

outbreak of Palestinian riots and protests. Safire and Zion followed Weymouth's lead, publishing similar columns praising Sharon as the savior of Israel. Safire is a senior columnist for the Sulzberger family's *New York Times*, and Zion has recently been hired by Rupert Murdoch's *New York Post* as a featured columnist.

As *EIR* goes to press, Lauder is heading up a delegation of leading right-wing American Zionists to Israel, to stage a "counter-summit" to the Arab Summit scheduled for Cairo on Oct. 21-22. The Lauder session will likely promote Sharon's participation in a war cabinet that would shatter the last vestiges of the Oslo peace process, and bring the region one mighty step closer to a general war.

Another right-wing Zionist wacko who is now prowling around Israel, is Dov Hikind, the Brooklyn, New York State Assemblyman and former Jewish Defense League terrorist, who has been an albatross around the neck of a desperate Hillary Rodham Clinton since she launched her Senatorial campaign (see article p.70). While Hikind is not part of the Lauder delegation, he is on his own one-man wrecking mission, which his office euphemistically called a "solidarity visit." On Oct. 20, Hikind was part of a mob of 100 people who were prevented by Israeli police from staging a riot at the Ateret Cohanim yeshiva, which is a center of Temple Mount terrorists.

A New 'Kristallnacht'

Israeli sources have informed *EIR* that Sharon returned from his New York City junket with a fresh infusion of millions of dollars, to fund the Temple Mount provocations. Reportedly, Lauder was one source of cash, but Sharon also

received hefty sums from Canadian backers, and from some unidentified figures within the Russian Mafia.

According to these sources, Sharon has been parcelling this cash to radical West Bank settlers, and other Temple Mount Jewish fanatics, to conduct a low-intensity war inside Israel, and in the Occupied Territories. Some of the fruits of this operation have appeared nightly on the TV news worldwide, with radical Jewish settlers conducting armed attacks against Palestinian villages, in response to the Palestinian protests and riots, triggered by the Sharon Temple Mount stunt.

What has not been reported outside of Israel, is that these same Jewish underground fanatics, who were behind the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, have launched what can only be described as a new "Kristallnacht" in Tel Aviv and other Israeli cities, firebombing and looting Arab-owned stores, and even attacking Jewish stores and restaurants that hire Israeli Arabs as employees, in a re-enactment of the Nazi Gestapo's Nov. 9, 1938 "Night of Broken Glass" against German Jews.

The events of the last three weeks, triggered by Sharon's intentional provocation at the Temple Mount, have produced the conditions inside Israel, where the majority of the population has been literally driven insane. Under such conditions, any efforts by politicians to appeal to popular opinion, will only make an already horrible situation worse. It is precisely under such conditions in Weimar Germany, that Hitler came to power, through the financial backing of London and parts of Wall Street. Sharon's current drive for power in Israel ought to stir some powerful images of 1933, within anyone who is still sane.

Sharm Al-Sheikh Summit Leaves Mideast on a Course toward War

by Dean Andromidas

Whether the arrangements announced by President Bill Clinton at the emergency Middle East summit on Oct. 16 in Sharm al-Sheikh, Egypt hold or not, is almost irrelevant, because all the outstanding issues, and especially the blunders forced on an all-too-vulnerable President Clinton, remain unresolved. The summit results saw no indication from Clinton, that he intends to reverse his tragic ganging up with Israel, against Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, as he did after last summer's Camp David meeting. Nor that he will cease putting the religious issue of Jerusalem at the center of the Camp David talks last summer, rather than the development

of water resources and of the region's physical economy.

This was the assessment of U.S. statesman Lyndon LaRouche, who stated bluntly, "The most stupid thing that President Clinton ever did, was to say that Arafat was responsible for blowing up the Mideast peace talks." LaRouche reiterated that Clinton's Middle East policy continues to be dictated by his electoral alliance with the right-wing Zionist lobby, in a desperate effort to secure his wife a seat in the U.S. Senate, and get Vice President Al Gore into the White House.

Officially aimed at stopping the violence and saving the

peace process, the summit failed even to issue a joint communiqué. Instead of an agreement, Clinton read a Presidential statement, indicating what the two sides had agreed upon. But nothing was signed. Among Clinton's concerns, is that neither the Middle East, nor the global financial system, explodes before the Nov. 7 U.S. elections.

