

# Brzezinski: Don't Back Syrian Rebels

by EIR Staff

Oct. 27—Zbigniew Brzezinski, the former anti-Soviet hawk who, as Carter Administration National Security Advisor (1977-81), helped create the rebel mujahideen in Afghanistan, has vehemently rejected any proposal for arming rebels in Syria. Speaking on PBS's Charlie Rose Show Oct. 23, the former Trilateral Commission operative denounced the British and French for creating the "mess" in Syria, and spoke of working with Russia and China to find solutions to the region's conflicts. The alternative, he said, will be regional war.

In a webcast last night, Lyndon LaRouche assessed Brzezinski's radical turnabout, saying, "He now looks at the world and says 'Look, that time is over. There no longer is a Soviet Union to worry about. There are no longer these other kinds of things. I am an old man; I am a Catholic; I'm a devoted Christian. And in my time, as I'm reaching a terminal state in my life, what am I going to do with the remainder of my life?' And, therefore, you have the case where someone who has acted like a reprobate from the standpoint of looking in from the outside, and you find that they're coming out with a completely different policy. It's their own policy, for a change. An old man who's not going to go out of this world without taking some honor with him."

Rose's program was on the theme of a recent paper by National War College Prof. Michael Mazarr, that the current U.S. strategic posture is unsustainable. Mazarr was also a guest on the show, along with former Obama National Security Advisor Gen. James Jones and *Washington Post* columnist David Ignatius.

Host Rose asked Brzezinski how "strategic unsustainability" applied to Syria. He replied that we must consider, "What are the prospects, perhaps, of that war rapidly spreading. Syria is next door to Iraq. Iraq is on the verge of a breakdown between the Sunnis and the Shi'ites, into a civil war. Syria is also on the brink, on the edge, of the Kurds, and their role in the region. It could be very, very destabilizing, if the war started spreading. There is, of course, Iran next door, which could become in some fashion involved.



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*Zbigniew Brzezinski, never known as a peacenik, warned in the strongest terms, on the Charlie Rose show, that a U.S. attack on Iran or Syria would be a disaster; instead, he urged, we should be working with the Russians and the Chinese, to bring stability to the region.*

"In brief, I have the feeling that it's not exactly within the realm of our means, of our resources, or compatible with our recent experience, to enter the fray, without thinking very seriously about the likelihood that if we enter into it, particularly if *we* enter into it—because we're not exactly popular in the Middle East these days—the result will be a much *wider* war, with really serious consequences then for Turkey, and perhaps for Jordan and Saudi Arabia, and because of its economic consequences, for Europe. So I'm afraid that the word I tend to emphasize in this context is 'prudence,' rather than 'engagement.'"

Rose began a description of the Presidential candidates' debate remarks about the various ways they thought they might aid the Syrian opposition, and Brzezinski interrupted, "You can't start supplying arms to someone, without becoming engaged in the consequences of that! You can't maintain that kind of sealed detachment from the supply of arms, and eventually, engagement in the process. Especially if the supply of arms *itself* creates temptations to spread that war."

Later in the show, Mazarr described how the Obama regime is groping toward a Syria policy in the new paradigm, potentially arming opposition groups, and a variety of similar steps, "but they're going to be very messy, and they're not going to satisfy a lot of advocates of

short-term action, and we're going to have to keep at them for a long period of time. It's not going to be as *clean* as advocates of intervention had once thought."

### An Extremely Volatile Region

Rose, off camera, asked: "Zbig, you're smiling as you heard him say that. What does that smile mean?"

The camera shifted to Brzezinski, who chuckled, and smiling broadly, responded, "Well, I just don't understand how we can get involved in supporting and arming, and thus intensifying, the makings of a civil war, without thinking as to how long it may last, how much blood will it consume, how deeply we'll have to become engaged, and how it might spread. *This is an extremely volatile region.* You have to think of it, not just as Syria, which is more than 20 million people. Yes, 30,000 have been killed, but it's 20 million people, and most of the 20 million people are still controlled by the government. So we're going to try to overthrow that. So we're going to make that civil war more intense, more extensive, more bloody.

"And, it will affect the neighborhood, because it will ignite the Sunni-Shi'ite conflict. It will destabilize Jordan. It's already destabilizing Lebanon. It might draw in the Turks. Are the Turks prepared to lunge into Syria? Maybe they would like *us* to clean up Syria, but we have to ask ourselves about the consequences if we try. Are we prepared to do it *seriously*, or are we just going to provide arms, as it progressively gets worse? I think after ten years in Afghanistan, after the mess in Iraq, we'd better think calmly and coldly about this issue. It's very emotionalizing, because there's a lot of human suffering involved. But I would like someone to lay out a blueprint for how this problem is to be solved by us, starting first with arming the opposition—but excluding an eventual massive involvement? And with the region exploding?"

### Work with Russia, China

To Rose's question, "So, we do nothing?" Brzezinski said there are a lot of other things we can do, and advocated working with the Russians and Chinese to develop a viable solution to be presented to the Assad government as something workable—rather than dictating to it our ideas, and then denouncing Syria's refusal to accept them.

He added, "I'm saying, let's see if we can still do it with the international community with us. And I think that having the Russians and the Chinese [work with

us] is not yet to be excluded. *We can't really rely on the advice of the French and the British, because they are the architects of the mess that is now beginning to collapse*" (emphasis added). Rose hastened, as Brzezinski was finishing that last sentence, to shift the discussion.

Near the end of the program, Brzezinski reiterated the danger of triggering a regional war:

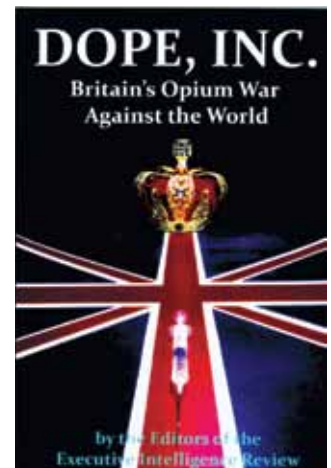
"There are two powers next to Syria, who are very important, and very relevant to the future of what happens. One is Saudi Arabia. We have to be very careful about that, because the Saudis are deeply involved right now, in fanning a Sunni-Shi'ite conflict in Syria. Is that really in our interest? Are we really supposed to be supporting that? And how will this impact on the Iranian reaction? That's something which I think warrants some caution.

"The second one is Turkey. Turkey is an important 80-million country: 80 million people. It has the best army in NATO, outside of the United States, actually. What about the Turks? You're going to have an American involvement in arming the rebels, and potentially an American engagement in the conflict?"

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