

LaRouche-Led Assault On Cheney Is Drawing Blood

by Jeffrey Steinberg

On Sept. 20, 2002, Lyndon LaRouche, the tenth candidate for the Democratic Party Presidential nomination, issued a campaign statement, calling on Vice President Dick Cheney to resign from office, on the grounds that his imperialist policy designs posed a grave threat to the security of the United States and the world. In the intervening year, LaRouche has kept up the focussed exposures of the Vice President's role, as the chief architect of the disastrous Iraq war, and the intelligence fakery that led a too-gullible Congress to give the White House *carte blanche* to prosecute, what Cheney and his neo-conservative cohorts view as a "perpetual war" against target nations extending from Libya, Somalia, and Sudan in Africa, to Iraq, Iran, Syria, and Lebanon in the Middle East, to North Korea.

Now, there is growing evidence that significant U.S. policy institutions have concluded that LaRouche was right, and have joined the drive to expose and depose Cheney and the entire neo-conservative gang that hijacked American foreign policy, beginning with the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington, attacks which LaRouche identified, from the outset, as a *de facto* coup d'état against the Presidency.

While the immediate focus of most of the media attention is the White House leaks about former Ambassador Joseph Wilson IV and his wife, who was "outed" as a Central Intelligence Agency "non-official cover" operative, the scope of the attacks on Cheney himself, signals that there is much more afoot than an effort to determine which White House officials broke the law, by leaking to columnist Robert Novak and a half-dozen other journalists, this past July, following a *New York Times* op-ed by Wilson, which named Cheney as the senior official who tasked the CIA to probe reports of Iraq's alleged attempts to procure uranium precursor, known as "yellowcake," from the African nation of Niger.

As the result of the Cheney tasking, the CIA had sent Wilson, a distinguished retired career foreign service officer, who had served in a number of diplomatic postings in Africa, and had been the chief Africa officer at the National Security Council under President Bill Clinton, to Niger to probe the allegations. From the outset, the intelligence community had been deeply skeptical about the Niger yellowcake story. It later emerged that the documents purporting to show the Iraqi effort to obtain uranium in Africa were forgeries; however, Cheney continued to peddle the yellowcake fairy tale, long after the revelations about the fake documents.

As recently as Sept. 14, 2003, in an appearance on "Meet the Press," Cheney lied flat-out, that the government had been right in going to war, based on Iraq's still-missing weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and its alleged role in the 9/11 terror attacks. Cheney's TV performance triggered a huge backlash, leading President George W. Bush to distance himself from Cheney's continued claims of Iraqi involvement in 9/11.

On Sept. 27, Rep. Porter Goss (R-Fla.) and Rep. Jane Harman (D-Calif.), the ranking members of the House Intelligence Committee, sent a letter to Director of Central Intelligence George Tenet, upon completion of the intelligence panel's review of the 19 volumes of classified intelligence that formed the basis for the Bush Administration's decision to go to war against Iraq in March 2003. The bipartisan letter found that the intelligence on Iraq was "circumstantial and fragmentary," and contained "too many uncertainties" to support the Administration's allegations that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and ties to al-Qaeda—the two leading reasons trumpeted, particularly by Vice President Cheney, to sell the Iraq invasion to the American people and the world.

Goss and Harman noted the "significant deficiencies" in the U.S. intelligence community's ability to develop new

intelligence on Iraq, forcing a reliance on old data, obtained prior to the pullout of UN weapons inspectors in 1998. They further charged that the “absence of proof [that Iraq’s WMD] had been destroyed, was considered proof they continued to exist.” They concluded, “The lack of specific intelligence on the [Saddam Hussein] regime’s plans and intentions, WMD, and Iraq support for terrorist groups, appears to have hampered the IC’s [intelligence community’s] ability to provide a better assessment to policymakers from 1998-2003.” Goss, however, made it clear that he did not fault the intelligence community’s assessments, which cautioned against any firm conclusions that Iraq was engaged in a live WMD effort, or had been tied to al-Qaeda prior to 9/11.

