

‘Clean Break’ Called For Invasion in 1996

Here are excerpts from “A Clean Break: A New Strategy for Securing the Realm,” the 1996 strategy for Israel’s new Prime Minister, Likud party leader Benjamin Netanyahu, by a team led by U.S. neo-cons such as Richard Perle, and including other then-Bush Administration officials Douglas Feith and David Wurmser, and Hudson Institute official Meyrav Wurmser. The auspices were the Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies in Jerusalem.

... Israel has the opportunity to make a *clean break*; it can force a peace process and strategy based on an entirely *new intellectual foundation*, one that restores strategic initiative and provides the nation the room to engage every possible energy on rebuilding Zionism, the starting point of which must be economic reform. To secure the nation’s streets and borders in the immediate future, Israel can:

- Work closely with Turkey and Jordan to contain, destabilize, and roll back some of [Israel’s] most dangerous threats. This implies a clean break from the slogan “comprehensive peace”...

- Change the nature of its relations with the Palestinians, including upholding the *right of hot pursuit* for self-defense into all Palestinian areas and nurturing alternatives to Arafat’s exclusive grip on Palestinian society.

Syria challenges Israel on Lebanese soil. An effective approach, and one with which America can sympathize, would be if Israel seized the strategic initiative along its northern borders by engaging Hezbollah, Syria, and Iran, as the principal agents of aggression in Lebanon, including by: ...

- [E]stablishing the precedent that Syrian territory is not immune to attacks emanating from Lebanon by Israeli proxy forces.

- Striking Syrian military targets in Lebanon, and should that prove insufficient, *striking at select targets in Syria proper*...

[A]bandon the slogan “comprehensive peace” and move to *contain* Syria, drawing attention to its weapons of mass destruction program, and rejecting “land for peace” deals on the Golan Heights...

[F]ocus on removing Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq—an important strategic objective in its own right—as a means of foiling Syria’s regional ambitions...

First and foremost, Israel’s efforts to secure its streets may require hot pursuit into Palestinian-controlled areas, a justifiable practice with which Americans can sympathize...