

# Right-Wing Zionist Bushmen Say That Oslo Peace Accord Is Dead

by Dean Andromidas and Michele Steinberg

The right-wing Zionists' think-tank, the Washington Institute for Near East Policy (WINEP), has released a report advocating an end to peace with the Palestinians, which it is pushing to become official U.S. policy. And, given that several authors of the report are now in the Administration of the weak and incompetent George W. Bush, it represents a very real and dangerous policy option that could become a reality.

The WINEP policy would declare the Oslo Accords dead, and would bring Middle East policy back to the *status quo ante* that existed before President Bill Clinton entered the White House eight years ago. It is a draft policy for war—in fact, several wars, especially if the Bush Administration acts, as the WINEP report clearly intends, to put thug Ariel Sharon in power when the Israeli elections for Prime Minister take place on Feb. 6.

WINEP is the U.S. Zionist lobby's key foreign policy forum, and the report, entitled "Navigating Through Turbulence: Report of the Presidential Study Group," is the latest of reports prepared every four years since 1988 for incoming administrations. WINEP arrogantly purports to be the "permanent bureaucracy" for U.S. policy in the Middle East; it especially opposes a sovereign Palestinian state, and advocates keeping Iraq, Iran, and Libya on the list of nations targeted for sanctions, in order to preclude economic development.

Among its provocations, WINEP demands that the United States move the American Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, and "immediately" begin breaking ground for the building. In effect, this is an endorsement of the battle cry by Sharon and the Temple Mount religious fanatics to *never* allow Palestinian rule over Jerusalem, or any part of it.

However, instead of putting forth a consensus in favor of its policy that the United States be the aggressive "sole superpower" in the Middle East, some of the top participants in WINEP's "Presidential Study Group," ranging from the highest echelon of the New York Council on Foreign Relations to former members of President Ronald Reagan's National Security Council, issued a strong dissent. The deep division could indicate that, beneath the surface, there is real fear about how close the region is to full-scale religious war.

## George W.'s War-Mongers

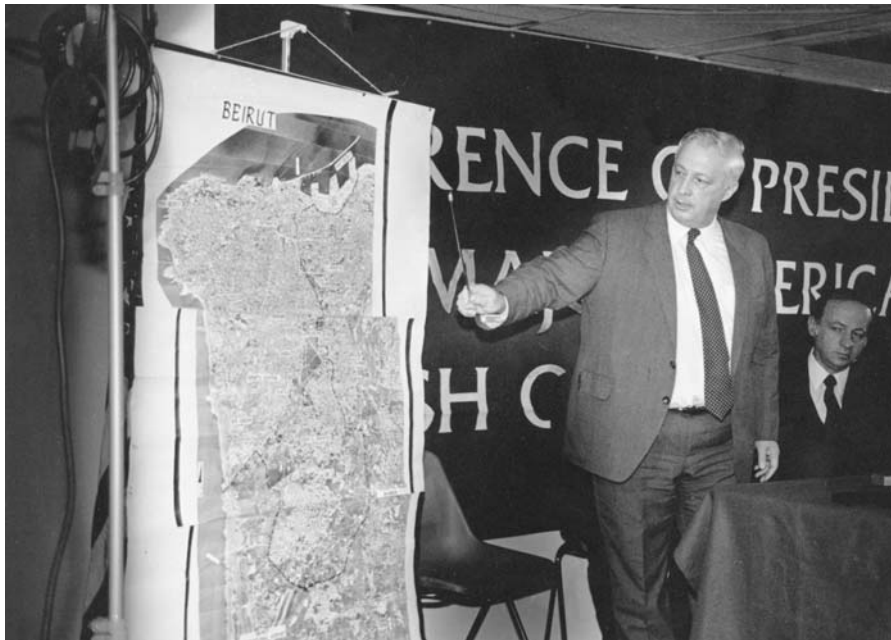
The drafters of the WINEP document include Paul Wolfowitz and Robert Blackwell, both of whom were members of the elder Sir George Bush's Administration and now have joined the George W. Administration. Wolfowitz has been named George W.'s Deputy Secretary of Defense. Since the mid-1980s, *EIR* has identified Wolfowitz as one of the covert operatives inside the Defense Department allied with the Israeli network which ran convicted spy Jonathan Jay Pollard. (Pollard maintains that it was necessary for him to spy against his own country, the United States, because the Americans were withholding information from Israel.) Wolfowitz prides himself on being the author of a 1998 war plan to invade Iraq with ground troops, and kill Saddam Hussein. A member of the WINEP study group steering committee is Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Kan.), who sponsored the Iraq Liberation Act that funded Wolfowitz's utopian war plan. Blackwell, another Sharon warhawk, is on the Bush transition team.