Reports of what transpired at the summit made clear that it was simply a continuation of what was happening in the streets of the Palestinian territories, less the stones and Israeli tanks and helicopter gunships. The only point in the summit where Israelis and Palestinians actually sat in the same room to negotiate face to face, was when each side's foreign policy experts met to draft what they hoped would become a final communiqué. The meeting had to be closed down after it degenerated into an undiplomatic shouting match between Israeli Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben Ami and Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erekat. The dinners were said to be equally tense. According to reports, not only did the Egyptian authorities refuse to place the Israeli flag next to the Palestinian and Egyptian flags, but also Egyptian government news broadcasts never mentioned Israel, referring only to the "Zionist entity." According to one report, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, during one of the plenum sessions, referred to King Abdullah of Jordan as the "bedouin King," at which point the latter stormed out of the room.

While not invited to the conference, the specter of Ariel Sharon, whose visit to the Temple Mount/Al-Haram al-Sharif ignited the current conflagration, was ever present. According to reports, Barak's aides could be seen on their mobile telephones calling Sharon every 15 minutes to brief him on developments at the conference.

When it became clear that negotiations at the political and diplomatic echelon were going nowhere, and in fact might lead to violence, the security chiefs of Israel and the Palestinians were flown into Sharm al-Sheikh. This was an attempt to reestablish security cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians, in order to keep the conflagration from escalating even further.

Clinton's statement fell far short of his intention to bring the situation back to the *status quo ante*. The three principal points claimed that both sides would agree to announce an end to violence and a withdrawal of Israeli troops, to a point prior to the outbreak of the conflagration. They also agreed to cooperate with a fact-finding commission under the auspices of the President and in cooperation with United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan. Third, the two sides expected to meet in two weeks, to assess whether peace negotiations could resume.

Within minutes of the end of the summit, Israel leaked to the press secret agreements that would revive Palestinian-Israeli security cooperation, but this time in the context of a committee chaired by CIA head George Tenet. Under this arrangement, CIA agents will be deployed as "observers" to ensure compliance with the agreement.

Preparing for the Next Phase in the War

Upon his return to Israel, Barak's first order of business was to speed up implementation of a military plan for "unilateral separation" between Israelis and Palestinians. This means, that in the absence of an agreement, the Israelis will move to take what they want in the West Bank, which is the water and militarily strategic points. This encompasses the large settlement blocks that sit on the mountains along the West Bank's border with Israel, and strategic points in the Jordan Valley, which command the other major water source.

This was confirmed by Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Ephaim Sneh, who told Associated Press on Oct. 18, that Barak had ordered a plan of separation as an alternative to a peace treaty. "The idea is that if we don't have an agreement with the Palestinians, we would try to shape the reality here in the closest possible way to what we would like to achieve through agreement. He admitted that this would include barriers, border crossing points, and no dismantling any of the 144 Jewish settlements. According to some reports, it would turn so-called Area A, the part of the territories still under full Israeli security control, into a fortified border. This would leave the Palestinians without any territorial continuity, thus reducing the West Bank into enclaves similar to the Bantustans that existed under *apartheid* in South Africa. The policy would threaten the livelihood of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, more than 120,000 of whom work in Israel. It would also leave them vulnerable to having their electricity, water, and telecommunications grid disrupted.

It is reported that this plan will be the basis for negotiating an agreement with Sharon for the establishment of a government of national emergency with Sharon's right-wing Likud Party. As of this writing, Sharon has expressed interest, and has asked to see the maps of the operation to see if they meet with his approval.

The debate in Israel on whether Sharon will enter the government, is irrelevant, because on Oct. 30, two days before Clinton hoped to chair a meeting to get peace talks restated, the Israeli Knesset (parliament) will come back from its recess. This will be the moment of truth for Barak's governing coalition, which now holds no more than 30 of the Knesset's 120 seats. The first order of business when the Knesset opens, will be a bill for early elections. Thus, either Barak forms an alliance with Sharon, or his government will fall, opening the way for new elections, which would not be held until the beginning of next year. According to the latest polls, former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would win an election against Barak.

