

# A Tale of Two Meetings

by Dean Andromidas

While the media has broadly covered Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's July 29 meeting with President George Bush, which lasted only 30 minutes, another meeting took place one day later, of which nothing has been written or said—between Sharon and Vice President Dick Cheney. The two meetings reflect the very different Middle East policies that are cohabiting within Bush's Administration. The first is the President's "vision" embodied in the Road Map, backed by the "quartet" of Russia, the European Union, and the United Nations along with the United States. The second policy is perpetual war, including regime change in Iran, Syria, and Saudi Arabia. This is being promoted by Cheney, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, and their allies.

Lyndon LaRouche commented on July 31 that Bush's gutlessness toward Sharon, reflected in their July 29 press conference, represents the greatest security threat to the United States at this time—especially since Cheney and his chicken-hawks have been hyping the threat of renewed Sept. 11-style terrorism. Cheney forecast the terrorist threat in his speech at the American Enterprise Institute on July 24, a speech designed to "change the subject" from the drumbeat to remove the Vice President from office because of his lies about Iraq.

LaRouche has warned that the Cheney cabal may be planning just such a terrorist incident in order to complete their own fascist takeover. LaRouche posed the following question to Cheney: "Are you going to organize a terrorist incident, of the type you've been discussing, just as your friends organized Sept. 11?" Ariel Sharon possesses the kind of covert capabilities, through operatives such as Rafi Eytan—reported to be in the United States under an assumed identity—which could supply "false-flag" terrorism that could be used to such an end, just as the Nazis exploited the Reichstag Fire.

## Mild Rhetoric or a Bad Policy.

Bush made it clear at his meeting with Sharon that he is not prepared to confront the Israeli Prime Minister on any of the key issues facing the implementation of the Road Map, such as construction of the Israeli "Berlin Wall," being built in the West Bank; the Israeli settlements and illegal outposts; and the Israeli refusal to release Palestinian prisoners "with blood on their hands." Nonetheless all these issues were taken up by Secretary of State Colin Powell and National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice in their own meetings with Sharon. They made clear they expected progress on these issues, including removal of outposts, a complete halt to expansion of settlements, release of Palestinian prisoners, and

easing brutal conditions Israel continues to impose on the occupied territories.

Lebanon's *Daily Star* likely reflected Middle East leaders' thinking: "When the American President urges the [Israeli] prime minister 'to carefully consider all the consequences of Israel's actions as we move forward on the road to peace,' he delivers a rather explicit policy statement, but does so by using rather mild rhetoric. The honest observer could take this in either of two ways: The substance of the policy overrides the style of the rhetoric, or the other way around. . . . We hope that Mr. Bush's easy-easy public posture reflects his firm belief that this is the best way to generate eventual Israeli compliance. If not, we face the ugly prospect of the U.S. backing off after meeting stiff resistance from Israel."

If the "mild rhetoric" becomes the substance of Bush's policy, then the Road Map will collapse. As of this writing, there has been no progress on any of these issues, which has led to a firestorm of criticism by Palestinian leaders. On July 29, speaking in Jordan, where he was meeting King Abdullah II, Palestinian Prime Minister Abu Mazen (Mahmoud Abbas) said, "The fence is racist. It represents a title for non-coexistence." Palestinian Information Minister Nabil Amr said that Sharon's performance at the White House was "entirely negative," reported the *Palestinian Chronicle* on July 29. Sharon "is not stopping the settlements and he is going on with the wall. . . . I think that President Bush made an effort about the wall but Israel did not pay respect to him." Hanan Ashrawi, the highly respected member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, who has paid many visits to Washington, warned that Bush must do more to save the Road Map. The White House should not "think lip service will help Abbas; it won't," Ashrawi said.

The continuing construction of the wall, in itself, would collapse the Road Map. Originally touted as a "security fence" along the 1967 border, it now, in effect, will ultimately surround the Palestinian population centers, carving out two small *bantustans*. The wall has already grabbed thousands more hectares of Palestinian lands, including agricultural lands now cut off from their owners. Those who approach the "military zone" defined by the wall will be killed, including children. In some areas, it is comprised of man-made mounds of earth 100 meters high, in fact worse than the Berlin Wall. In front of the wall is a ditch and barbed wire, and behind it, a road wide enough for tanks. The World Bank drafted a report indicating that in the first phase of the wall, 12,000 Palestinians in 13 villages will find themselves to the west of the wall and thus, de facto, within Israel's borders. Because it cuts off agricultural land from those who work it, it will threaten the livelihood of over 200,000 Palestinians, almost 15% of the West Bank population. Sharon is personally approving and supervising every meter of this wall.

