

Terror Bombings Target Egypt for Destruction

by Dean Andromidas

The terror bombings Oct. 7, which targetted the Taba Hilton and other tourist resorts in the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula, killing 15, and wounding nearly 60, mark a major assault on Egypt. Hala Mustafga, a commentator for the Egyptian government-backed *Al Ahram* daily, wrote: "The choice of the target was very symbolic. It will damage Egypt's standing in the region, challenge Mubarak's authority, and probably hurt the economy, where tourism is the main source of income."

The attack on Egypt is part of the expanding "Arc of Crisis" that begins in Central Africa, reaching up through Sudan, into Egypt, Israel, Syria-Lebanon, and into Iran and Central Asia. The policy is to create chaos and destruction. The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq are only the beginning of this policy, as was stated by Lyndon LaRouche at a recent international seminar held in Germany on Sept. 23. LaRouche warned, "Do not axiomatically assume" that the ongoing disastrous military, political, and social-economic situations in Afghanistan and Iraq, are the result of "miscalculations or strategic mistakes," LaRouche said. Consider that "maybe this was not a mistake, but rather, intentional."

This policy is aimed at Africa, and Eurasia as a whole, LaRouche continued. The intent is to "destroy the entire territory, get the people out of it, and leave the natural resources of central Eurasia for future generations"—under the control of the Anglo-American synarchist oligarchy that stands behind the Bush-Cheney government.

LaRouche referred directly to the targetting of Egypt as part of this policy, in answer to a question during his Oct. 6 international webcast in Washington, D.C. Referring to the manipulation of the Darfur crisis in Sudan, LaRouche said: "And the way this Darfur thing is being mishandled and misrepresented, including by [Democratic Presidential candidate John] Kerry, is part of the problem. Certain people are trying to destroy Egypt, by destroying Sudan. [South Sudanese se-

cessionist John] Garang is a U.S. agent. Garang's agents are part of the slaughter. That's the genocide. . . . The other agent is [Hassan] al-Turabi, who's a *British* agent, of the Muslim Brotherhood pedigree. . . .

"So you say the Sudanese government is doing it; it is the United States government that is doing it, with the British. . . . The purpose is: They'll grab the water and oil of the region, from Sudan. And while they grab the water, they're going to collapse Egypt. You collapse Egypt, you want peace? You want Hell on Earth?"

Agreeing with LaRouche's assessment, an Israeli intelligence source said that those who say it was al-Qaeda or the Mossad miss the point. Al-Qaeda is being blamed all the time for every attack no matter where it is, he said. That doesn't mean much, because al-Qaeda is blamed for everything. As for the Mossad, he said, Mossad chief Meir Dagan, a crony of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, is capable of anything. However, the source said, he would hesitate to say the Mossad would do it directly, and if they did, then they had crossed a very dangerous red line. The crucial point, he said, is to identify the geopolitical forces from outside the region, as well as from inside the region, who are behind this attack and benefitting from it. These two forces may not necessarily have the same agenda. The source said that the attack is "a gift to extremists on both sides."

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, along with Vice President Dick Cheney, were quick to name al-Qaeda. Within hours of the attack, Sharon ordered the Israeli security services to concentrate on targetting al-Qaeda. So, one can soon expect that car bombs will be going off in Arab capitals, like the bomb that killed an Hamas operative in Damascus last month.

Meanwhile, certain voices in the Arab media were quick to blame the Mossad. By contrast, as of this writing, the Egypt-



Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, U.S. President Jimmy Carter, and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin at the signing of the Camp David Accords, Sept. 17, 1978. The Sinai bombings have placed the peace treaty in jeopardy. The 1995 Middle East Peace Treaty was signed by Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat at the Taba resort which was recently targeted by terrorists.

tian government has refused to conclude who was responsible for the attacks. Whoever the hands and feet were who carried out the bombings, the intention is clear: Egypt has been put on the same target list as Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Iran.

A New 1967 War?

