

pointment was endorsed by leaders of the ruling KANU party, and also by Anglican Archbishop David Gitari and Catholic Archbishop Ndingi Mwana a’Nzeki, both of whom have been active leaders for constitutional reform in Kenya.

The country is now in the process of a constitutional review, which will begin at the district level, move upward, and pass onward to a constitutional commission, before presentation of the draft to the Parliament by the Attorney General. Thus, Moi hopes to ensure the continuing stability of Kenya, where strife among ethnic communities is not unknown, and also ensure a transition of leadership down the road.

Kenya is a negative proof of the policy for war coming against Africa from London and its complicit channels in Washington and Paris. A multi-party democracy, an island of stability in an embattled continent and region, Kenya has been completely cut off from monies from Western capitals since 1992. As the Paris Club of “donors” pours \$2.2 billion into Uganda, whose President Museveni is the primary London warlord in the region, funds to Kenya were cut off when the International Monetary Fund and the Anglo-American Commonwealth Club declared war on the Moi government. The cut-off was based on the sign of “disapproval” from the IMF. The IMF demands include “good governance,” “clean up corruption,” “speed up the privatization campaign.” What is its aim? “We don’t like to speculate,” answered Ambassador Chemai.

Netanyahu threatens war on Syria, Lebanon

by Dean Andromidas

The government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has launched a series of military provocations in southern Lebanon that could lead to war between Israel and Syria.

In the latest provocation, the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) extended Israel’s self-defined security zone in southern Lebanon by occupying the village of Arnoun in early April. The pretext for the occupation was that the Lebanese guerrilla movement, Hezbollah, had used the village to stage attacks on IDF personnel over the preceding weeks. The Israelis then deployed a regiment of their local puppet forces, the so-called South Lebanese Army, into the village.

That this was only a pretext to raise tensions in the region was underscored by the fact that the occupation sabotaged a mediation effort by the United States to have the Lebanese government deploy its paramilitary Gendarmerie into the village.

According to an article by military journalist Ze’ev Schiff in the Israeli daily *Ha’aretz*, the “move took [the U.S.] by surprise and disrupted an effort that had the support of the Lebanese government.” Although the Lebanese government has refused to deploy its own army in the area, as Israel has demanded, for fear that it would appear to be protecting Israel and suppressing its own citizens, the deployment of its paramilitary Gendarmerie would have been a small breakthrough and could have defused the crisis.

Netanyahu’s provocations in southern Lebanon began shortly after the announcement that new Israeli elections will be held on May 17. After the relatively moderate Yitzhak Mordechai resigned as Netanyahu’s Defense Minister, to become the new Center Party’s candidate for Prime Minister, Netanyahu was able to consolidate the most hawkish and fanatical security team to be seen in Israel in decades. Among these fanatics are Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon, unaffectionately known as the “Butcher of Lebanon,” and Defense Minister Moshe Arens, who in the early 1980s rescued Netanyahu from obscurity as a furniture salesman and turned him into Israel’s version of Benito Mussolini. Also in this cabal is deputy Mossad chief Gen. Averim Levine, the very hawkish former Northern Commander.

Many Israeli political observers fear that Netanyahu might launch a major war in Lebanon as an election ploy. Sharon and Arens were the architects of the disastrous 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon. The goals of that earlier war are the same as the one in the making: to overthrow

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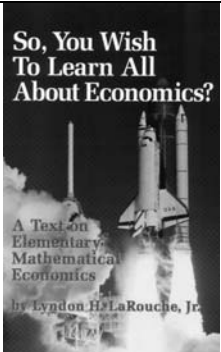
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the government of Lebanon and, more importantly, that of Syria.

The so-called security zone in southern Lebanon has nothing to do with securing northern Israel. In fact, there is a growing movement in Israel, which includes leading retired military and intelligence officers, that is demanding a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the zone. This Lebanon security zone is geographically a continuation of the Syrian Golan Heights, which Israel captured in the 1967 war. On the side facing Israel, the Heights border Lake Tiberias, the largest freshwater lake in the region and Israel's largest supply of fresh water. On the other side, the Heights dominate the plain leading to the Syrian capital Damascus, less than 60 miles distance. Rather than a buffer zone, the entire strip could serve as a base for attack against both Syria and Lebanon. In 1982, Sharon contemplated such an attack, but failed to get U.S. backing; he settled for the invasion of Lebanon, which led to the massacre of Palestinians in the famous Sabra and Shatilla refugee camps.

