

What will happen as the war spreads?

by Joseph Brewda

As we go to press on the afternoon of Jan. 18, it is already clear that the demented George Bush's initiation of a war against Iraq two days ago has put the entire world on a course toward World War III. Amid all the euphoria so graphically manipulated by the nation's press, there are two features of the ongoing war which are creating the conditions for global general war over the coming years, or possibly even coming months.

The first feature, which is already beginning to be manifest, is the inevitable, irrepressible, expansion of the conflict. This conflict will not merely expand throughout the Middle East. It will spread into Western Asia and the Indian subcontinent, into Africa, possibly Southeast Asia, and most ominously, into Eastern Europe. The U.S.-led war with Iraq is not the sole war, or even the primary theater of the war; the U.S. strike against Iraq has detonated a much broader war.

The second feature of Bush's actions, implied by the first, is that an already desperate yet militarily powerful Moscow will necessarily be drawn into the conflict over the coming period. Moscow will seek to broaden and deepen the conflict in an effort to exploit the strategic disaster that the U.S. government has fallen into. However, Moscow will be drawn into the conflict, in any case, because the spreading war will directly threaten its national security. The U.S.S.R. is, after all, less than 500 miles from the conflict.

Commenting on this situation on Jan. 17, within minutes of hearing of the Iraqi rocket attack on Israel, political prisoner and candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche stated: "The character of the recent situation has been this: The U.S. news media, the Bush administration, and every idiot in the United States, has insisted that we concentrate on discussing the issue of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait as the one and only issue, and discuss the fulfillment of the corrupted U.N. Security

Council resolutions as the one and only issue.

"Now, people are saying, 'Let's discuss Iraq, don't bring other things in.' Well, other things have just brought themselves in. . . .

"Bush and his supporters could *lie*. They could convince most of the American people to accept the lie about the so-called Iraq agenda. They could contain the focus of attention on Iraq. But, they could not contain the reality."

How the war will spread

The Iraqi missile attack on Israel on the night of Jan. 17—which Iraq had repeatedly warned prior to the war that it would carry out if attacked—has already assured that the war will, very rapidly, become a broader Arab-Israeli war, busting up Bush's cherished coalition. This is true whether or not Israel responds militarily to the Iraqi attack (which it almost assuredly will), and whether or not Iraq succeeds in ever striking Israel again.

The fact is that the Arab—and Muslim—masses, despite the wild lies of the U.S. media, have been opposed to the Anglo-American occupation of the Gulf since it began in August. The Arab population generally understands that the Anglo-American occupation of the region is an imperialist effort to control the Arab Nation's oil wealth; and is outraged by the double standards of Western conduct in respect to Israel on the one hand, and the Arabs on the other. For such reasons, Saddam Hussein has become a hero to even those who previously despised him. He is seen as, and compared to, a new Saladin ready to lead the Muslims into a war to expel the hated new Crusaders represented by America and Israel.

This is the view of even the populations of those states which have been blackmailed or bribed into collaborating with the Anglo-Americans.

The Iraqi strike against Israel will now detonate the rage that has been building for generations, and sweep away any Arab leader, such as Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, collaborating with the Americans and Israelis, according to Arab and Muslim sources throughout the region). When news of the Iraqi strike against Israel reached the Arab world, there was spontaneous and deep jubilation. Mubarak is now finished, unless he pulls his army out of the coalition. The same is true for Syrian President Hafez al-Assad.

The government of the non-Arab, but Muslim nation of Turkey is also on the line. President Turgut Özal has been isolated by his decision to allow Turkey's airbases to be used in bombing raids against Iraq. An estimated 80% of the Turkish population was opposed to his war policy—even before the war began. The Turkish military is also opposed to the policy.

Even Iran, another non-Arab Muslim nation, which just ended its eight year war with Iraq in 1988, has been forced to tend toward an alliance with Iraq.

