

## Editorial

# *Israeli Tactics Will Defeat U.S.*

The Cheney Administration is determined to lose in Iraq. That is the only conclusion that can be drawn from the fact that U.S. forces adopted an escalation of Nazi-like violence against not only the insurgents, but the population which is supporting them. While Lyndon LaRouche is broadly circulating a proposal for U.S. withdrawal in favor of the UN and the revival of elections and government based on Iraq's 1958 Constitution, the U.S. military, under neo-con fanatics run by Cheney and Rumsfeld, are repeating the disastrous tactics of the Israeli occupation.

For decades, sane forces in Israel, like the deceased Abba Eban and Yitzhak Rabin, have argued that there is no possible solution to the crisis with the Palestinians, as long as Israel remains an occupier. Ariel Sharon has tried to bury that question in an ocean of blood, reviving the "terror against terror" strategy of the 1970s and '80s, which called for maximum repression. In February 2002, it was revealed—and acknowledged by Sharon's spokesman—that Israeli officers were even studying Nazi General Jürgen Stroop's detailed 1943 report on the extermination of the Warsaw Ghetto, as a guide for the IDF's combat with Palestinians on the West Bank.

For the U.S. military to adopt the Israeli approach, which it is now openly doing, points to doom for the U.S. in Iraq. As Seymour Hersh details in the current issue of the *New Yorker* magazine, the U.S. military has brought in Israeli consultants, and is explicitly following Israeli "counterinsurgency" tactics in the Iraqi theater. Despite an official denial by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Dec. 9, the evidence is not credibly deniable.

Wrote Brig. Gen. Michael A. Vane, the Deputy Chief of Staff for Doctrine Concepts and Strategy at the Army's Training and Doctrine Command, in the July issue of *Army*, "Experience continues to teach us many lessons, and we continue to evaluate and address those lessons, embedding and incorporating them appropriately into our concepts, doctrine, and training. For example, we recently travelled to Israel to glean lessons learned from their counter-terrorist operations in urban areas."

Reflecting the Israeli attitude, Lt. Col. Nathan Sassaman, the American battalion commander responsible for the area that includes Abu Hishma in Iraq, said, "With a heavy dose of fear and violence, and a lot of money for projects, I think we can convince these people we are here to help them." This "doctrine," if among U.S. officers in Iraq, is a recipe for disaster.

The tactics U.S. forces are copying from the Israelis were described, in broad brush, by the *New York Times* on Dec. 7. U.S. troops are surrounding an entire town, Abu Hishma, with razor wire, and requiring all male residents of the town to have ID cards before they can come and go through the only checkpoint. A U.S. Army captain of the 4th Infantry Division is quoted, "You have to understand the Arab mind. The only thing they understand is force—force, pride, and saving face." Even prior to creating such ghettos, the occupying forces had taken to razing houses in towns where guerrillas are suspected, and even arresting their relatives, including children, in order to "encourage" those being sought to come forward. This "strategy" is taken from the Israelis, who knock down whole apartment buildings as "collective punishment" for families of suicide bombers.

Hersh reported that the Pentagon is bringing in the Israelis to help the U.S. military carry out this policy. "According to American and Israeli military and intelligence officials, Israeli commandos and intelligence units have been working closely with their American counterparts at the Special Forces training base at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and in Israel to help them prepare for operations in Iraq. Israeli commandos are expected to serve as ad-hoc advisers—again, in secret—when full-field operations begin." Hersh quotes an adviser to the U.S. civilian authority in Iraq: "The only way we can win is to go unconventional. We're going to have to play their game. Guerrilla versus guerrilla. Terrorism versus terrorism. We've got to scare the Iraqis into submission."

For those who want to actually win the peace, Treaty of Westphalia principles of working for the "advantage of the other" as expressed in LaRouche's Nov. 29 statement of proposed policy, are the key.