Conference Discussion

Organizing To Stop War and Genocide

Questions and discussion to the presentations by Jeffrey Steinberg and Dennis Small involved the 800-900 conference participants in attendance, and others listening to the panel on the Internet.

Q: Earlier, you had spoken about Saddam Hussein, and housing 15- and 16-year-olds to help build an oligarchical drug trade [in Afghanistan]. Do you think there could be a connection to the children missing in the early 1980s and 1990s, trained and lured away by the CIA to take into Afghanistan to build these [drug] routes?

Steinberg: That's exactly what happened. We know from eyewitness and other accounts, that—first of all, Brzezinski, a couple of years ago, gave an interview to one of the French daily newspapers. He said that most people think that the whole Afghanistan conflict began, and was provoked by the Soviets, when they invaded Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, on Christmas Eve, 1979. But he said, "No, no, it didn't work that way. I got an Executive Order signed by Jimmy Carter in the early Spring of 1979, and we began conducting covert operations on the ground, inside the country, before the Soviets ever sent any troops in. We induced them into walking into a Vietnam trap."

Now, what actually happened, beginning under Brzezinski, and then picked up during the Reagan-Bush period, is that literally tens of thousands of desperately poor people were recruited throughout the Muslim world. They were told—their families were told—your kids are going to die anyway, of starvation, poverty, violence; let them volunteer to be great, heroic freedom fighters in the war against the Great Satan, the Soviet Union, in Afghanistan. Furthermore, if you allow your sons to be recruited into this operation, there'll be a lucrative financial reward for you; and in fact, you will see more money than you could hope to earn in your entire life.

And so tens of thousands of young people, who, in many cases, had ne ver even studied the Koran, because they did not know how to read—they had some minimal amount of religious training, but really had no understanding whatsoever—were brought to training camps in the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan. They were put through military training. And in many cases, they spent the next ten years fighting against the Soviet Union. They weren't taught anything about Islam. They were told that if you die killing the Great Satan, you will go to Heaven and have a harem of hundreds of wives forever. It was a completely syncretic, phony-baloney thing; and to give some credibility to it, the U.S. government went to the governments of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and a number of other Arab countries, and said, "You've got all of these firebrand young Muslim Brotherhood people in jail. Let them out. Ship them off to Afghanistan. They'll be the spiritual leaders of this whole movement, and along the way, all of these people are going to be killed off."

So, many of the names that you read about in the newspapers today, like Ayman al-Zawahiri, who's the so-called chief operations guy for al-Qaeda, was in jail in Egypt until the United States went to the President of Egypt—at that time, it was still Anwar Sadat—and asked for him to be let out of jail so that he could be part of this U.S.-British-Israeli-sponsored war.

A Giant Narco-Terror Operation

Congress allocated billions of dollars a year to keep this war going. But the best estimates that we've got, is that all of the money provided, in combination, by the U.S. Congress—U.S. taxpayers' money—matching funds that were set up by the government of Saudi Arabia and some other Persian Gulf governments, covered about 10% of the costs of the war. The bulk of the expenses of this war came out of the international drug trade. And in the areas that became controlled areas of this mujahideen apparatus, on the ground inside Afghanistan, you had a flourishing opium trade. You had pre-existing opium warlords in the area; but in terms of international opium production, and conversion and sale on the streets of Europe and the United States as heroin, the main supply areas had been Southeast Asia, not Southwest Asia. All of that changed, beginning in 1979.

And it was well known that the very same camps and centers of training that were running this operation, were also the secured locations where you had heroin laboratories. And they had their very own bank. The BCCI bank [Bank of Credit and Commerce International] was the opium war bank for the 1980s project in Afghanistan, that was part of this overall NSSM-200 Clash of Civilizations policy.

