

Britain, Israel push new Mideast showdown

by Joseph Brewda

The British and Israeli governments are continuing their push for a Mideast war, despite President Bill Clinton's support for the diplomatic solution of the Iraq crisis negotiated by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on Feb. 22. Among their plans are to provoke a new "Iraq incident," to justify a military strike against Baghdad, and a new "Islamic" terrorist outrage, preferably in Israel, to provide a pretext for an Israeli strike against Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, or Iran.

Immediately following President Clinton's public acceptance of Annan's negotiated settlement of the Iraq crisis, British Prime Minister Tony Blair attempted to lay the grounds for the next one. "A piece of paper signed by the Iraqi regime is not enough," Blair told the British Parliament on Feb. 24. He announced plans for a new UN resolution mandating automatic military reprisals if Iraq were deemed to have violated the new agreement. Blair's effort flopped. A Security Council resolution to that effect, introduced by Britain and Japan—but notably not by the United States—was strongly contested by France, China, and Russia. After days of wrangling, a completely revamped resolution was voted up on March 2, with the authorization to carry out such an automatic attack deleted. In response, the British and Israelis are trying to revive a Mideast crisis through other means.

The reason for this continuing effort to provoke a crisis has nothing to do with the Mideast per se. Rather, it is designed to create a "global effect," intended to disorient President Clinton in the midst of the ongoing global financial crisis, now heading toward a new explosion in Russia, Brazil, or one of several other possible places in March. The British monarchy knows that the powers of the U.S. Presidency could challenge their objectives in the crisis, and remain worried that the President could use such avenues as the upcoming Group of 22 meeting set for Washington in April, to that end.

It was precisely to create such a global effect, that the British monarchy began to move to provoke a new Mideast war last fall, as U.S. statesman Lyndon LaRouche has repeatedly warned. The ongoing British-steered Kenneth Starr witch-hunt against the President, is part of the same overall psychological-warfare assault.

Options prepared

Among the several options that Britain and Israel are pushing, the two most currently attractive are a new buildup

against Iran, and a revived outbreak of terrorism.

- The Iran nukes crisis: Appearing on the British-owned U.S. network, Fox TV News, on Feb. 22, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced a new Iran crisis. Iran, Netanyahu charged, is developing, "undisturbed and unfettered," a stockpile of ballistic missiles with nuclear warheads. "If Iraq and Iran develop ballistic missiles with nuclear warheads," he said, "they will be a threat to the entire world." Netanyahu first made this silly charge back in November, in an address to the British Parliament, amidst Israeli warnings that they were considering eliminating this "threat," preemptively.

On March 4, Netanyahu's top foreign policy adviser, Uzi Arad, arrived in the United States for meetings in Washington and New York, in an attempt to push the Clinton administration to address this "threat," including through confronting Russia, the alleged mastermind of Iran's alleged nuclear bomb program. Immediately following his address to the U.S. National Security Council, Arad flew to Madrid to hook up with Netanyahu, at the start of a three-day trip to Europe that week which took them to Bonn, Oslo, and London, where they mobilized against Iran.

This effort to push the United States into targeting Russia, also reflects the British desire to sabotage the potential alliance among the United States, Russia, and China, and other key nations, necessary to build a New Bretton Woods System. Netanyahu's cronies are also worried that President Clinton, with the Iraq crisis behind him, will deliver Israel an ultimatum to quit sabotaging the Oslo Peace Accords, and wants to preempt that possibility through a new crisis, fast.

- Terrorist outrages: Meanwhile, there is always terrorism. That Israel was planning a new "Islamic terrorist" outrage to justify assaults on Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, or Iran, became clear when it emerged that the Mossad had tried to kill two top Lebanese Hezbollah officials in Bern, Switzerland on Feb. 19, to provoke a terrorist reprisal (see accompanying article). Bloody actions by the British- and Israeli-run Hamas, Hezbollah, and Islamic Jihad remain an ongoing threat. Two *fatwas* (religious rulings) issued out of London in February, ordering Muslims to kill Americans anywhere in the world, indicate another intended flank.

- Iraq, again: At the same time, neither Britain nor Israel has given up on reviving the Iraq crisis. Among those taking the lead in this endeavor are U.S. Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.), who condemned UN Secretary General Annan for "appeasement" on Feb. 25. On March 2, Ahmed Chalabi, leader of the London-based Iraqi National Congress, in testimony to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, also characterized the agreement in similar terms, and called for the United States to recognize his outfit as Iraq's provisional government. The recognition of such a "government," also recently proposed in a House of Lords debate on Feb. 17, is part of a complex of provocations intended to spark a new crisis.