

Cheney's Perpetual War Doctrine Revived

by Jeffrey Steinberg

When President George W. Bush met with Russian President Vladimir Putin, on Feb. 24 in Bratislava, the Russian leader had more on his mind than looking “into the soul” of his American counterpart. In the aftermath of the U.S.-backed “rainbow revolutions” in Georgia and Ukraine, threats of U.S. or joint American/Israeli military actions against Iran’s Russian-built nuclear energy facility at Bushehr, and growing Bush Administration demands for increased “democracy” in Russia itself, the Russian leader no doubt was taking a measure of just how far American policy had tilted back to a revived Cold War posture.

A similar reassessment is under way in Beijing, as well, following the recent announcement by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, that the United States and Japan have signed a new protocol, vowing to jointly defend Taiwan against any attacks from the mainland. It is no secret that the very same neo-conservatives in the Pentagon and in the Office of Vice President Dick Cheney, who pushed for the Iraq invasion, are also the leading proponents of a showdown with Moscow and Beijing. Andrew Marshall, the long-time head of the Pentagon’s Office of Net Assessments, is a leading proponent of the idea that war against China is inevitable, and that the United States must be in a position to start that war before China achieves a military breakout. It is in this context that strategists in Beijing will read the recent Washington-Tokyo-Taiwan axis announcement.

The Future As Past

This return to aggressive Cold War rhetoric, directed against two of the leading Eurasian powers, is the clearest signal yet, that the second Bush-Cheney Administration is hell-bent on pushing the “Cheney Doctrine” of preventive war—and not just against the familiar list of “rogue states.”

The “Cheney Doctrine” goes back to the 1992 Bush 41 Administration “Defense Planning Guidance,” prepared for then-Defense Secretary Cheney by a team of Pentagon war planners, including Paul Wolfowitz, Lewis Libby, Zalmay Khalilzad, and Eric Edelman, all of whom currently hold top national security posts in the Bush 43 regime. Addressing the new post-Cold War security environment, the draft document defined American long-term strategic interests.

A copy of the document was leaked to the *New York Times* in 1992, and featured the following formulation: “Our first

objective is to prevent the re-emergence of a new rival. This is a dominant consideration underlying the new regional defense strategy and requires that we endeavor to prevent any hostile power from dominating a region whose resources would, under consolidated control, be sufficient to generate global power. These regions include Western Europe, East Asia, the territory of the former Soviet Union, and South-west Asia.”

While the Bush 41 Administration rejected the “Cheney Doctrine,” the Bush 43 Administration, in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on New York and the Pentagon, formally adopted the concept of unilateral preemption in its September 2002 “National Security Strategy for the United States of America.”

Six months later, the U.S. invaded Iraq, on precisely the terms set forth in the 1992 draft guidance, which had explicitly discussed Iraq and North Korea as likely targets for American preemptive or preventive action.

The Sharansky Corollary

The original 1992 Cheney draft had also prioritized America’s post-Cold War mission as encouraging “the spread of democratic forms of government and open economic systems.” President Bush’s Jan. 20, 2005 Second Inaugural Address elevated the promotion of democracy to a global crusade “against tyranny.” Simultaneously, at the personal urging of Vice President Cheney, the Bush Administration launched a top-down review of U.S. policy towards Russia, on the eve of the already scheduled Bush-Putin meeting. Team Cheney argued that the United States had to adopt a far more aggressive posture towards Moscow, seizing upon the Putin government’s crackdown on the Yeltsin-era Russian oligarchs, who had turned the nation’s oil and raw material patrimony into their personal baronies.

It is no secret that Bush has been brainwashed about the need for a “democracy jihad” since no later than October 2004, when National Security Council senior aide Elliott Abrams arranged a one-on-one Oval Office meeting between the President and Israeli minister Natan Sharansky, the author of a recent propaganda book, *The Case for Democracy: The Power of Freedom to Overcome Tyranny and Terror*, on the virtues of Jacobin democracy.

Sharansky was a former leading Russian “refusenik,” who later came under harsh criticism from some of his earlier collaborators for his opportunistic ties to the American neo-conservatives, and for his willingness to front for Russian Mafiya interests, once he emigrated to Israel and emerged as a leading political figure on the extreme right wing. Indeed, today, Sharansky is one of the most radical opponents of an Israeli pullout of the Gaza Strip and any concessions on the issue of a Palestinian state—a nominal contradiction with U.S. policy, which both Abrams and Rice choose to ignore.

Indeed, Sharansky’s ties to Abrams, Richard Perle, and other leading neo-cons, dates back to the mid-1970s, when Sharansky was the poster boy for Sen. Henry “Scoop” Jack-

son's (D-Wash.) campaign to link trade with the Soviet Union to Jewish emigration. In a recent *Newsweek* interview, Richard Perle described Sharansky and Jackson as his two heroes.

