

City of London unleashes 'Netanyahu wars' from Balkans to Central Asia

by Joseph Brewda

Beginning in early October, sudden threats by Turkey to invade Syria over its harboring of Kurdish terrorists, demonstrate the way that London, and its puppet state, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Israel, are moving to plunge the region stretching from the Balkans into Central Asia into war. Israeli massacres of the Palestinians, followed by an Israeli war with Syria, and an Iranian-Afghan war spilling over into Central Asia and Pakistan, are also on the agenda. A Serbian-Albanian war over Kosova, and a new U.S.-led UN assault against Iraq, are also in the works, while a new Ugandan-led assault on Sudan has already begun.

Although London has several important regional objectives to achieve, its purpose in provoking these wars is their global effects.

London believes that such wars, especially between a nuclear-armed, allegedly out-of-control Israel, and the Arab states, could overwhelm the powers of the U.S. Presidency, rendering it incapable of dealing with the global financial crisis. London also wants to use such wars to destroy any potential collaboration between the United States, Russia, and China, because without these states' cooperation, it is unlikely such a new financial system could be formed. For example, the Kosova crisis places the United States and Russia on opposing sides.

London has a special role for Netanyahu's Israel to play in virtually all these conflicts, even where Israeli military forces are not directly involved. For one, wherever Israel is involved, the United States, and not London, will take the rap. Decades of U.S. bankrolling of Israel, and support for its policies in the UN, have ensured that. Additionally, the Zionist lobby, whose influence in Washington has skyrocketed since the Monica Lewinsky scandal, can be used to block the United States from acting against London's new wars, and block the U.S. from acting on behalf of U.S. interests.

Israel plays Turkey against Syria

As of Oct. 9, Turkish troops have massed on Syria's borders, a sudden buildup which began at the beginning of the month. On Oct. 3, Turkish Chief of Staff Gen. Huseyin Kivrikoglu explained that there was "a state of undeclared war between us and Syria," over Syria's harboring the terrorist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), whose insurgency in south-

eastern Turkey has killed more than 20,000 people since 1984. He added: "We are trying to be patient, but that has a limit." Simultaneously, 10,000 Turkish troops invaded Iraq on Oct. 3, in search and destroy missions against PKK camps. On Oct. 4, Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz told a meeting of his party's parliamentary deputies that Turkey has given Syria its "last warning."

In a last-minute attempt to mediate an end to the crisis, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak flew to Damascus and then Ankara on Oct. 5-6. But, Turkey has already declared that unless Syria hands over PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan, who lives in Damascus, and shuts down all of the PKK's camps in Syria and Syrian-run Lebanon, no diplomatic solution is possible.

The Syrian ruling party's paper, *Al Baath*, has charged that Turkey's threats reflect "full coordination between Ankara and Tel Aviv in accordance with their alliance," paralleling recent condemnations of Turkey by neighboring Iran and Iraq, as well as by the Arab League. Greece, Cyprus, and, notably, Russia, have also voiced concern that the Turkish-Israeli military agreements negotiated since the mid-1990s reflect a U.S. and NATO plan to have the two states jointly dominate the eastern Mediterranean.

Predictably, Netanyahu, who last month provocatively declared that Turkey and Israel constitute an "axis," has claimed that Israel has nothing to do with the crisis. "We have taken steps to reassure Syria that we are not going to use any of this to our advantage . . . or to change the status quo on the border between Syria and Israel," he said on Oct. 4.

But, while Turkey seems to have fallen into Israel's trap of fighting Israel's wars for it, there are also indications that what Turkey is responding to is not a new Syrian outrage, but to the Zionist lobby's success in pushing the U.S. State Department to again announce its intent to impose a "federal solution" on Iraq. A federal solution means carving out a de facto Kurdish state within Iraq on Turkey's borders, which Turkey knows will serve as a base for the PKK.

On behalf of this plan, the U.S. State Department brought warring Iraqi Kurdish leaders Masud Barzani and Jalal Talabani to Washington in mid-September, to pledge themselves to work together for UN-sponsored Kurdish elections set for July 1999, to create the new statelet. Barzani's ally, the PKK,

is effectively a partner of the agreement, as PKK television broadcasts from London emphasize. The deal was promptly denounced by Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit, who said that it “strengthens the de facto separation of Iraq,” and that it is “impossible for Turkey to approve of such changes.” When the United States proposed the plan in February 1997, Ecevit denounced it as reflecting “British manipulation” of Washington.