Egypt stands at the dangerous crossroads of this expanding Arc of Crisis, which stretches from Africa into West and Central Asia. To Egypt's south, the Arc begins in the mineral- and oil-rich regions of Central and West Africa, where, for the last decade, an axis of Anglo-American mining and oil corporations, British mercenary firms, and Israeli arms dealers have engineered genocidal wars which have allowed the world's largest natural resources grab to take place.

This process has reached up into Sudan, where the war being waged by the Anglo-American-backed separatist army of John Garang has expanded from southern Sudan into the Darfur region in the west, threatening the dismemberment of Sudan. Chaos and destruction in Sudan threatens the watershed of the upper Nile, whose life-sustaining water is the determining factor in Egypt's very survival as a nation.

To Egypt's north is the raging war in Iraq, which Cheney and his neo-cons are determined to expand into Syria and Lebanon on the one hand, and into Iran on the other. The neo-con ideologues have signalled that Saudi Arabia and Egypt are no longer to be trusted. In preparation for expanding the war into these regions, last March, the Pentagon removed Syria and Lebanon from its European Command, and transferred them to the Central Command—the same Command that is waging the war in Iraq.

The Central Command now encompasses a region

stretching from the India Subcontinent and Central Asia, into West Asia and down into Egypt and the Horn of Africa, including Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya, thus covering the entire Arc of Crisis. Only Israel remains under the European Command. The plan of these neo-con strategists is that Israel will serve as the "bridgehead," if war is waged against Syria or Egypt.

Cheney and the neocons' ally is Sharon and his generals, who are eager to eliminate Syria and Iran as military powers. *EIR* reported that Amir Oren, a Israeli military security commentator, wrote a signal piece June 5 in *Ha'aretz*, saying that military security circles linked to Sharon no longer trust Egypt as a peace partner, but see it as a future enemy. (See "Sharon's Generals Plan New Six-Day War with Egypt," *EIR*, June 18.) Moreover, Oren wrote that any war against Syria would potentially draw a response from Egypt, requiring a decision on whether Israel would overturn its 1978 peace treaty with Egypt, and launch a pre-emptive strike against Egypt, as it did in the 1967 Six-Day War.

The Sinai bombings have undermined the treaty. They represent the first wide-scale terrorist attacks on Israelis in Egypt since the treaty was signed, and they are the first attacks, ever, in the Sinai. The Taba Hilton is so close to the Israeli border, that the blast from the car bomb destroyed the facilities at the border crossing.

Since the peace treaty, the Sinai has been the one Arab region to which Israeli tourists have flocked in the thousands. Israeli commentators point out that the Sinai has been a place Israelis could see that they could live in peace with their Arab neighbors. The bombing shattered all that, serving to push Israelis psychologically into Sharon's hard-line mentality.

Similarly, Egyptian sources pointed out that the “terrible thing” emerging from the attacks is that some are justifying it, saying, if the Israelis are allowed to kill innocent civilians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with impunity, and under U.S. protection, then “someone has to do something” against Israel. One source noted that even Mohammed Seyed Said, director of the Al Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies, had written an article condemning the attack, but mentioning that if governments are helpless, then individuals will act out of desperation.

The bombings could lead to the re-militarization of the “Area C” buffer zone in the Sinai, where a special security regime exists, as a part of the 1978 Camp David Accords. The re-entry of heavily armed Egyptian forces could serve as a pretext for cross-border clashes. Sharon’s ongoing military operations in the Gaza Strip, which borders directly on the Sinai, could also serve as a flash point.

Overtaking the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, also requires overturning the strategic partnership between Egypt and the United States, upon which the treaty was built. That partnership has been sealed with more than a billion dollars annually in U.S. military aid to Egypt.

Meanwhile, Sharon’s generals continue their war-like policies. In the Gaza Strip, the three-week-old brutal Israeli military operation had taken the lives of more than 110 Palestinians, including 40 children. On Oct 12, Sharon denied a request by the Israeli military high command to end the operation, because it has lost all military purpose. Sharon simply wants to keep killing Palestinians.