The WINEP paper rejects any positive initiatives taken during the Clinton years, and resurrects the geopolitical and crisis-management policies pursued by Sir George Bush's New World Order. It aims at countering any effort that could lead to the adoption of Lyndon LaRouche's Oasis Plan for a Middle East peace, a peace based on economic cooperation anchored on the development of new water resources for the region and the building of a regional industrial infrastructure.

Amid the current political tensions in the region, it is a de facto endorsement of Sharon for Prime Minister. A glance at its major points defines it as a policy for war.

Under the heading "Arab-Israeli Diplomacy: Deter Regional War, Explore New Approaches," several "ingredients" are offered. First and foremost, is the necessity to affirm "the 'unwritten' alliance with Israel" to ensure that "Middle Easterners have no doubt about the strength of U.S.-Israeli strategic partnership."

Getting directly to the point, it threatens war against Syria and Iraq: "Make sure that Syria's new leader, Bashar al-Assad, understands that emboldening Hizbollah into military actions against Israel could provoke a wider regional confrontation in which Syria itself would receive the brunt



*Ariel Sharon at a New York press conference in 1982, briefs reporters on Israel's assault on Lebanon. The WINEP report is virtually an endorsement of Sharon's current electoral campaign.*

of Israeli retaliation.

"Baghdad must also understand that the United States will orchestrate political and perhaps military responses should Iraq seek to intervene in the Arab-Israeli conflict to bully or blackmail regional players like Jordan into adopting more obstructionist positions or to exploit the current situation for military advantage elsewhere, such as in northern Iraq."

This is clearly aimed at launching a new war against Iraq, and pushes the "Big Lie" that the popular outrage that captured Arab public opinion after Sharon's provocative visit to the Al Haram Al Sharif/Temple Mount last September, and the death of more than 300 Palestinians, is being caused by Iraqi "blackmail." Thus, WINEP, by threatening war against Iraq, is in fact attempting to blackmail Jordan and virtually all the other Arab states into dropping their support for the Palestinians.

As for the the peace process since 1993, the report calls on the Bush Administration to "assess lessons of the 'Oslo experience': explore alternative paths to peace." Thus, in diplomatic language, the report calls for dumping the Oslo process of seeking cooperation, reconciliation, and economic development, and puts forward alternatives that are completely in line with those of Sharon.

Such "alternatives" include calls for "a peace built on as much separation/disengagement as is practical," a "process of coordinated, reciprocal, unilateral measures," and ensuring that the Palestinians do not unilaterally declare a Palestinian state. More importantly, the U.S. role would be confined to

that of acting as the phony "honest broker," but this time the President's role should be replaced by that of the Secretary of State. WINEP also calls for immediately ending the role of the U.S. CIA director in mediating security talks between Israel and the Palestinians. This has been a long-time Israeli demand, because the Palestinians had far more trust in Director of Central Intelligence George Tenet than in any of the Israeli intelligence chiefs.

While the report makes no mention of the fact that the United States gives Israel \$5 billion in economic and military aid, it calls for the Arab states to foot the bill for financially supporting the Palestinians.

### **Targets: Iraq and Iran**

One unspoken, but strongly implied concern of the report, is the high degree of reconciliation that has occurred between Iraq and Iran, and

the reconciliation that both have achieved with their Arab neighbors. WINEP clearly aims to rebuild the anti-Iraq coalition by any means possible, and it continues to attack Iran. For example, on terrorism, the report calls for following through "on official pledges to pursue terrorists for their crimes even when diplomatically inconvenient, for instance, the Khobar Towers bombing suspects in Iran," referring to the June 1996 bombing of a U.S. military barracks in Saudi Arabia. At the same time, the report urges, "be prepared to use military force against countries that provide safe haven to terrorists."

While the report seemingly recognizes that in Iran "change appears to be on the horizon," it levels a warning against Iran on the issue of "weapons of mass destruction."

Concerning Iraq, WINEP unambiguously declares, "Change will almost surely come only through violence, such as a coup or internal uprising. To weaken the regime and render it more vulnerable, develop a comprehensive strategy of active steps to press Saddam Hussein's regime on multiple fronts" (emphasis added). These steps include threats of massive military force, reestablishment of the weapons-inspection regime, support for opposition groups including supplying weapons, and continuing sanctions that especially target the regime.

