

Editorial

Break the 'Cheney-Sharon Axis'

The wave of Mideast violence which fascist Gen. Ariel Sharon inaugurated in late 2000 with his drive to become Israel's Prime Minister, has now clearly reached the brink of a Sharon-launched general regional war, accompanied with horrifying levels of terrorism. Sharon "has a green light, to do whatever he wants, from the neo-conservative right-wingers of the Dick Cheney type in the United States, and a yellow light from the Bush White House" a European Jewish statesman told *EIR*. "And for Sharon, a yellow light is all he needs": to move militarily to expel Palestinian National Authority President Yasser Arafat, and in the process, to assassinate him; to start publicly promising Israeli "counter-terror strikes" against Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and/or Saudi Arabia; and to threaten imminent air strikes against Iran's nuclear facilities.

That green light, to pull wide open the gates of a Clash of Civilizations hell, is indeed being given to Sharon by Vice President Dick Cheney and his Straussian "perpetual war" crew. Unreported in the international press is that fact that Dov Weisglas, Sharon's cabinet chief and top confidant, made an unannounced trip to Washington where he met White House officials led by Cheney. This followed Sharon's private, lengthy meeting with Cheney during his own August visit to Washington. The daily *Ha'aretz* reported on Sept. 8 that sources at Sharon's office claimed that there had been a "significant turnaround in the U.S. position on the matter of Arafat's deportation. . . . Jerusalem understands it hasn't received a green light for Arafat's deportation, but it hasn't received a red light, either." And the right-wing *Jerusalem Post*, which editorialized on Sept. 11, "We must kill Yasser Arafat," just before the Israeli Security Cabinet voted to "expel" him, is owned by Anglo-American Lord Conrad Black, a power in Cheney's Washington by his funding of the neo-conservative think-tanks and publications that have seized control of the Bush Administration.

Agriculture Minister Yisrael Katz, a Likud party cohort of Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, said on Sept. 11 that Israel no longer has to wait to receive

America's authorization to expel the Palestinian leader. "As far as I know, there is no Israeli commitment to the Americans not to take action." Katz said.

Washington-based Arab sources close to participants in the Road Map diplomacy, warned that a "deal" backed by Cheney may have already been discussed with the Israelis: that Sharon's mob be allowed to kill Arafat, and however many Hamas, and Islamic Jihad, and other militant leaders they specify—after which, the Israelis will accept international monitors from NATO, or the UN, which will "keep the peace." A deal disastrous enough on its own terms, but one which Sharon would again be allowed to break.

Ha'aretz on Sept. 11 cited Israeli military intelligence personnel who warned, "if even a single hair falls from Arafat's head in an operation to expel him, the result will be a wave of terror the likes of which has yet to be seen." Chief of Staff Gen. Moshe Ya'alon confirmed earlier reports, that Israel was prepared to launch strikes against not only the Palestinians, but also Syria, Lebanon, and now Saudi Arabia, a country with which it has never been at war.

Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov called on Sept. 10 for the Quartet—the UN, EU, U.S., and Russia—to impose the Road Map, by force if necessary. "The time has probably come for the world community, acting through the Quartet of mediators or the United Nations Security Council, to impose tough terms on the conflicting parties so they comply with all provisions of the Road Map peace plan, which could require an international presence in the conflict area," Ivanov said. France, the Arab League, and Egypt have all raised the sharpest warnings of a grave threat of total war in the Mideast, unless the Quartet powers intervene hard.

But this means only one thing: The United States government—the President personally—must "step on Sharon" immediately and hard, as Lyndon LaRouche has demanded, or the region is lost to perpetual war. That means only one thing: Bush has get Cheney out of his Administration, to break the Cheney-Sharon axis.