

tive James Woolsey, and self-proclaimed “universal fascist” Michael Ledeen, into buying fake intelligence, pushed through a former Iranian minister under the Shah, who has more recently been a business partner of discredited Iran-Contra gun dealer Manucher Ghorbanifar. Representative Weldon concealed the identity of his high-level “source,” referring to him only as “Ali.” But “Ali” was soon identified as Fereidoun Mahdavi, a former commerce minister, who fled Iran shortly after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, and never looked back.

In an interview with *The American Prospect*'s Laura Rozan, Mahdavi professed shock and outrage that his “information” had formed the basis for Weldon’s shrill book. He confirmed that all of the information he passed on to the Congressman had, in fact, originated with Ghorbanifar, a notorious disinformationist, and Iran-Contra ally of the Washington neo-cons. Weldon’s saga with “Ali,” as recounted in his book, *Countdown to Terror—The Top-Secret Information That Could Prevent the Next Terrorist Attack on America . . . And How the CIA Has Ignored It*, began in March 2003, at the very moment that the Bush-Cheney regime was about to launch its Iraq invasion.

In late June of this year, Kenneth Timmerman, a propa-

gandist for the neo-cons and for right-wing Israeli circles around former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, published another book, *Countdown to Crisis: The Coming Nuclear Showdown With Iran*, which makes a string of preposterous claims, all based on information provided by the Mujahideen-e-Khalq, an Iranian exile group on the U.S. State Department’s list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations. Timmerman asserted that: Iran was behind the 9/11 attacks; Iran is safehousing Osama bin Laden inside the country; and Iran has all of the elements to produce nuclear weapons, and possibly provide them to terrorist cells already infiltrated into American cities.

When the Timmerman book was published, the *Washington Times* ran three days of excerpts, along with an editorial touting the book and calling for action against Iran.

If all of this sounds remarkably similar to the propaganda run-up to the Iraq invasion of March 2003, that’s because it is. The same Michael Ledeen/Richard Perle/Dick Cheney circles that brought you Operation Iraqi Freedom, are aggressively pushing war against Iran. But this time, with 170,000 American troops bogged down in Iraq, Cheney, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, et al. are now pushing their decade-old plan to conduct pre-emptive nuclear strikes.

EIR Confronts McClellan On Iran War Scenario

At a White House briefing on July 28, *EIR* correspondent Bill Jones queried Bush-Cheney spokesman Scott McClellan about the “Guns of August” scenario for war against Iran.

After explaining the content of the *American Conservative* article on Vice President Dick Cheney’s revamping of the military posture toward Iran, with 4-500 missiles, including tactical nuclear missiles directly under theater commander control, now targetted on Iran, Jones asked: “Given our problems with Iran and the fact that now that they have decided to continue with developing the full fuel cycle for their peaceful nuclear program, might we not be anxious that if there were a terrorist incident here in the United States in any way attributed to Iran, that there might be a knee-jerk reaction utilizing this hair-trigger against the Iranians?”

McClellan replied: “One, I appreciate your question. I’m not going to get into accepting anything that you alleged in your comments. I’m not going to get into discussing matters relating to national security of that nature.

“Two, in terms of Iran, Iran made some commitments to suspend their uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities. We expect them to abide by that commitment. If they were to begin those activities again, they would be violating the commitment they made under the Paris agreement with the Europeans. And we have made it very clear that Iran has a history of hiding their nuclear activities from the international community. That’s why it’s so important that you have some confidence-building measures, or objective guarantees in place, so that they show the international community that their nuclear program is not being used to develop weapons, or that they’re not developing weapons under the cover of a civilian program. And if Iran is going to violate their agreements, then we would, obviously, be looking at discussing with the Europeans, who have also committed to doing so, looking at going to the Security Council.”

Other reporters pursued the line of questioning. CBS’s John Roberts focussed on the alleged role of the new President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, in the 1979 hostage crisis (a role the State Department later denied), inquiring whether the Administration considered this also a “terrorist act” and if it would thus fall under the Bush Doctrine. McClellan would not give a clear answer on this, but simply said that Iran was still considered a “state sponsor of terrorism.”