So, it was a narco-terrorist insurgency, and that's what you're dealing with here. Many of the people, after the end of the Afghanistan War per se, when the Soviets withdrew in 1990, were simply left behind. The United States said, "Thanks a lot." British intelligence, being a little bit more experienced in these kinds of things, created an open house in London, so that all of the people who were veterans of this mujahideen apparatus were basically told, "You have safe haven in Britain. You'll be given political asylum and protection." And in fact, most of the major so-called Islamic terrorist incidents that occurred over the past decade, were organized and deployed out of London.

We asked Madeleine Albright to place the British government on the list of state sponsors of terrorism; and believe it or not, we never even got a response to our letter. But that's the reality of it. Osama bin Laden has a house in Wembley,

Under Zbigniew Brzezinski, tens of thousands of poor young men were recruited from throughout the Muslim world, and unleashed to fight the Soviet Union in Afghanistan. Thus was "Islamic" terrorism created.

England. I don't think he's visited it recently, but I wouldn't even be surprised to find that he had.

So that is the nature of this thing; it's dirty, it's drug wars. There's not a terrorist operation in the world today that wasn't created by an intelligence service, and isn't financed because they are international drug traffickers, from the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] in Colombia, to Sendero Luminoso [Shining Path in Peru], to all of these Afghansi groups. One great big narco-terrorist operation, which accounts for about a trillion dollars per year in illegal drugs all over the planet. Why do you think Richard Grasso, from the New York Stock Exchange, went down to the jungles in Colombia, to embrace the head of the FARC, and say, "This is a guy we can do business with"? Because they're desperate for the narco-dollars.

That's what was created. And there are people at the top who know, that this is exactly what was done. We defeated Ollie North in 1994 because he was so overexposed on this issue. This is, again, one of their vulnerable heels, that we've got to exploit.

Economic Collapse Kills More Than War

Q: I have an observation. It seems to me that, given the theme of the conference—Global Financial Crash of 2002—and using your example of Argentina, which you so eloquently presented tonight, that part of the practicum of Kissinger's memorandum NSSM-200 is to put countries into financial debt that is so insurmountable, that at some point, they'll just be able to pull the plug, when devaluation goes high enough and they can't possibly pay back; and then the countries go into starvation, and it's exacerbated by war; then they don't really have to unleash, necessarily, atomic bombs. They have debt bombs that will cause starvation worldwide, and genocide in that fashion. So it seems as though this is just part of that whole NSSM memorandum.

Small: Exactly. Parson Malthus was someone who argued exactly that case. That is to say, that economic conditions can be used for precisely the purpose of population reduction, which is inefficient in the case of direct killing by warfare. But rather, if you unleash the conditions under which not only starvation, but disease, in particular, run rampant. . . . This is exactly what happened in the 14th Century.

There is a reason that LaRouche is talking about this 14th-Century parallel. There are two reasons, as I see this. One is that what is being done by the banking crowd, then and now, is exactly the same thing. The Lombard bankers of Genoa and Florence had actually built up a bubble that was of such proportions, that the insistence on collection of that debt unleashed conditions in the actual physical economy, which had lawful consequences leading to the conditions under which the Black Death spread like wildfire throughout the entirety of Europe. The same boats were coming in, with the same rats, which had the same fleas on them, with the same bubonic plague, as had been happening for decades and centuries earlier. But under conditions of physical economic breakdown, what had been a bad problem, became something that spread like wildfire, completely out of control. And that's exactly what's happening under these conditions as well. And it's intentional.

The second point of the parallel here, which is why I think it's important to keep coming back to this 14th-Century question, is that humanity did get out of the 14th-Century

problem. And the way it happened was a Renaissance. Nothing less than a Renaissance worked then, and nothing less than a Renaissance is going to work right now. You are not going to solve this with minor palliative solutions. You're going to have to go to the actual root of the problem, and reverse that. And part of that is to recognize the absolutely *intentional* quality and nature of what the oligarchy is unleashing, both on the side of wars—as Jeff demonstrated—and also, in terms of economy policy.

