

implemented, Turkish troops engaged in the northern terrain will quickly find that they cannot eliminate the PKK guerrilla forces in direct combat, and will be drawn into a morass reminiscent of the Afghanistan disaster. In the south, where, Fatchett confirmed, the Shi'ite option is to be used, civil war would erupt, and the social dislocation would immediately spill over into predominantly Shi'ite Iran.

One most significant feature of the Iraqi developments, which the British have not addressed, is the publicly stated awareness, on the part of the Baghdad leadership, of what the contours of the British-American gameplan is. To the extent that the truth about the ongoing aggression becomes known, specifically, the strategic objectives of the British and their colleagues in the Principals Committee around Gore, Albright, Shelton, and U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen, the chances are greater that catastrophe can be averted.

Interview: Laith Shubeilat

Jordan is unprotected from New World Order

Laith Shubeilat is acknowledged as the leading opposition figure in Jordan. He served as an independent Islamist member of Parliament during 1984-93, and decided against running for reelection, for political reasons, although he had been elected with the largest number of votes cast for any candidate. An engineer by education and profession, Shubeilat has been the head of the Jordanian Engineers Association, the most powerful of the professional associations in the country. He has been a harsh critic of the peace process with Israel, and has led a relentless battle to defend the sovereignty, the national economy, and the people of Jordan, from the ravages of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) programs. He has been in the forefront of efforts to defend Iraq. Shubeilat was arrested, tried, and convicted on politically motivated charges, twice, and was incarcerated, before being pardoned by the late King Hussein.



He was interviewed on Feb. 23, 1999.

EIR: If you've seen *EIR* recently, you know that we are

campaigning to try to stop this intervention into Iraq. Lyndon LaRouche put out a paper, some weeks back, in which he demanded that Gen. Henry H. Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Defense Secretary William Cohen, be retired. This was circulated in Washington and internationally, and has had an impact. LaRouche is saying these people are insane: They think they could go in with air cover, and then ground forces, and set up some kind of beachhead in northern and southern Iraq, and then overthrow Saddam Hussein's government, and so on. They think they can do this without civil war, without destabilization.

You know the Iraqi situation well. You were in Baghdad, and you met with people there. How do you evaluate it, and how do they look at it?

Shubeilat: They certainly look at it as a conspiracy, that all are conspiring against them, especially the Arabs. That the bombardment in December was given a green light by most of the Arab governments, unfortunately. But fortunately, the Iraqis were very well organized, very well prepared for the bombardment. The rockets were flying overhead, but the Iraqis didn't care. All crime stopped. No crimes were registered by the police during the days of the bombardment.

After a week of bombardment, Saddam Hussein made his famous speech, in which he asked for the toppling of the Arab regimes. Basically, what he was saying [to the Arab regimes], was that if you do not agree with me, and you are talking to the Iraqi people, fine. I'll deal the same card: I'll talk to your people. Let's see whose people will listen to which leader. Number two, he was telling the Americans and the Kuwaitis and everybody, look, first the United Nations Security Council said that Iraq should get out of Kuwait. Fine, we got out of Kuwait. Then, you imposed another condition, and another, and another. Now, you say you do not accept the regime. Well, this is the regime that made all the agreements with you. Fine, you don't accept this regime, then there are no agreements. I do not agree with all the agreements that we have signed.

He went on a very advanced diplomatic offensive, and the Arab regimes could not answer; none of them could really answer with convincing language. They could not counterattack against Saddam Hussein's stance with rhetoric. So, he emerged as the strongest regime politically, while all the Arab regimes became endangered, because they lost a lot of their legitimacy, by conspiring against the government of Iraq. That's why they rushed for a summit [of the Arab League]: so as to make it look, to their people, as if they were meeting for Iraq. But as time passed, they even renounced the summit, and they are back, conspiring with the Americans and the Israelis against Iraq.

EIR: Was that the meeting in Cairo, which the Iraqi Foreign Minister Al-Sahaf left in protest?

Shubeilat: Yes, it was in preparation for the summit.

EIR: How do you evaluate the situation now? There is a

Certainly Mr. LaRouche is qualified to be an adviser to any politician, to anybody who wants to lead his country into a sane, humane, humanistic, developing future.

changed situation in Jordan, too.

Shubeilat: It is the same policy; as a matter of fact, the new King said that Iraq is not ready to be rehabilitated, and he had bad words to say about Iran. The Iranians answered [by not sending a delegation to King Hussein's funeral]. All these big ceremonies in Jordan had one message: that Jordan will remain, if it accepts to be a "Zionist Jordan." There will be no Jordan, if Jordan moves away from Zionism. Now, Zionism is against Iraq; Zionism is against Arabs; Zionism is for the IMF; Zionism is for all the colonial policies in the area.

EIR: Do you think that there would have been a different policy if Prince Hassan had become the new King?

Shubeilat: No, I don't think so. The whole family is competing to appease the Americans and the Israelis. The problem between Prince Hassan and the new King, the ex-problem, was that King Hussein wanted one of his children to succeed him—in fact, it was rumored that he wanted Hamzeh [his son by Queen Noor], but he had no time, since sickness was crushing him, so he settled for half. Bringing in Abdullah does not need a constitutional change, [since Abdullah, his oldest son, had originally been Crown Prince, before the King transferred the position to his own brother Prince Hassan, in 1965]. But bringing in Hamzeh would have required such a change [to reverse the decision made in 1965], and that would have required at least a couple of days, which he did not have. He had only hours. He arrived at the Mayo Clinic in a coma.