A new war, launched at a time when the Clinton administration and the rest of the world are distracted by the Kosovo crisis, would enable these fanatics to implement their "Greater Israel" project. This would not only overthrow the government of Syrian President Hafez al-Assad, but also ethnically cleanse the West Bank, by pushing the Palestinians across the Jordan River into the Kingdom of Jordan.

Such a scenario would dovetail with the attempt to renew the war against Iraq, now planned by the British and the U.S. Principals Committee, led by Vice President Al Gore. These lunatics imagine that if Saddam Hussein and Assad were overthrown, they could redraw the map of the Middle East, extending Israel's borders past the Jordan River and causing the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to disappear, leaving Israel surrounded by a string of weak, faltering states.

It is not hard to imagine that such a war plan could quickly lead to the threat of, if not the deployment of, Israeli nuclear weapons and all the catastrophic consequences of such a development. For these fanatics, this period before the elections could serve as a window of opportunity to seize their long-held policy aims.

The fruits of miscalculation

As early as last February and March, Israeli aircraft bombed targets in the Bekaa Valley, a move that threatened to provoke the Syrian military, which has 35,000 troops stationed in Lebanon, mostly in the Bekaa Valley. These operations faltered when it was discovered that several top intelligence officers of the Israeli puppet South Lebanese Army had either defected, or were passing on operational intelligence to the Hezbollah. This gross intelligence failure led to the ambush of a regiment of Israel's elite paratroopers, which had been operating deep in Lebanese territory. Among the casualties was the paratroop commander, Gen. Eretz Gerstein.

Despite these embarrassing failures, Netanyahu renewed

the provocations after the United States became preoccupied with the NATO intervention in Kosovo.

A Russian peace initiative?

In the midst of these operations, both Netanyahu and Sharon travelled to Moscow, in what was seen as an attempt to curry favor with the Russian government and win the electoral support of the large Russian community in Israel. This was confirmed by Sharon, in an interview with U.S. columnist William Safire. Speaking of Israeli Russians, Sharon said, "They want better Russian relations, a free economy, and a strong stand against the Arab claims. . . . Two-thirds of the Russian Israelis are for Bibi [Netanyahu] now. If I can get that up over 70%, that's it. . . . It didn't look too good a few weeks ago but now there is a fair chance we'll win."

It has even been reported that Russian Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov, in an off-the-cuff remark during the official luncheon for Netanyahu and Sharon, said that he would vote for Netanyahu if he were an Israeli.

Nonetheless, a senior Russian intelligence source reminded *EIR* that Primakov, who had been one of the leading Arabists in the KGB, is a "master of the Middle East." In fact, it was Primakov who convinced Soviet leaders to reestablish relations with Israel in the 1970s as a means of expanding Soviet strategic options in the Middle East. According to this source, Primakov is trying to engineer an agreement with Sharon and Netanyahu for recognition of a Palestinian state, and for opening talks with Syria over the Golan Heights.

Since then, Sharon has travelled to Moscow twice, and Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov has begun a Middle East tour that will take him to Israel, Syria, Egypt, and the Palestinian National Authority. Furthermore, during a recent visit to Moscow by Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, Russian President Boris Yeltsin called for the convening of a conference of the signatories of the Oslo peace accords, which includes Israel, the Palestinians, the United States, Russia, European Union member-states, and Norway.

While Russia's intentions in this dialogue with the likes of Sharon and Netanyahu appear straightforward, one should be cautious of the latter's intentions. Netanyahu and his supporters have more than nostalgic roots in Russia. According to *Ha'aretz*, Netanyahu's former chief of cabinet, close confidant, and Russian emigré Avigdor Lieberman is suspected by the police to have strong links to Russian organized crime syndicates, which have been trying to establish themselves in Israel.

Perhaps more significant is the ultra-Orthodox community, especially the Lubavitcher sect, which includes top financiers of Netanyahu and the radical settlers movement. These networks have powerful economic and political operations throughout the former Soviet Union, and are capable of exerting "extra-political" pressure in Russia itself, in support of Netanyahu and Sharon's evil agendas.