
National News

New War Powers Bill Defies Cheneyacs

On Sept. 25, Rep. Walter Jones (R-N.C.) filed the Constitutional War Powers Resolution, an initiative to stop the war drive against Iran, although it does not mention Iran directly. Instead, it attempts to stave off unitary executive action on any preventive or preemptive war action. The bill has been referred to the House Foreign Relations Committee and to the House Rules Committee.

In introducing the measure, Jones said, "...Too many times this Congress has abdicated its constitutional duty and allowed Presidents to overstep their constitutional authority.

"As James Madison said, and I quote, 'In no part of the Constitution is more wisdom to be found than in the clause which confides the question of war or peace to the legislature and not to the executive department.'

"...I have today introduced legislation, H.J. Resolution 53, the Constitutional War Powers Resolution that seeks to establish a clear and national policy for today's post-9/11 world. This resolution is a result of the dedicated work of the Constitutional Project and its War Powers Initiative."

British Mercenary Aegis Blackwater's Overseer?

Blackwater, a U.S. government-funded private mercenary force, in trouble for its out-of-control actions in Iraq, is based in North Carolina, but may actually answer to a creation of the current incarnation of the British East India Company.

National Public Radio reported Sept. 27 that in the wake of the scandal over Blackwater employees killing Iraqi civilians, questions are being raised about another firm, the British-based Aegis Defence Services. The CEO of Aegis is a friend of former Prime Minister Tony Blair, Lt. Col. Tim Spicer. Earlier, Scotsman Spicer headed Executive Outcomes and Sandline, two firms closed down for wrongdoings.

"Aegis has been granted a two-year \$475 million contract, the largest-single security contract in Iraq," said the broadcast. The company is hired "to oversee coordination of all other contractors in Iraq and provide intelligence services and security."

The Government Accountability Office, Congress's investigative arm, "faulted the company for not performing adequate background checks on its employees." NPR quoted Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), who said, "In November 2005, there was an Internet video that surfaced that showed an Aegis contractor firing wildly at civilian cars on an Iraqi highway, to the tune of 'Mystery Train' by Elvis Presley."

More Scientists: Missile 'Defense' Is a Threat

MIT physicist Ted Postol has continued his offensive, to demonstrate how and why the elements of U.S. missile defense proposed for Poland and the Czech Republic threaten Russia's ICBMs. The American Association for the Advancement of Science posted the graphics from Postol's Aug. 28 Capitol Hill briefing on its website (see *EIR*, Sept. 14), in advance of a Sept. 27 briefing Postol gave in Washington.

The day before, AP reported on interviews with five other physicists who have studied the material, some doing their own calculations, who agree with Postol's conclusions. These are: George Lewis, associate director of the Peace Studies Program at Cornell; Pavel Podvig, at Stanford's Center for International Security and Cooperation; Richard Garwin, former nuclear bomb designer, and anti-SDI spokesman; Philip Coyle, former associate director at Lawrence Livermore Lab, and former assistant Secretary of Defense in the Clinton Administration; and David Wright, a physicist at the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Postol's basic point is that the Missile Defense Agency has understated the speed of the proposed Poland-based interceptor missiles, and overstated how long it would take to track a missile in order to launch the interceptors, to conclude that the Russian

ICBMs could not be hit. The MDA felt enough pressure from Postol et al., that it has issued a five-page rebuttal, saying Postol had overestimated the performance of the proposed system. Postol's reply, quoted in the *Wall Street Journal*, is that if this is so, "then they can't defend places that they said they could defend, either," meaning, in Europe.

Kennebunkport or 'Big Trouble,' Say Russians

The negotiations on the Russian proposal for joint Russian-U.S. use of the Gabala radar installation in Azerbaijan, had better be successful, or there will be "big trouble," Sergei M. Rogov, director of Russia's U.S.A. and Canada Institute, and member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, stated on Sept. 25. Rogov was replying to a question from *EIR* reporter Michele Steinberg, directed to a panel of U.S. and Russian ambassadors from the last three decades, who appeared at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, D.C.

Thirteen former ambassadors from the United States to Russia, and from Russia to the United States, were present at the event, which commemorated the 200th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Steinberg raised the Kennebunkport initiative by Putin, to offer U.S.-Russian cooperation on the Gabala radar installation, in exchange for the United States dropping its plan to install ABM systems in Poland and the Czech Republic. Steinberg asked about the role of the commission that includes Henry Kissinger and Dr. Yevgeny Primakov, which was set up to pursue U.S.-Russian cooperation.

Several participants are either on the commission, or work with it, including Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov, Thomas Graham from Kissinger McLarty Associates, and Rogov, who is an advisor.

Vorontsov said that the Kissinger-Primakov commission of senior advisors has a broader purpose in discussing cooperation, which has nothing to do with negotiating the Gabala proposal per se.