

U.S. Zionist Mafia Is Pressing for War in the Middle East

by Jeffrey Steinberg

A self-professed “bipartisan” group of neo-conservatives and other right-wing Zionist lobby notables, with strong ties to both the Al Gore and George W. Bush Presidential campaigns, have called for the United States to go to war against Syria, in their latest effort to drown the Middle East peace process in a sea of blood. As preposterous as this may sound, the June 9 issue of *Forward*, a New York-based Zionist lobby, neo-conservative weekly, reported that an outfit called the Lebanon Study Group has issued a report, demanding that the Clinton Administration and the United Nations Security Council take all available actions to drive Syria out of Lebanon immediately, including waging a “Gulf War-style campaign to oust Syria’s troops.”

The *Forward* story motivated a new Mideast war against Syria: “The fact that a bipartisan group is calling for such measures underscores an emerging consensus on the dangers posed by the Damascus regime and its troops in Lebanon, which have remained after the withdrawal of Israeli forces. With Israeli troops gone, the possibility of Hezbollah attacks on Israel’s northern border have become a pressing matter in Washington.”

The term “bipartisan” is highly misleading. The participants in the so-called Study Group, while they include both Democrats and Republicans, are all people whose dominant allegiances are with the neo-conservative, hard-core right wing of the Israeli lobby, including at least one individual who has been long suspected of having been part of the Jonathan Pollard spy ring, that operated inside the Reagan Administration during the early 1980s, funnelling vital U.S. national security secrets on to Israel, and, in some cases, to the Soviet KGB.

Richard Perle, who is a senior foreign policy adviser to George W. Bush’s Presidential campaign, and who is a director of the Canada-based Hollinger Corp., owners of the *Jerusalem Post* and the London *Telegraph* newspapers, was one of a dozen Reagan Administration Pentagon officials, suspected of being part of the “X Committee” of Israeli spies, who steered the Pollard espionage ring, from top posts inside the U.S. national security establishment.

Joining Perle in the Lebanon Study Group were: U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; former Reagan Ambassador to the United Nations Jeane Kirkpatrick; Daniel Pipes, editor of the

Middle East Quarterly; and two U.S. Representatives, Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.) and Steven Rothman (D-N.J.).

EIR’s own investigation into the call for war revealed that the Study Group was initiated by a two-year-old Project Democracy front group called the United States Committee for a Free Lebanon, which is an even nastier nest of “X Committee” operatives. In addition to the above-named individuals, the USCFL includes: Angelo Codevilla, who is also a director of a Washington- and Jerusalem-based think-tank, the Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies, closely aligned with Likud party chairman Ariel Sharon, the “Butcher of Lebanon,” and with former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu; Elliott Abrams, former Reagan State Department chief of Latin American affairs and a primary figure in the George Bush/Oliver North Iran-Contra gun-for-drugs apparatus; Douglas Feith and Frank Gaffney, both Reagan Pentagon officials who were, along with Perle, on a list of “X Committee” suspects prepared for the Defense Department’s general counsel; David Steinmann, ex-president of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs; and David Wurmser, of the American Enterprise Institute.

‘Rogue States’ Targetted

It is probably the case that the threats against Syria are not aimed at starting a new Mideast war on Lebanese or Syrian soil. Rather, the aim is to force the new Syrian regime to once again “play ball” with British and American operations, targetted against Iraq and, perhaps, Iran — as Hafez al-Assad played ball with George Bush and Margaret Thatcher in the 1991 Operation Desert Storm.

The idea that the United States is in grave danger of attack by terrorists using “weapons of mass destruction” deployed by “rogue states,” is being peddled by precisely the Zionist mafia also peddling the “get Syria out of Lebanon” line. Two years ago, the very same individuals, and many of the same groups, were instrumental in pushing through Congress the Iraq Liberation Act, which has created a “Contra”-type force, to overthrow Saddam Hussein, with nearly \$100 million in U.S. taxpayers money, for starters.

The ‘Get Clinton’ Mafia

President Clinton knows very well that the USCFL and the other groups involved in the latest war cries, are made up,

almost exclusively, of his worst enemies from the right-wing Anglo-Zionist camp. With the exception of Engel and Rothman, everyone else involved in the Lebanon Study Group has been a hard-core operative in the “Get Clinton” apparatus behind the failed impeachment drive. People like Kirkpatrick, Perle, *New Republic* publisher and Al Gore mentor Martin Peretz, and Tufts University professor and “former” Mossad officer Uri Ra’an an (who helped place Pollard in his U.S. Naval Intelligence job), worked hand-in-glove with Sharon in targetting President Clinton, the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (who was assassinated by a Jewish underground apparatus nurtured and bankrolled by Sharon), and former Prime Minister Shimon Peres, in an unabashed effort to wreck any hope for Middle a East peace.