EIR: But Hamzeh has now been named the Crown Prince, by the new King, so that matter has been settled.

Shubeilat: Yes, with an American mother, very well tied to the Americans.

EIR: And the mother of the new King is British.

Shubeilat: Yes, and I think the wealth is there, too. But, that's only speculation.

EIR: How do you see the developments in Turkey? It's very clear now that the capture of Ocalan was done by the Israelis, the British, the Turks, and the Americans, who put pressure on the Greeks and the Kenyans to go along with it. And as soon as the Turks had the assurance that Ocalan was going to be given to them on a silver platter, then they sent Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz back home, after having rejected his request that they desist from supporting the U.S.-U.K. air strikes against Iraq. The Turks then moved into northern Iraq.

What do you think the Turkish government is actually doing?

Shubeilat: Turkish policy is well known. The question is not really what the Turks are doing. The shameful question should be, why the Europeans accepted it, and why peace-loving, democracy-loving western Europe and America accept these double standards. Now, the real heart of "Kurdistan" is in Turkey. The Iraqi Kurdish people are received at the White House, while Ocalan, who claims to represent the majority of the Kurds, on their land, is treated as an outlaw. Once again, a double standard.

Everybody knows what Kemalist Turkey wants. But the question is, again, where is the morality of Europe and America? Europe is also losing its morality; there is no more morality. And there is a very dangerous deception going on.

EIR: The Europeans, the IMF, the United States, the Saudis, the Kuwaitis, among others, are providing financial aid, to stabilize Jordan. You are one of the people who has led the campaign against the IMF policies there. We know that what the IMF has done in Jordan over the past couple of years has led to the destruction of the economy. Can you give me a picture of what is happening now with the IMF, which is negotiating a new program for Jordan? How is the political debate in Jordan, around this economic policy?

Shubeilat: Unfortunately, there is no political debate in Jordan. There is debate in the salons, but in general, we have an authoritarian group with a democratic camouflage. Things like the IMF are not subject to real discussion. On the contrary, orchestration and programs and media programs are designed to convince the people that what is coming is best for them. But everybody now—not like before, when only your movement, and a few others around the world, identified the IMF and the New World Order as enemies—now everybody is talking with animosity toward the New World Order, this order of looting nations. Now, Jordan is left without any protection: no protection from tariffs; industry is not protected; no protection of its land, because anybody can buy land, foreigners can buy land.

EIR: What is happening with privatization?

Shubeilat: Like everywhere else, privatization is looting.

EIR: Is there no opposition on the part of the professional associations?

Shubeilat: There is. We are all opposed; everybody is opposed. But those who are opposed are so weak, that they will

not elevate their form of opposition; they only say that they are opposed. They make a statement, but they do not demonstrate, or [are not willing] to pay the price of demonstrations, because demonstrations are banned. So, we are left with a very mediocre opposition. That is the main reason that you find me, in the last couple of years or more, more and more lonely, a sort of a Lone Ranger, even within the opposition. They say that they see eye to eye with me, but they don't. Actually, when it comes to standing for what you believe, most of them shut their mouths, and somebody like me, and a couple of others, are left taking all the heat.

EIR: We know what that means, and we know what you've been through, having been falsely accused, convicted, and imprisoned several times. As you know, we are trying to change policy in Washington, so that this madness represented by Vice President Al Gore, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Cohen, and Shelton, the British and the Israelis, be eliminated, and a sane policy be introduced. We are convinced that the only way to do this is to change the economic policy of the United States, which will shape its foreign policy. You know that we are circulating a petition to have Mr. LaRouche nominated as the economic adviser to Clinton. I want to ask you what you think about that, and what you think a rational, healthy American foreign policy should be, toward the whole region?

Shubeilat: Mr. LaRouche is on record, because he alone, for the last decades, has been championing the policy of saving the world from the lunacy of the monetarists, and this sort of distorted capitalism. No one now can hide their heads like ostriches in the sand. Even [Federal Reserve chairman Alan] Greenspan and others, the financiers and champions of the world order, concede that the international order is in trouble. They are uttering statements that show more and more distrust in the order, and saying it should be reformed. Certainly those who are leading the aggression of the New Order, with their disorder, are not eligible at all to restore this order back to order. Certainly Mr. LaRouche is qualified academically, qualified by his sturdiness, by his patience—his undeviating patience; his encyclopedic knowledge in mathematics, physics, economics, music—his very, very deep and wide education. And in economic theory, he is qualified to be an adviser to any politician, to anybody who wants to lead his country into a sane, humane, humanistic, developing future.

EIR: We are working very hard for this, and we are optimistic. Is there anything else you would like to say to our readers?
Shubeilat: That we should all join forces against evil, and that we should work hard in rallying more and more support for those who are working to save humanity from the horrors of Apocalypse.

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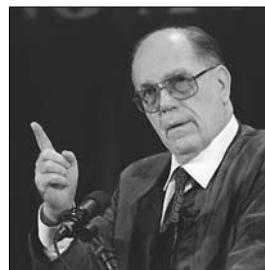
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