Meanwhile, the international Jewish lobby has been mobilized to support the Israeli position. By Oct. 22, leaders of America's most important Jewish organizations will have arrived in Jerusalem. Led by Edgar Bronfman, Chairman of the World Jewish Congress, it will include Ron Lauder and Malcolm Honlein of the Conference of Presidents of Major

American Jewish Organizations; Steven Solander, head of the United Jewish Communities of North America; Danny Liebrant, chairman of the Commissioners of Keren Hayesod; and James Tisch of the Jewish Federation of New York.

Lauder, who is the chief financier of Netanyahu's political career, on Oct. 18 called for convening a "world Jewish summit," to be held within two weeks after the Oct. 21 Arab summit. This would be timed just prior to the Nov. 7 U.S. elections.

Palestinians Under Siege

Upon his return from Sharm al-Sheikh, Arafat issued a call to his people to abide by the agreement, but it is feared that the situation has gone beyond his control.

Barak's separation plan drew a sharp attack from Palestinian chief negotiator Erekat, who called it the "gravest step Israel could take." He charged, "This is not a separation plan. It is a plan of suffocation and occupation. It will not be tolerated by us."

The Arab Summit, which will include representatives of 22 Arab nations, will have met in Cairo on Oct. 21 for the first time since 1996, to take up the Palestinian question. Although as of this writing it is impossible to say what decisions will be taken, the summit promises to demonstrate a level of Arab unity not seen in over a decade.

Flash-points for Escalation

Developments in the third week in October offered flash-points that could rapidly internationalize the conflict. The first was the capture of four Israelis by the Hezbollah, including three soldiers who were captured during a clash along the Israeli border with Lebanon. This was followed shortly thereafter by the capture of another Israeli, Elhanan Tannenbaum, a colonel in the Israeli reserves, whom the Hezbollah claim is a Mossad agent. The Hezbollah is demanding that these captives be exchanged with Hezbollah members and Palestinian prisoners held by Israel. While Israel is using diplomatic means to seek their release, Barak has warned, in a not-so-veiled threat to use force, that Israel will hold Lebanon and Syria responsible.

The second point of possible escalation could follow from the bombing of the American warship *USS Cole*, in the Yemeni port of Aden, which killed 17 American sailors. U.S. intelligence sources have informed *EIR* that the damage sustained by the ship would confirm that the device must have involved a sophisticated bomb, either some type of rocket or shaped charge. In any case, it would have required a very high explosive, which would rule out "amateurs" linked to phantom terrorist Osama bin Laden.

It is feared that the attack could serve as a pretext for some wild U.S. attack against Iraq, Sudan, or Afghanistan — as had been done in the past — which would further inflame the situation.

UN Embargo Against Iraq Crumbles

by Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

The sanctions regime imposed on Iraq in 1990, is in the process of deteriorating, without any vote having been taken in any UN body. In a development which epitomizes the new flavor in international relations, certain steps taken unilaterally by certain governments, have established a *fait accompli*, which has utterly undermined the sanctions. What happened was, simply, this: The Russian government decided to send an airplane with political personalities on board, to the Saddam Hussein International Airport, in the Iraqi capital. To accommodate the visit, the Iraqi authorities opened up the airport, and restored its facilities, which had been closed since 1990.

Flying into Baghdad was a forceful way of calling a bluff. That is, since the sanctions had been imposed in 1990, all goods shipped to Iraq had to be approved by the UN Sanctions Committee. Transportation into Iraq had to be organized overland, through Jordan, mainly, as flights into the country were banned. The exceptions were flights organized by the UN itself, which went into Habbaniya Airport, a military airport, 80 kilometers outside the capital.

In addition to the UN regulations, there was an unwritten law, established by pure arbitrary will, whereby passenger flights were also forbidden to land in Iraq. Although the Iraqi government had repeatedly made this known to friendly governments, who were sending in humanitarian aid shipments, and urged them to send in planes, no country dared to challenge the practice.

Russia, France Lead the Way

In August of this year, that changed. Following a visit by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Tariq Aziz, to Moscow, in mid-August, arrangements were made for the Russian plane to land in Baghdad. On Aug. 17, the Baghdad Airport was reopened, and made ready for service. On Aug. 19, the first Russian plane arrived.

Then, on Sept. 21, a plane from France arrived, with several prominent political figures and intellectuals on board. Although the group organizing the flight was private, made up of leftists generally, Foreign Minister Hubert Védrine gave his blessing to the initiative, by announcing, "A charter plane toward Baghdad proposed by a French group would not nec-