Capitol Hill sources reported, following the release of the Goss-Harman letter, that the House and Senate intelligence committees will now begin a new phase of their investigation, interviewing witnesses, to prepare for future hearings. The fact that Goss, a former CIA operations officer, broke ranks with the White House and said, in effect, that there was no intelligence basis for the Iraq War, has even more profound implications than the probe into the White House leaks. Up until the release of the letter, House Majority Whip Tom DeLay (R-Tex.) had maintained strict party discipline, and blocked any House of Representatives probes, from the Government Reform Committee, the Armed Services Committee, and the Intelligence panel, into the role of Cheney’s aides and the Pentagon Office of Special Plans (OSP) in cooking the intelligence to justify war.

Now, the Intelligence panel probe can move to the next phase. Goss’s actions may soon be matched by leading GOP Senators Richard Lugar (Ind.), Chuck Hagel (Neb.), John Warner (Va.), and John McCain (Ariz.), who all have key positions on Senate armed forces and intelligence panels.

Cheney’s OSP Disinformation Shop

It has been widely reported that Vice President Cheney, and his chief national security aide, Lewis “Scooter” Libby, were deeply involved in the day-to-day activities of the Pentagon Office of Special Plans (OSP), the unit under Assistant Secretary of Defense for Policy Douglas Feith, that was created to review the intelligence community’s data, searching for proof of Iraqi WMD and terrorist links. The unit mushroomed, on the eve of the Iraq invasion, from a small Iraq desk at the Pentagon’s Near East and South Asia policy shop,



The Washington Post, with many other newspapers and magazines, turned the “Iraq-gate” focus to Dick Cheney over the weekend of Sept. 29-30, reflecting a shift within the institutions toward the demands for Cheney’s ousting made by Lyndon LaRouche for over a year.

to a rogue intelligence and operations group, dominated by neo-cons, with as many as 100 “personal contract” consultants, peddling discredited information from the Iraqi National Congress and the office of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, to give Cheney and his allies the ammunition to counter the far more sober assessments coming out of the CIA, the State Department Intelligence and Research unit, and the Defense Intelligence Agency—which all disputed the charges of Iraqi WMD and involvement in the 9/11 attacks.

Now, with Goss and Harman confirming that they saw no justification for the allegations concerning WMD and an al-Qaeda link, the whole Cheney-led Iraq War intelligence fakery is fair game for official scrutiny. And that is very bad news for a President George W. Bush facing a serious re-election battle. In fact, U.S. intelligence sources confirm that the President personally gave his approval to CIA Director Tenet’s endorsement of a Justice Department probe of the origins of the Wilson leaks, even though such White House officials as National Security Council Mideast head Elliott Abrams, Cheney aide Libby, and White House political director Karl Rove have been named as possible sources of the leaks.

The Bush Sr. Factor

Just prior to the eruption of the Cheneygate scandals, former President George H.W. Bush had travelled to Russia, to attend the opening of a new joint venture between the Carlyle Group and the Alfa Group, which will invest \$500 million in Russia. During the visit, Bush and his wife were hosted by

Russian President Vladimir Putin at his vacation home on the Black Sea. Both Russian and U.S. sources have confirmed that Putin and the elder Bush had a frank discussion about the “neo-con problem.” Putin reportedly impressed on the President’s father that he wishes to maintain close ties to the Administration, but faces his own Presidential re-election in late 2004, and cannot be seen as consorting with a U.S. Administration dominated by Cheney and the war party.

A week after the Black Sea visit, President Putin met with “Bush 43” at Camp David. Although the Russian leader did not raise the neo-con/Cheney issue with his U.S. counterpart, there is good reason to believe that the informal discussion with “Bush 41” contributed to the conclusion that the continuing dominance of Cheney and the neo-cons over the current Administration had to end. Bush Sr., as a former CIA Director, and his close associates have an awareness of the necessary role of the U.S. institutions—including the intelligence and uniformed military institutions—in protecting the U.S. Constitution. At the start of the “Bush 43” Administration, he had weighed in with G.W. to retain George Tenet as CIA Director, arguing that the top intelligence post should be shielded from politics as much as possible.