Given that these are his enemies, it is particularly disturbing that President Clinton, who labored so long for Mideast peace, now appears to be accommodating to this Zionist mafia, out of fear that, under a Republican President, he and his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, will be thrown in jail, as the final chapter in the “Get Clinton” treason—unless she wins the U.S. Senate race in New York, and Gore avoids a landslide defeat in November.

Capitulation to his worst enemies is no solution for President Clinton’s dilemma. His best recourse is to redouble his commitments to achieve a comprehensive Mideast peace in the final months of his Presidency. This would require the kind of bold move that he made in 1994, when the Korean peninsula was on the verge of exploding into war, over allegations that “rogue state” North Korea was close to having nuclear weapons and long-range missiles. The President, at that time, offered the North Koreans light-water nuclear reactors, to satisfy their energy requirements, in return for their shutting down their existing nuclear reactors, abandoning production of weapons-grade nuclear material. The breakthrough summit between the leaders of North and South Korea (see *International* lead story) was, in large measure, the fruit of the President’s bold diplomacy in 1994.

One component of such a bold new move for Mideast peace by the President could center around creating the legitimate conditions for the neutralization of Lebanon, with the active cooperation of Jordan, Israel, and Syria, under its new President, Bashar Assad. Such an effort would necessarily place great emphasis on providing adequate fresh water for the entire region, under conditions of rapid real economic growth.

Gore, Bush and the Zionist Lobby

Above all, to avert throwing out seven years of effort at Mideast peace, President Clinton would have to break with Gore and the extreme-right Zionist Ring around Gore’s neck.

When it comes to war in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf, Gore and “Dubya” Bush are birds of a feather. For example, senior campaign advisers for both candidates were involved, in 1996, in a so-called “Presidential task force”

of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy (WINEP), which demanded all-out war to overthrow Saddam Hussein, and similar hawkish policies toward other Muslim “rogue states.” On May 19, WINEP sponsored a policy “conversation” between Bush’s top Mideast policy adviser, Robert Zoellick, and Al Gore’s alter ego and chief national security aide Leon Fuerth. Although there was a bit of political jousting on issues of Mideast policy, the Bush and Gore representatives were in total lock-step, particularly on the issue of Saddam Hussein. Both men railed that there can be no peace in the Mideast until Saddam is gone.

A few days later, candidates Bush and Gore both showed up at the annual policy conference of the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee, which bills itself as “America’s Pro-Israel Lobby.” Each tripped over himself to prove he was the more pro-Israel and more militant against Iraq, Iran, and any other force threatening Israel’s existence—real or imagined.

Dubya, speaking on May 22, went on at length about his visit to Israel, singling out Sharon for special praise. “A few years ago, on a trip to Israel, General Sharon took me on a helicopter flight over the West Bank. And what a trip that was. . . . It is sobering to think,” he said, “that while the distance between Dallas and Galveston is 270 miles, the distance between Israel and Saddam Hussein’s Iraq is only 250 miles. . . . The Gulf War showed the world the danger posed to the family of democracy by rogue states armed with missiles.”

The next morning, Gore went one step further, promising that, under a Gore Presidency, the United States will never pressure Israel. “We must not and would not in any way try to pressure Israel to agree to measures that they themselves did not see were in their own best interests.” At a WINEP speech on Oct. 22, 1999, Gore had defined the ouster of Saddam Hussein as one of his top foreign policy priorities, and said that one of his proudest moments in the Senate was when he broke ranks with a majority of Democrats and threw his support behind George Bush’s Operation Desert Storm.

As if to buttress those words, Gore has assembled, on his Foreign Advisory Group (FAG), a collection of policymakers who come, almost exclusively, from the Anglo-Zionist stable. Fuerth, a member of the Principles Committee at the White House, has been suspected for years of having questionably close ties to Israeli intelligence (see accompanying article).

The entire FAG was handpicked by two Senior Coordinating Advisers, Bruce Jentleson and Ambassador Marc Ginsberg. Jentleson was a member of the WINEP “Presidential Study Group” that peddled the dual containment policy targetting so-called “rogue states” Iran and Iraq, that opposed the lifting of sanctions against Iraq, and that demanded a deployment of larger U.S. military forces into the Gulf to “inflict as much damage” on Iraq as possible. And Ambassador Ginsberg has conducted at least two Middle East fact-finding trips for WINEP, in 1998 and 1999—even as he was putting Gore’s foreign policy team together.