Only three days after the Taba bombing, Oct. 12, Sharon ordered Israeli F-16s and helicopter gunships to conduct provocative sweeps over Lebanon’s Beqaa valley, where Syria’s troops are stationed. Such sweeps are aimed at drawing anti-aircraft fire by the Hezbollah militants, which, in turn, serve as a pretext for Israeli reprisals. Then, on Oct. 13, a Hamas representative in Damascus revealed that the Syrian authorities had arrested four individuals who were believed to be involved in an Israeli plot to assassinate Hamas leader Khaled Mashal. At that very moment, Mashal was in Egypt holding discussions with Omar Suliman, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak’s intelligence chief. Suliman has been endeavoring to mediate a ceasefire among all the Palestinian militant factions, in an effort to get the peace process off the ground. Sharon has been systematically sabotaging this effort by killing the moderate leadership within Hamas who are supporting Suliman’s ceasefire.

Voices of Concern Speak Out in Israel

On Oct. 11, the prestigious Jaffe Center for Strategic Studies published its latest report, “The Middle East Strategic Balance 2003-2004,” which warned that Bush’s war in Iraq has become a serious distraction from the international war on terror. The Jaffe Center represents a faction of the Israeli military security establishment that is alarmed by the dangers

the Cheney-Sharon alliance pose to the security, if not the very survival, of Israel. An executive summary of the report states:

“During the past year Iraq has become a major distraction from the global war on terrorism. Iraq has now become a convenient arena for jihad, which has helped al-Qaeda to recover from the setback it suffered as a result of the war in Afghanistan. With the growing phenomenon of suicide bombing, the U.S. presence in Iraq now demands more and more assets that might have otherwise been deployed against various dimensions of the global terrorist threat.” The report also said the war has “created momentum for many terrorist elements, but chiefly al-Qaeda and its affiliates.”

The directors of the institute were even more forthright in their comments to the press. Shai Feldman said that the vast amounts of money poured into Iraq have deflected assets from other centers of terrorism, such as Afghanistan. He said the intelligence expenditures made necessary by the large U.S. troop deployment “have to be at the expense of being able to follow strategic dangers in other parts of the world.”

Brigadier General (reserve) Shlomo Brom said the U.S. effort was misdirected at the strategic level. If the goal in the war against terrorism is “not just to kill the mosquitoes but to dry the swamp, now it’s quite clear” that Iraq is not the swamp. He went on to say, “On a strategic level as well as an operational level the war in Iraq is hurting the war on international terrorism.”

Yoram Schweitzer, who wrote the report’s chapter on Iraq, said that the conflict there is a “national struggle,” as it is with the Palestinian militant groups, while groups like al-Qaeda target the Western world. Schweitzer reported that he had interviewed many Palestinian militants and found that “many are critical of al-Qaeda and its methods.”

Contrary to Sharon’s policy of provoking a war with Syria, the report calls for accepting Syria’s offers for peace talks. The report states: “In 2003-2004, Israel refrained from exploring opportunities of reaching a peace agreement with Syria. Repeatedly, it has either issued unreasonable preconditions for the renewal of negotiations or altogether ignored signs of Syria’s willingness to renew such talks. This is unfortunate, because peace with Syria would likely have considerable positive strategic consequences: It would complete the process of signing peace agreements between Israel and its immediate Arab neighbors; it would limit Hezbollah’s ability to continue waging its struggle against Israel; it would limit Iran’s political challenge to Israel; and it would ease the burden on Israel as it continues to grapple with the Palestinian front.”

All regional observers agree, the only way to avoid what threatens to become another catastrophe, is a regime change in Washington. If the Bush Administration is not ousted in the coming elections, war between Israel and Syria, Egypt, and Iran, is almost assured. Only a Kerry Administration open to the policies of LaRouche could stem the tide toward a new war.