Cheney’s Corruption

On Oct. 1, as the Joe Wilson leak probe was being upgraded to an official Justice Department/FBI criminal investigation, Dick Cheney was hit on another flank: his corrupt ties to Halliburton, Inc., one of the leading recipients of Bush Administration contracts for the reconstruction of Iraq. Cheney had been the president and CEO of Halliburton during the Clinton era, and had built up the former oil field services firm into a major Pentagon subcontractor. Halliburton has won billions of dollars in Iraq reconstruction contracts from the Bush Administration, including several lucrative no-bid contracts. In his Sept. 14 appearance on “Meet the Press,” Cheney lied about his continuing financial ties to the company, claiming that he had completely severed those ties when he became Vice President.

However, a probe of the Cheney-Halliburton ties commissioned by Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) confirmed that the Vice President was still receiving deferred salary checks from Halliburton, and had stock options, potentially worth millions of dollars, which both officially constitute financial interests. The Oct. 1 *New York Times* editorialized against Cheney’s corruption with Halliburton, warning that the entire Iraq reconstruction was jeopardized by the high-ticket contracts to Cheney-linked American corporations, while Iraqis capable of the reconstruction work, at far cheaper costs, remained unemployed. With all of these scandals erupting, and with the intelligence community and the uniformed military clearly weighing in against the neo-con cabal, the counter-coup, which LaRouche called for right after 9/11, has begun. And that is good news for all Americans and for all past, current, and potentially future allies of the United States.

Documentation

LaRouche’s Record: Why Cheney Must Be Removed

by EIR Staff

For more than a year Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche has identified Vice-President Dick Cheney as the crucial character within the Bush Administration who has, 1) been pursuing his own long-term strategy of turning the United States into a new Roman Empire, and 2) been exercising Svengali-like power over President George W. Bush in order to achieve his ends. We review LaRouche’s track record on this matter, citing from his major documents and webcasts.

Sept. 20, 2002: “Iraq Is a Fuse, But Cheney Built the Bomb,” was the title of a major statement issued by LaRouche two days after the release of the so-called “National Security Strategy of the United States,” and the draft Congressional resolution authorizing the President to go, unconstitutionally, to war. In that document, LaRouche identified the Vice-President as the key figure behind the pre-emptive war policy, and called for his resignation. We quote:

“The fact is, that the policies contained within those two fraudulent documents, were first surfaced during Spring 1990, as emissions of a task force directed by then-Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, a task force then headed by Paul Wolfowitz, Lewis Libby, and Eric Edelman. Although unsuccessful until now, they represent the persisting, mad obsession of Dick Cheney and his Chicken-hawk accomplices over the course of no less than the past dozen years.

“Fact #2: The evidence since 1992 is, that the policy uttered in those documents, is not a reflection of 2001-2002 developments, but is merely but another of many rewarmings of the previously failed work product embodied in a September 2000 revival of the previously suppressed Cheney doctrine of 1990. This was a policy of Vice Presidential candidate Dick Cheney, designed as a global strategic doctrine intended to govern the foreign policy of a 2001-2005 Bush Administration.

“Fact #3: This doctrine, pushed repeatedly by Cheney and his Chicken-hawk accomplices since 1990, had no notable success in securing adoption until the events of Sept. 11, 2001. Although no actual proof of the authorship of the Sept. 11, 2001 physical attacks on New York City and Washington has been presented by any government, without those attacks, the previously unsuccessful policies of Cheney and his Sharon-allied Chicken-hawks could not have been brought forth as

the two new Bush Administration doctrines now. Solely as a result of the psychological impact of Sept. 11, 2001, Cheney, his Chicken-hawks, and Ariel Sharon, are now being given the war they have desired so passionately, so obsessively, over a dozen years to date. . . .

“In summary, Vice President Dick Cheney’s recurring wet dreams of a U.S. worldwide Roman Empire are, in and of themselves, the world’s greatest single threat to the continuation of civilization in any part of this planet today. These facts demand that Cheney’s prompt resignation be sought, and accepted.”