This is a constant battle that we have in organizing people in Ibero-America, or in any other countries in the Third World. . . . People turn to you and say, "But don't they understand what they're doing? Don't they understand we won't be able to pay? This is crazy. They're stupid." Yes, they're crazy. No, they're not so stupid. They're doing this as an intentional policy, *in which they are succeeding.* This is success, unleashing an unending war, is success as far as they are concerned, not a failure.

So, yes, these are two prongs, as you're pointing out, of a global policy which is the enemy we're combatting. And again, the only thing that is actually going to function today—and this is why it takes someone like LaRouche—is the degree to which we unleash the same type of Renaissance in every single area of human endeavor, as occurred in the period of the late 14th, 15th and 16th Centuries.

Steinberg: Let me just add a footnote. Lord Bertrand Russell, whom LaRouche has described as "the most evil man of the 20th Century," wrote a book called *The Impact of Science on Society.* And in it, he said that wars have really not done a very good job of population reduction; the 20th Century has seen two world wars, but population growth continued on a fairly steady basis throughout that period; perhaps, he said, we can come up with something better. What if we were able to produce a Black Plague once in every generation? Then the right kind of people would be able to procreate freely, without worrying about overpopulation. He says that this is, perhaps, a bit of an extreme solution, but he thinks it's a viable one. That's 1951. It just tells you, that this is an absolutely self-conscious policy, that unless you can unleash all Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, wars alone won't cut it.

Sharon, Sept. 11, and War on Iraq

Q: This is a question for you, Jeff. About a year ago, maybe in July of 2001, you wrote an article in *EIR* that had a title something like, "Sharon War Plans Exposed." And in that, you said that they had the plans [for war] pretty well laid out, but one hitch was that they had to do something to convince Bush to go along with it. And that that would probably be some kind of a massive terrorist attack against a target inside the United States. In September—I believe Sept. 10, in fact—the *Washington Times* carried an article about a Defense Department, or U.S. Army War College study, that showed the capabilities of the Israeli Mossad to carry out terrorist acts, and then make it seem as though Arabs actually perpetrated those acts.

My question is: Tonight, in your presentation, you expanded on what you wrote more than a year ago; and then, at the end of it, you actually predicted, again, another terrorist attack against a U.S. target. And I would just hope that you could elaborate more on that. What do you think really happened with 9/11? What do you think was the actual Israeli involvement? What do you think, for the future, that involvement could entail?

Steinberg: Let me start by saying something fairly obvious, that needs to be said anyway, to shape what's said afterwards.

This is a very, very sensitive question: the possible involvement, alleged involvement of the Israeli spy networks in the actual events of Sept. 11. We've been very careful, if you notice, in the past year, in not saying anything about this issue, that we are not absolutely certain of. This is why we have not said that Ariel Sharon was behind the Sept. 11, 2001 attack. The current issue of *New Federalist,* dated Sept. 2, has an article I wrote on the front page, asking the question, "Is Sharon planning another Sept. 11-type of attack in the United States?"

This is an issue that's come up in discussions that we've had with leading intelligence contacts, sources, in the United States, in some Arab countries, and interestingly, inside Israel. People are concerned about the obvious prospects of another Sept. 11 attack.

It's clear that there are some people in the United States who, for whatever limited reasons, don't want this Iraq war to take place right now. You've seen, particularly in the last three or four weeks, an interesting surfacing of many people very closely associated with former President George Bush. You had an op-ed in the *Wall Street Journal* by Brent Scowcroft, the retired general who was the National Security Adviser under George Bush. James Baker III came out, about a week ago, with a very similar article. Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf came out, warning against an Iraq war at this point.

All of this began to surface immediately after George W. Bush began his Summer vacation, about three weeks ago, and went up to Kennebunkport and spent a couple of days with his parents. What I surmise from this, is that even Bush, Sr. got scared by what he saw; and that he concluded that G.W. has more than one screw loose on this issue of going to war—a war that will not only provoke this Dark Age Clash of Civilizations, but will isolate the United States completely from the rest of the world.