One month prior to the State Department Kurdish gathering, the Washington Kurdish Institute, led by Mike Amitay, son of the former Washington lobbyist of the American Jewish Congress, Morris Amitay, sponsored a conference on July 29 on the Kurdish conflict. The confab was addressed by top PKK leaders, prominent former U.S. intelligence officers, and officials from the Washington Institute on Near East Policy, the think-tank of the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). Assistant Secretary of State for the Near East Martin Indyk, who supervises Kurdish policy at the State Department, is the former head of the think-tank.

Israel promotes Iran-Taliban war

Meanwhile, in Central Asia, 270,000 Iranian troops remain massed on its border with Afghanistan, for exercises announced after the Taliban regime admitted to murdering nine Iranian diplomats. Dozens of Iranian fighter planes bombed imaginary targets along the border on Oct. 2, amidst Taliban protests that the planes crossed over into Afghan territory. According to the latest reports, clashes between the Taliban and Iranian forces occurred on the border on Oct. 8.

Since the Taliban came into power in 1996, Russia, Iran, and most of the Central Asian republics have vociferously charged that the group is a joint U.S.-Saudi-Pakistani project, managed by Union Oil of California and other petrochemical firms, that is meant to destabilize Central Asia. For such reasons, observers emphasize, an Iranian-Afghan war might destroy the promise of near-term, greatly improved U.S.-Iran relations (which Israel fears), as well as add a new, difficult complication in U.S.-Russian relations.

A war between Shiite Iran and the violently anti-Shiite, Sunni sectarian Taliban regime of Afghanistan, could also spark ruinous Sunni-Shiite conflict throughout the Muslim world, another long-sought Israeli policy objective, while undermining any near-term accommodation between Iran and Saudi Arabia, a center of Sunni orthodoxy. The war could also spill over into Iranian conflict with Pakistan, another state which is high up on Israel’s target list.

Such prospects have the Zionist lobby in Washington drooling. “This is two scorpions in a bottle fighting each other,” Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA) director Tom Neumann, one of Netanyahu’s top U.S. mouthpieces, said of the possible Iran-Taliban conflict to the Sept. 18 edition of the Jewish *Forward*. “You’ve got to let them fight it out.”

The Zionist lobby has been active in attempting to pit Iran against Afghanistan and Pakistan along such lines. Since December 1997, JINSA and AIPAC, together with their joint operational arm, Kenneth Timmerman’s Foundation for Democracy in Iran, have been pushing for a new U.S. plan against Iran. At a series of high-level meetings, including at the Pentagon, this gaggle has called for blowing up Iran’s eastern borders with Afghanistan and Pakistan through playing the ethnic card. One target is the ethnic Baluch region straddling the three states. Plans are also reportedly afoot to use the 1.5 million Afghan refugees in Iran, among whom Israel has major capabilities, to launch terrorist insurgency within Iran, if it is lured into invading Afghanistan.

Israel vs. the Palestinians, and Syria

Finally, an Israeli showdown with the Palestinians, followed by war with Syria, is another British scenario. In what visiting U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright chose to hail as a “new spirit,” Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat met at an Israeli military base on Oct. 7, where they reportedly bridged Israeli and Palestinian differences, and prepared for an upcoming summit in Washington, now set for Oct. 15.

But, indicating the reality on the ground, Netanyahu said that the “new spirit” in the negotiations is simply the result of a “downward adjustment” in Palestinian expectations. “The Palestinians obviously expected more than 90% of the West Bank and Gaza Strip would be evacuated,” he told the press following the talks, referencing the 1993 agreements between slain Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Arafat, but “obviously things have changed.” Instead, the Palestinians will get 40% at most, and that, contingent on the Palestinians’ “war on terrorism.”

Regional observers stress that three years of Netanyahu’s sabotage of the 1993 Oslo Accords, through such antics, have not only undermined Arafat, possibly setting him up for assassination, but have also brought back the mood of the Intifada to the Palestinian streets. Indicating what may be at hand, Israeli troops killed a Palestinian demonstrator and wounded 20 others during Oct. 7 clashes between Israeli troops and Palestinians in the West Bank city of Hebron.

The military implications of such provocations has not been lost on some Israelis who fear that Netanyahu is forcing Israel into war. In an August article forecasting coming developments, the newspaper *Ha’aretz*’s commentator Amir Oren warned that the Israeli Defense Forces is already “reaching itself, in the absence of progress in the peace process, for the real possibility of war erupting on the Syrian front.” According to Oren, IDF planners have come to the conclusion that since “the grip of the Clinton administration is weakening, and the U.S. is losing its power to push the Netanyahu government into making progress in the peace process,” war could follow, with Syria, the Palestinians, and Egypt as the main targets.