up his British-sponsored campaign to provoke a new Arab-Israeli war, during his and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's trips to Washington during the week of Jan. 19. The visits had been sought by President Bill Clinton, in what the Palestinian Authority and the Egyptian government have separately termed a "last chance" to rescue the Oslo peace process. But, as expected, Netanyahu refused to make any meaningful concessions, and by so doing, has pushed the region further toward war.

In an effort to put the peace process back on track, President Clinton tried to coax and pressure Netanyahu to carry out the second phase of withdrawal from the Occupied Territories, as required by the Oslo Accords. That Netanyahu has no intention of complying with Clinton or the agreement, was made clear by a proclamation his cabinet issued on Jan. 13, a week before his trip. It stated that any further withdrawal on Israel's part, is conditional on the Palestinian Authority's "obligation to fight terrorism." It also demanded that the Palestinian Authority cut its police department by half.

Netanyahu was put in office in 1996, following the British-orchestrated murder of his predecessor, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the architect of the peace accords. Netanyahu has loyally followed his British patrons' demands that Oslo be overturned. President Clinton is visibly enraged at Netanyahu's sabotage, but is, so far, afraid to take on his London and New York backers, to force them to bring their dog to heel.

Netanyahu's latest stunt comes at a time when he continues to release Hamas terrorists from prison, while also attempting to provoke "Islamic" terrorist actions that would justify further provocations. For example: his government's leak to the press, that it intends to build 30,000 more housing units in the Occupied Territories, to vastly increase the size of the Jewish population living there (now totalling 150,000).

Not that popular in Israel

In commenting on such antics, the centrist Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* editorialized on Jan. 15 that the cabinet's decision to link Israel's withdrawal with Palestinian compliance with its demands, "proves that it has no intention of implementing the Oslo Accords, and carrying out the withdrawal that Benja-

min Netanyahu committed himself to at his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in December in Paris." The government's latest demands, it added, are "only a trick intended to buy time." What is clear, it warned, is that Netanyahu has made "a conscious decision to get off the Oslo train, no matter what the consequences of that decision might be."

Similarly, *Maariv*, another centrist daily, editorialized on Jan. 15 that the cabinet's decisions were simply meant to convey Netanyahu's message to Clinton, in advance of his trip: "Mr. President, you can take a flying leap." In a meeting with U.S. Zionist mobster Edgar Bronfman in December, Netanyahu went so far as to refer to Clinton as the "Saddam Hussein of the West."

Fundy-bunnies praise Netanyahu

One reason that Netanyahu can afford to be so contemptuous with a government which pays all of its bills, is the deal he has struck with televangelist charlatans such as Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, and their Congressional allies, such as Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) and Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), to join forces against the White House.

Reflecting this alliance, Netanyahu was warmly greeted on his recent trip by Falwell, and other leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention, who announced that they would mobilize on Israel's behalf against the Clinton administration. Speaking to the *New York Times*, Falwell warned, "There are about 200,000 evangelical pastors in America, and we're asking them all through E-mail, faxes, letters, telephone, to go into their pulpits and use their influence in support of the state of Israel, and the Prime Minister."

Netanyahu's alliance with this crowd is also not that popular in Israel. After all, these are the same preachers who claim that the Second Coming of Christ will be hastened by an Armageddon, this time a nuclear one, in the Mideast—in the process, of course, frying the Jews.

Bush crony Pat Robertson, who interviewed Netanyahu on his Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) during his trip, is one of the more explicit on their cultist motivation for their "support" of Israel. "The takeover of Jerusalem by the Jews during that [1967] war was a signal that the times of the Gentiles had ended," Robertson wrote in his 1972 autobiography. "In my thinking, the ministry of CBN was an end-time ministry. Like John the Baptist, we had been called to proclaim the end of the old age, and to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus Christ and the new age."

In his 1982 book, *The Secret Kingdom*, Robertson prophecies that, "having been regathered from the countries of the world, Israel, a unified nation living in relative security, will be invaded by a confederation from the north and east." The resulting annihilation of Israel—now being ushered in by the expendable Netanyahu, and his moves for a final showdown with the Arabs—means that their wished-for time, may well be at hand.