The President's apparent equivocation might have to do with Sharon's political allies among the U.S. neo-conservatives and Christian Zionists, who form an important base of

electoral support for Bush, and have been mobilizing against the Road Map. While Sharon was in Washington, Tom DeLay, U.S. House majority leader and top right-wing Christian Zionist, was in Israel speaking in the Knesset (parliament) in full support of all of Israel's positions. DeLay's trip was preceded by that of Gary Bauer, one of the most outspoken Christian Zionist political activists in the United States. Bauer, who has been one of the top opponents of the Road Map, was in Israel the week of July 11, where he announced that he would muster the electoral strength of the Christian right to undermine Bush's support for the Road Map.

### The Other Meeting

Sharon's meeting with his other partner, Dick Cheney, whose proceedings remain secret, came at a time when the entire chicken-hawk cabal has been under tremendous pressure as a result of Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche's campaign to get Cheney impeached. LaRouche warned on July 18 that Cheney could start a new war by having Sharon launch a pre-emptive strike on Iran's nuclear complex ("Will Sharon Be Cheney's Hand Grenade?" *EIR*, July 25). There are clear indications that the Sharon-Cheney meeting centered on laying the groundwork for a strike against Iran, utilizing the same secret cooperation that took place during the build-up for the war against Iraq. Over the past weeks, Cheney's crew has demanded regime change in Iran and Syria.

This was hinted in a story in the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* on July 30. Citing sources claiming to have been close to the talks between Sharon and President Bush, *Ha'aretz* said Sharon presented Bush with aerial photographs and other alleged evidence of Iranian efforts to attain enriched uranium for use in weapons development. Sharon also presented evidence claiming that Iran was supporting militant groups, including Hamas and Hizbollah, and that Iran was trying to undermine the cease-fire. He even alleged that Iran was offering \$50,000 to would-be suicide bombers.

There can be little doubt that Sharon's "report" would have been presented in far greater detail in his meeting with Cheney, where it is sure to be cooked up for the ongoing mobilization against Iran. In the above-cited article, *EIR* documented that Sharon had established, many months ago, his own channel into Defense Secretary Rumsfeld's Office of Special Plans, which cooked up "intelligence" on alleged weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, in direct cooperation with Cheney's office. It appears that this cooperation is now being extended to the operations against Iran and Syria.

Even in his press conference with Bush, Sharon attacked Iran and Syria saying, "It must be made clear to these countries that their evil deeds cannot continue." National Security Council spokesman Sean McCormack echoed, "Both Iran and Syria need to make a fundamental choice about the war on terrorism and to stop harboring and supporting terrorists and terrorist networks."

## LaRouche Responds To 'Pure Politics' Questions

*Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche replied on July 27 to the following set of questions submitted by Paige Rohe for PurePolitics.com. The interview has also been posted on the website.*

**Q:** In light of your decades-long struggle against charges of conspiracy by the U.S. government, how do you think this would affect your relationship with the CIA, FBI, and Department of State were you to be elected President?

**LaRouche:** Already, today, after more than two years of poor George, and with the ongoing U.S. catastrophe in the hot sands of Iraq, many professionals would be delighted with the change. Others, according to custom, would adjust. A few skunks would discreetly seek employment away from the henhouse. Such is the relevant best available of all possible worlds.

All the documented 1973-1989 conspiracies against me, including discovered assassination-plots, came from within, most notably, the U.S. or Soviet governments, were done either under a government which no longer exists, or by powerful financier interests whose power would be much diminished by the mere fact of my election. Most in government have the habit of "going along to get along" with the presently established arrangements of that occasion.

**Q:** In order to help save what you refer to as a doomed world and national economy, Mr. LaRouche, you recommend removing the international "free trade" hegemony and replacing it with "the promotion of protected hard-commodity international trade, as part of the promotion of a global, long-term economic-recovery effort." [Paige references LaRouche's "Economics: At the End of a Delusion," which appears on the LaRouche in 2004 campaign website; it was also published in the Feb. 8, 2002 issue of *EIR*—ed.] Could you elaborate on how you will convince Congress and the American people that this plan is in their best interest?

**LaRouche:** In broad terms, I have several crucial advantages working for me. As FDR had the "advantage" of Hoover's bad performance, I will have, as negative advantages, the support of popular hatred against any prolongation of the presently accelerating effects of a systemic breakdown-crisis of the world's present, floating-exchange-rate monetary-financial system, and the related spectacle of Alan Greenspan fleeing the pages of history in his nightshirt. On the positive side, I would benefit from the combined factors of my published record of unequalled success of more than