March 25, 2003: “War, Hitler, & Cheney” was the title of a major document released by the LaRouche campaign in the immediate wake of the launching of the Iraq war, in which LaRouche put the spotlight, once again, directly on the Vice-President and his de facto control over President Bush:

“The immediate situation of the United States is summed up as follows: At this moment, as I had forewarned you in 1999-2000, we are plunging into a world depression comparable to, but worse than the Herbert Hoover Depression of 1929-1933. As I forewarned you in an address broadcast at the beginning of 2001, new would-be Adolf Hitlers have now appeared, this time inside the U.S.A. Those would-be Hitlers now threaten the whole world with the kinds of wars for which the world later hung Nazi leaders, at Nuremberg: the new Hitlers from inside the U.S.A. and Blair’s government, who act exactly as Hitler threatened Czechoslovakia in 1938, and invaded Poland in 1939.

“The pivotal feature of that warfare into which an already bankrupt United States has just been plunged, is the de facto usurpation of the function of a still-sitting President by Halliburton’s Vice-President Cheney, and by a gang of his organized-crime-linked lackeys polluting not only the Departments of Defense and State; but also polluting, and virtually castrating elected and other leaders of the nominal opposition, the Democratic Party.”

April 24, 2003: In his webcast on this date, LaRouche again stressed that removing Cheney, not Bush, was the key to shifting the situation in the United States. This has to be done now, not after the 2004 elections, LaRouche said.

June 7, 2003: LaRouche’s campaign issued a press release under the title, “LaRouche Says Charges Against Cheney Constitute Grounds for Impeachment.” The release read as follows:

“In the midst of a growing mountain of evidence that Vice President Dick Cheney led a battery of senior Bush Administration officials, in repeatedly using what was known to be a forged document from a foreign government to corral Congressional and public support for the Iraq war, Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche issued a sharply-worded statement today, insisting on a full investigation, documenting exactly what Vice President Cheney knew; when he knew it; and precisely what he did, contrary to what he knew to be the truth.

“The charges against Cheney are centered on the fact that the Vice President repeatedly used documents, allegedly from the government of Niger, purporting to show Iraqi government efforts to purchase large quantities of uranium precursor ‘yellow cake’ from that African nation, long after he learned that the documents were forged.

“In a statement released through his national spokeswoman, Debra Hanania-Freeman, LaRouche was quoted as saying: ‘Let there be no mistake about it. The nature of these charges constitute hard grounds for impeachment. The question has to be taken head on. It is time for Dick Cheney to come clean. I want to know exactly what Dick Cheney knew and when he knew it. The charges are grave and specific and leave no wiggle room. Determining who knew what and when is, at this time, an urgent matter of national security.’

“Freeman, citing LaRouche’s own track record in challenging the avalanche of disinformation and “spun” intelligence products, thrown up by the Straussian neo-conservative network inside the Bush Administration to launch the recent war against Iraq, said that LaRouche was uniquely positioned to hold not only the Administration itself, but also the other Democratic Presidential candidates accountable for their uncritical endorsement of what amounts to an ongoing fraud against the Congress and the American people.

“She said that the chronology of events documented in the Waxman letter, indicates that Vice President Cheney was among the first Administration officials to be informed that the Niger documents were forgeries; and that he nevertheless continued to assert the Niger-Iraq uranium story as fact. “This kind of witting, repeated fraud against the Congress and the people of the United States represents a crime of the highest order. And, as such, I can tell you that Mr. LaRouche will see to it that a determination is made, and made quickly, and that he will not back off until appropriate and severe action against those perpetrating this fraud is taken.”

Cheney Represents Synarchist Financiers

July 2, 2003: In an internationally broadcast webcast, LaRouche identified Vice-President Cheney as a new potential Adolf Hitler, and stressed the need to remove him from the Administration.

Aug. 9, 2003: LaRouche’s campaign released a leaflet entitled “When Cheney Spoke of Terrorism: Which Terrorists, Dick?” The leaflet addressed the fact that Cheney had given a speech on July 24, in which he effectively promised that a new terrorist attack against the U.S.A. was on its way. LaRouche proposed an escalated campaign of exposé of the Synarchist International grouping, which is run from the top by oligarchical bankers for which Cheney was the frontman.

With these statements circulating in the millions of copies, and within policy circles in Washington, can there be any doubt that the political demise of Dick Cheney, will be seen internationally, and correctly, as the direct result of the initiative taken openly, and aggressively, by Lyndon LaRouche?