If, as appears almost certain, Israel begins an assault on Iraq, it will come into conflict with Jordan as it violates Jordanian airspace. It is well known in Jordan that Israel wants to seize chunks of its territory under the cover of defending itself against Iraq, and has been planning this for years. A Jordanian-Israeli conflict will spread rapidly into a general Arab-Israeli war, especially once Israel escalates its massacre of Palestinians in the occupied territories. If Israel uses nuclear bombs against Iraq—as it has been threatening—the effect will be unimaginable.

Yet this is not the only way the war will spread within the region.

Turkey has been promised the oil-rich Mosul region in northern Iraq (which it had controlled, together with most of the Arab world, before World War I) as its reward for doing America's bidding. Turkey has already warned Syria and Iran against entering Iraqi territory in a land-grab, if Iraq were to be crushed. Syria has threatened Turkey in identical terms. A war between Turkey, Syria, and Iran, consequently, is not to be excluded, especially in the aftermath of the defeat of Iraq.

Other theaters

The U.S. war on Iraq has now detonated hot-spots throughout the world, as other powers seek to take advantage of the crisis to settle long-standing disputes. In many cases, various powers have been promised U.S. neutrality in reward for their support of U.S. Gulf policy.

For example, the communist People's Republic of China on the mainland, many fear, may soon attack the rival Republic of China on Taiwan. Taiwan is already on a high alert over this possibility. Some say that Bush gave the P.R.C. the go-ahead for its long dreamed-for, and previously attempted, conquest of Taiwan, in return for the P.R.C.'s agreement not to veto the United Nations Security Council resolution that

authorized war after Jan. 15. For similar reasons, South Korea could possibly soon be in trouble with the northern regime of Kim Il-Sung; a blow-up might occur along the already tense Indo-Pakistan border, especially if provoked from the outside.

In Africa, the Anglo-Americans are actually encouraging the spread of the war, in part for racist population-control purposes. Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, and Uganda, are being manipulated each against the other, especially to target Sudan, which has denounced the war as imperialist.

The most important arena in which the conflict will spread, however, will be into Eastern Europe and the Soviet empire. Bush has already promised Gorbachov that he can slaughter the leadership of the insurgent Baltic republics in reward for Soviet support of the war policy, which has already begun. At the same time Moscow will leap at the opportunity of mobilizing its large Turkic/Muslim population into a jihad—holy war—mentality against Bush, rather than against Moscow center.

Moscow understands that America's brazen cooperation with Israelis to kill Arabs, simply, in reality, for being Arabs and Muslims, will unleash a wave of anti-American and anti-Western fervor which can be manipulated to its advantage for the indefinite future. For example, all of northern Africa, in effect flanking the NATO countries, will now revolt against the West, with all the military importance that that implies.

The diverse religious, political, sectarian, nationalist, and other movements in the Arab world which had previously been at each other's throats will now unify, and Moscow is poised to eventually pick up the pieces. As Moscow deepens its operations in the Arab and Muslim world, it will be drawn into more overt conflict with the West. Yet Moscow will be drawn into the conflict not only to opportunistically exploit the American disaster, but also to protect itself.

Approximately one-half of the U.S. military is within a thousand miles of the Soviet southern border, as is an astonishing one-half of the U.S. aircraft carrier groups. NATO has, in effect, shifted from Western Europe into the Middle East.

This policy, Moscow knows, has nothing to do with Iraq per se, and had been planned long ago. For example, as far back as Feb. 1, 1989, Bush administration spokesman Gen. James Vaught (ret.) proposed transferring U.S. Army divisions into Turkey, leaving Western Europe. This concept was later proclaimed by Secretary of State James Baker in September in testimony before the Senate where Baker said that war or no war, U.S. forces would remain in the Gulf in a new "security structure" modeled on NATO.

Now, as the war proceeds, U.S. planes equipped with nuclear bombs are flying over Turkish territory within 200 miles of Soviet territory on bombing runs against Iraq—adding an element of incalculability to the situation that the idiots in Washington do not seem to yet understand.