So, you've got some people who really are very much concerned. Now, one of the big problems of this particular war; when you have, basically, a child as President, and inadequate supervision—it's a daycare center that's been taken over by the kids—it's not exactly the kind of leadership that engenders confidence that this is going to be able to be handled well. This issue of well-management was historically a point

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has a timetable that demands that a U.S. war with Iraq "start yesterday." Here, he is shown with Donald Rumsfeld (left) at the Pentagon, March 2001.

of obsession with Bush, Sr. Think about how well he managed the coalition for the 1991 Gulf War, and even managed to convince Israel to stay on the sidelines. What do you think the odds are, that George W. Bush is going to be able to keep this Nazi, Ariel Sharon, on the sidelines? What do you think the chances are, that an Iraq war will not trigger Sharon's attempt at the mass expulsion of what they say are about 3-3.5 million Palestinians living in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip? Other people believe that the combined Arab population of Israel proper, the West Bank, and Gaza is probably closer to 4-6 million.

Israeli Spy Scandal

So there's an issue here, of whether or not this particular government in Washington could control *anything*, once they start dropping the bombs on Iraq. And so you've got a fight that's broken out publicly. As I said at the beginning, this fight never would have happened if we had not successfully executed this strategic flank that LaRouche called for, in timely fashion. We got out about 5 million leaflets in five weeks in the run-up to this conference. It completely changed the political environment in the United States.

We created a different situation, in which people suddenly realized that LaRouche had something to say here, and in their own limited fashion, decided to try to do something to slow down the timetable.

Now, Sharon happens to have a timetable that demands that this war start yesterday. He wanted it to start in June, and people said, well, it's a little hot in June in the Mideast, and nobody can survive in a tank in a desert in the Summer. These were not considerations on Sharon's plate. The Israeli economy is shattered. The high-tech sector is an adjunct of Silicon Valley, so you can imagine what's going on there. By the end of this year, a million Jews will have emigrated out of Israel, because they know that the place has been turned into an insane asylum under Sharon. It's the upper middle class, the most educated and cultured section of the population. Their kids are gone, their money is gone, and they're packing their bags and leaving.

So now, finally, you're beginning to get somewhat of a reaction, that it's not necessarily a good idea for the survival of Israel, for the assassins of Rabin to be in power. In the last few weeks, you've seen the surfacing of this former military commander, General Mitzna. Not much of an impressive military track record, but he's the mayor of Haifa, and he's emerging as somebody who wishes to carry forward the mantle of the Rabin policy, going back to the Oslo peace process. In the last few weeks, the polls in Israel are showing that people want, perhaps, to get rid of Sharon.

So Sharon is personally becoming desperate. He's been a war crimimal for as long as we've been able to trace his military career, back to 1948. We've published on this in *EIR*. . . . He was installed in power, to do what he's done for the past 50 years; namely, carry out murder and genocide. But now, some people inside Israel are beginning to think that maybe this was not a smart idea. And so, Sharon could be gone. You could have a vote of no-confidence tomorrow morning, because they haven't been able to pass their budget, and he could be out of there.

So Sharon is driven to more and more desperate circum-

stances. We're getting words of concern fed back to us, from people in better positions, perhaps, than we are, to know certain operational details. They're saying that Sharon is putting teams in place to carry out a 9/11-type terrorist attack inside the United States, with all the breadcrumb trails leading back to Baghdad, to get this war going immediately. It could happen.

One thing we are going to do, to make sure it doesn't happen, is raise the roof over the issue of the Israeli spy scandal. I can't say that there was a direct, witting Israeli government involvement in the actions of Sept. 11. It's not unusual when you have a sophisticated military covert operation like Sept. 11—LaRouche diagnosed it correctly moments after it happened, as it was still unfolding—this took years of preparation, detailed inside knowledge of the security vulnerabilities of the United States. And they were massive; but not necessarily generally known to the public.

