

would be a bloodbath. Despite assurances to the contrary, there is no guarantee, under such conditions, that Iraq would maintain its territorial integrity. Any breakup of Iraq would destroy the entire region.

In fact, in the January/February 1999 issue of *Foreign Affairs*, the journal of the New York Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), Daniel Byman, Kenneth Pollack and Gideon Rose wrote an article, "Can Saddam Be Topped?," which debunked the idea that any viable option exists for the overthrow of Saddam. The authors, from the Rand Corporation, the National Defense University, and the CFR, respectively, pilloried the neo-conservative and Zionist Lobby rightists who have cavalierly claimed that Saddam Hussein could be overthrown with minimal bloodshed, in a replay of the Contra and Afghansi fiascos of the 1980s. The *Foreign Affairs* authors equated this insanity with the Bay of Pigs and the U.S. defeat in Vietnam.

Unfortunately, the very neo-con lunatics debunked by the CFR authors are, in some cases, very close to Vice President Al Gore; and, therefore, it cannot be ruled out that one of these insane utopian scenarios is on the table, and would be almost

certain to "go live" were President Clinton to be removed from office.

Finally, it must be emphasized that neither Russia nor China would tolerate such an operation. Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan has reportedly told Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, that China does not believe the United States should be allowed to wear the UN Security Council like a shoe, to discard whenever it pleases. China has said Iraq must remain sovereign over its land. Russia's direct response to the U.K.-U.S. air strikes in December, was vehement, and not only verbal. The deployment of Topol-M SS-27 ICBM announced on Dec. 28, as well as the announced change in Russian military command, creating a separate nuclear command, mean that flexible response is no longer the name of the game. Serious crises would thus generate a nuclear response.

The result of any operation such as that being discussed by Shelton and his British colleagues, "would be the worst catastrophe in U.S. military history," as LaRouche warns, in his article "Why General Shelton Must Retire Now," published elsewhere in this issue.

## Who's behind the war drive

The drive for a post-Ramadan resumption of military attacks against Iraq is centered on a grouping within the Clinton administration which includes Vice-President Al Gore, Gore's "security adviser" Leon Fuerth, Defense Secretary William Cohen, and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Henry Hugh Shelton. This grouping sees a new war against Iraq as the testing ground for a new military strategy, which is a combination of air power, special forces operations, and information war tactics. The latter "cyber war" tactics include the disruption and active manipulation of enemy command, control, and intelligence systems and large-scale disinformation operations.

General Shelton has been an enthusiastic proponent of the air power-special forces-cyber war strategic triad, with the "first use" of tactical nuclear weaponry lurking in the background. Shelton has been chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff since Oct. 1, 1997. President Clinton's choice for JCS chairman was Air Force Gen. Joseph W. Ralston. But, a media scandal over an extramarital affair more than a decade earlier was set into motion, which forced Ralston to withdraw his name. Shelton was named to the post instead.

Shelton keeps on his office wall "the pictures of two Confederate generals, Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson," according to his official biography.

He has a very limited educational and strategic back-

ground. Born Jan. 2, 1942, Shelton got a degree in "textile technology" from North Carolina State University, and a Masters degree in political science from Auburn University. He was a special forces ("Green Berets") platoon leader and company commander in the Vietnam War, up to 1970. During 1983-85 Shelton was brigade commander at Fort Bragg, the Green Beret training center. He became a general in 1988. Shelton's position, before being named JCS chairman, was Commander in Chief of the Special Operations Command (SOCOM), near Tampa, Florida. General Shelton is the first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to have come from the special operations forces (SOF).

The creation of SOCOM as a unified command for the special operations components of the various services, was a result of a bill sponsored by then-Sen. William Cohen and Sen. Sam Nunn in 1986. Cohen has been an enthusiastic proponent of the "Israeli model," which gives special operations a preeminent place in the overall military structure. Cohen said on the floor of the Senate in 1986: "Israeli successes in special operations are legendary. The British, too, have had remarkable success in this area. . . . The United States, by contrast, has suffered repeated setbacks. . . . In my view, we have not been effectively organized to fight the most likely battles of the present or the future. . . . The successes of the Israeli Army in special operations are well known. What is less well known is that there is not a single general in the Israeli Army that has not served in the special forces."