WINEP calls for pressure to be brought to bear on other Arab countries, especially Jordan and the Gulf states — all of which have improved their relations with Iraq — not to accept the "embrace of Saddam's Iraq."

On Turkey, which has also improved its relations with

both Iraq and Syria, the report calls for supporting a Turkish-Israeli military axis. "The United States should encourage active Turkish involvement in the Middle East. To this end Washington should provide support for deepening Turkish defense and economic cooperation with Israel."

Buoyed by the Bush Presidency, the WINEP leadership, the majority of whom are Republicans, planned to ram through their war plans on a bipartisan basis, counting on support from anti-Clinton Democrats such as WINEP board member Martin Peretz, who was known as Vice President Al Gore's mentor, especially on issues like Gore's insistence on the physical elimination of Saddam Hussein; and Richard Gardner, the former U.S. Ambassador to Italy who was Gore's foreign policy adviser. But, the fact that the WINEP study group is composed mainly of hard-core Israeli warhawks, such as Max Kampelman, former head of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and Richard Perle, founder of the Jewish Institute on National Security Affairs (JINSA), and a suspected Mossad agent, made that difficult.

### Recommendations Are Denounced

Instead of a consensus for the war provocations laid out in the report, there is an unusual open revolt among Democrats and Republicans who participated in the study.

New York Council on Foreign Relations president Leslie Gelb, and Rachel Bronson, also from the CFR, vehemently disagree with WINEP's call for "reducing the role of U.S. intelligence agencies as central players in the Israeli-Palestinian relationship." They object to WINEP's advice to destabilize Lebanon by forcing the country to break with Syria, and they further denounce the proposal to immediately begin construction of the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem.

Anthony Cordesman of the Georgetown Center for Strategic and International Studies, who was Sen. John McCain's (R-Ariz.) adviser during his 2000 Presidential campaign, disagreed with WINEP's assumptions on several counts:

On the peace process: "The Palestinians need to be provided with economic opportunities and incentives. Until the current fighting is ended, the U.S. should take no steps regarding the move of the U.S. Embassy. . . . U.S. intelligence agencies should continue their remarkably successful efforts at creating a neutral bridge between Israeli and Palestinian security efforts."

On war with Iraq: "The United States should do nothing to promote regime change in Iraq without Kuwaiti, Saudi, and Turkish support . . . [and] Washington should not support weak and divided opposition movements in ways that could create a second Bay of Pigs, nor should it deploy forces to indulge in symbolic efforts at regime change."

Cordesman also warned that the "Iran-Libya Sanctions Act is a badly conceived policy that should be allowed to expire." He said that "there is good reason to encourage U.S. commercial ties to Iran," and similarly warned that the United

States should *not* follow WINEP's advice on pressuring Egypt economically. This, he said, would be "seen as blackmail, at a time when Israeli-Palestinian conflict is creating explosive pressures on friendly Arab regimes."

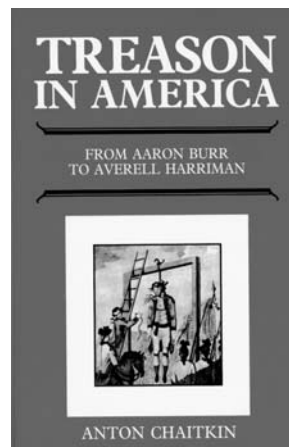
Professors Marshall Berger and Steven Spiegel object to WINEP advice to have the United States drop the peace talks. The "American role in the peace process" will become "the first order of business" for Bush, "and it is foolish to deny it," they said. They also object to WINEP's cover-up of the "settlement problem" in the Israeli-occupied territories, although they fail to mention that the paramilitary hit-teams based in the settlements are strong supporters of Sharon. These dissenters also reject moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem without an Israeli-Palestinian agreement.

A former member of Reagan's National Security Council, Geoffrey Kemp, rejects WINEP's attacks on Iran for building nuclear energy power plants, saying that there are "no formal complaints" by the United Nations or any agency against Iran. He also objects to WINEP's wild drive to deploy a ballistic missile defense in the Persian Gulf against Iran, and possibly Iraq.

The ten "dissenters" to the report are among the highest-level participants in the study. But, they may find themselves looking at a full-scale war in the Middle East, triggered by the Bush Administration, once WINEP and other Sharon allies kill the peace process.

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