There were unquestionably internal American factors involved in organizing and executing the operation. In the same way that we know what the nature was of the Kennedy assassination, but don't know the name, rank, and serial number of the shooters in Dallas, the same is true of Sept. 11. . . . It was a government-level military operation, heavily penetrated within the United States.

Do the Israelis represent capabilities that fit the general description? Yes. Do we have proof that we would go out publicly with, saying that the Israelis did it? No, we don't. So we've got to point to what we do know. We know that there was a massive Israeli military-intelligence espionage going on all over the United States, targetting military facilities, Federal buildings, law enforcement, drug enforcement. We know it was going on from no later than January of 2000. And we know that it continued well after the events of Sept. 11. We know that there were at least 125 Israelis detained by U.S. authorities for spying inside the United States between January 2000 and July of 2001. They were on the ground, operating here prior to the Sept. 11 events. And we also know that about 75-80 others were detained after Sept. 11, and that the operation continued.

One of the most recent incidents is that two Israelis were stopped nearby a naval station in Oregon; they were driving a rental truck where they found traces of plastic explosives and TNT. There was a major effort to cover up that incident. We know from talking with some of the people there, at that naval facility, that the military guys considered this a deadly serious attempted penetration for some reason. There was a particular incident that raised a lot of alarm bells, which occurred in Hoboken, New Jersey on Sept. 11; where a group of five or six Israelis were arrested by local police for very suspicious behavior. They were on the roof of a moving company warehouse that they worked for, looking across at the collapse of the World Trade Center towers, and they were very obviously happy about it. Neighbors saw it, called the police; they were held for three or four months; and ultimately, it turned out that the company itself was a Mossad front, which shortly afterwards, disappeared, with the owner going back to Israel.

Stop Ashcroft, and You Stop Sharon

These are all things that we do know. And we know that John Ashcroft has ordered a massive cover-up of this operation. And that's intolerable. If you want to stop Sharon from moving ahead with whatever he's planning, in conjunction with his skunk friends in the United States—these chickenhawks, and others who have a more sophisticated capability—then we've got to blow the lid on the cover-up of this Israeli spy operation. Put it out! Let people know. Have Congressional hearings. Let's find out what it was that these people were doing. All we have is, a 60-page report was leaked out of the Drug Enforcement Administration, that was basically an incident grid, that describes a lot of interesting things, but is not even an evaluation. It just lists incidents and says here's the guys who were involved, and here's what their [Israeli] military training was—demolition, electronic surveillance, primarily.

Ashcroft covered it up. And many of the people in Federal law enforcement who were involved in the investigation, and trying to get to the bottom of what this Israeli business was all about, were demoted, changed to different assignments, and this is all part of a war going on under the surface and behind the scenes. Some of these people have gone to the Senate Judiciary Committee to complain about what Ashcroft is doing.

We're going to blow the lid on this. The article that's already on the websites, and is in *New Federalist,* puts some of these issues on the table. We're going to be publishing additional material on the whole nature of this Israeli spy operation. But the main issue is that this wannabe Nazi—probably too stupid to pass the mental exam, but certainly desires to be a replay of the Nazis—John Ashcroft, the Attorney General, is running a massive cover-up of this operation, and that's got to stop. He's one of these loony Christian Zionists, so you can understand why he would want to do that; but this is intolerable: To be carrying out a cover-up, when it may very well give Sharon the sense of confidence that he can carry out some kind of 9/11-type attack in the United States. This is treason.

There are people in both the House and the Senate, who have a certain sense that the Constitution has been taken into a back room and ripped up and burned, by Ashcroft and company—with the so-called Patriot Act, and all of these other anti-terror measures. People are beginning to whimper about it; not stand up and fight, but whimper. We've got to create the climate where they develop the courage to demand this.

We know that the Senate Judiciary Committee has all the information they need to blow the lid on the Ashcroft cover-up, so we've got to make sure it happens. It's the only thing that we can do at this point, to stop Sharon from doing whatever he's planning. And the same goes for his cohorts inside the United States.