In point of fact, the Jackson-Vanik Amendment of 1974, which established the linkage between trade and Jewish emigration, was aimed primarily at busting up any further moves towards American-Soviet detente. According to one eyewitness, a deal had been already negotiated between President Richard Nixon and Soviet Premier Leonid Brezhnev, to allow Soviet Jewish emigration—two years before Jackson-Vanik, but it had been blocked by Senator Jackson and his allies, to allow him to push through the legislation and use it as a launching pad for his planned 1976 Presidential campaign.

In the same *Newsweek* story in which Perle was quoted, Sharansky boasted of his ties to the Washington neo-cons, dating back a quarter century. Sharansky named Abrams, Perle, Wolfowitz, Libby, and Doug Feith as his long-time collaborators, noting, "If you check their backgrounds, most of them were connected either to Senator Jackson or to the Reagan Administration or to both. And that's why, by the way, many of them are my friends from those years. And in the last 15 years, we kept talking to one another."

But over the same time span, Sharansky's ties to the Russian oligarchs have been just as tight; and this is of relevance to the neo-cons' recent turning up of the heat against Putin. One of Sharansky's oligarchical boosters, Boris Berezovsky, announced last week that he is moving to Ukraine, where he will take a personal role in a campaign to bring down the Putin government in Moscow. Another Russian Mafiya patron of Sharansky, Grigori Louchansky, who poured hundreds of thousands of dollars into Sharansky's political campaigns in Israel, has his own notorious ties to the Bush White House. A joint U.S.-European international criminal probe into Louchansky's Nordex Mafiya front company, turned up evidence that the real power behind the operation—and the source of its initial capitalization—was American financier and raw materials baron, Marc Rich. Cheney's chief of staff Libby spent a dozen years as Rich's attorney during the 1980s and '90s, when he wasn't in government as the deputy/protégé of Paul Wolfowitz.

McCain-Lieberman

On Feb. 18, Senators John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) introduced a resolution, calling for Russia to be booted out of the Group of Eight, for its "backsliding" on democracy. The McCain-Lieberman duo had just led a U.S. delegation to the Wehrkunde annual global security conference in Munich, which was the scene, three years ago, of the launching of their drive to force President Bush into invading Iraq. Following the Wehrkunde meeting, they travelled to Ukraine, to lend their imprimatur to the "Orange Revolution," and to promote the idea that Ukraine's President Yushchenko, along with Georgia's new President Saakashvili, should be jointly given the Nobel Peace Prize this year.

McCain is the current chairman of the International Republican Institute, the Project Democracy GOP front group that was instrumental in the Georgia and Ukraine destabilizations of the past two years, and which is now targetting Moscow itself. McCain's Democratic Party counterpart, the chairman of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, is Madeleine Albright, the self-proclaimed "Wellsian democrat," whose father, Joseph Korbel, also mentored current Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

The "new Cold War" propaganda drive coming out of the Bush-Cheney White House and the Project Democracy gang inside both parties has reached such a frenzied pitch that even Pat Buchanan has come out warning that the prospects for long-term Russian-American friendship are being undermined by a faction at the White House that is out to start a new Cold War, which, Buchanan warns, can actually lead to perpetual war. Of course, perpetual war is precisely what the "Cheney Doctrine" and its new "Sharansky Corollary" are all about.

Dick Cheney/Baroness Symons Dirty Tricks Revived

In August 2004, Lyndon LaRouche's Political Action Committee published the book *Children of Satan*, which featured an exposé and time-line, detailing a dirty tricks campaign against Lyndon LaRouche and the LaRouche political movement, run through the circles of Vice President Dick Cheney, and British Tony Blair intimate Baroness Liz Symons. While the media smear campaign, generated by the Cheney-Symons circle, ostensibly focussed on the death of a young British man, Jeremiah Duggan, the actual key to understanding the affair was the famous suicide case of British scientist David Kelly.

The links between the cases are detailed in the 17-page appendix at the conclusion of *Children of Satan*. In summary, the same Tony Blair, Baroness Symons, Dick and Lynne Cheney circles that launched the smear campaign against Lyndon LaRouche were all the enemies of David Kelly, from the time he stepped forward to expose the intelligence frauds behind the Cheney-Blair push for war on Iraq.

The Kelly-Duggan affair is seen internationally by political insiders as an offshoot of the close collusion between the U.S. Vice President and the Blair/Symons circles in London. The eruption of new slanders against LaRouche associates in the German media in recent days is but the latest manifestation of this ongoing trans-Atlantic corruption.—*Jeff Steinberg*