

# 'Mr. Armitage Is Not Qualified To Serve'

*Testimony in opposition to the appointment of Richard Armitage as Deputy Secretary of State; to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, March 15, 2001; by EIR Counterintelligence Editor Jeffrey Steinberg.*

This testimony is presented before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, in opposition to the nomination of Richard Armitage to the post of Deputy Secretary of State in the Bush Administration. While other witnesses may choose to focus, with some justification, on specific allegations of corruption and other misconduct by Mr. Armitage during his prior government service in the military, and later in the Reagan and Bush Administrations, I choose to focus my remarks on policy issues. Whether or not any of the corruption charges, that twice before resulted in Mr. Armitage's name being removed from nomination to senior government posts, are true or not, my objection to his nomination is based solely on the conviction that Mr. Armitage is not qualified to serve in the second most powerful post in the United States foreign service, during a period of grave crisis and challenging opportunity.

Without criticizing any other features of the new Administration's policy pronouncements and initiatives to date, it is my judgment that Mr. Armitage would pose a serious impediment to the deliberation and implementation of policy in the most critical foreign and national security areas. Secretary of State Powell and Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld are already facing significant challenges, that require a great degree of rational deliberation and reasoned action. Mr. Armitage's lack of qualified judgment would serve as a monkey-wrench to successful deliberation and policy action, particularly under the kind of crisis conditions already confronting the new Administration.

Three areas, in particular, pose immediate challenges to the Bush Administration, of grave strategic consequence, should our diplomacy falter or go into a flight forward, provoking needless confrontation:

- The Middle East/Persian Gulf, where the danger of war is greater today than at any time in the past decade, and where the prospect of a new "oil shock" could bring down the world economy;
- The Korean Peninsula, where the opportunity to bring peace and prosperity to one of the last front-lines of the Cold War era will require careful diplomacy, and a willingness to continue to work in close cooperation with China and Russia, as well as Japan;

- The China-Taiwan Strait region, where the Bush Administration is already facing some difficult decisions on arms sales to Taiwan, theater missile defense, and the broader issue of pursuing a future U.S.-China relationship that will serve both the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States, and the interests of China and the entire Asia-Pacific region.

These specific challenges are arising against the backdrop of the rapidly accelerating process of collapse of the post-Bretton Woods monetary system, with already-felt devastating consequences for the real economy of the United States and the world as a whole. We have reached the boundary conditions of that post-Bretton Woods "free trade/globalization" system, at which every point of political or military instability on the planet can have fatal consequences for the world economy and global security.

## 'Clash of Civilizations' Dogma

In each of the three crisis areas I cited above, Mr. Armitage has an outspoken public record of advocating policies that betray a "shoot first" attitude, in line with the insane proposition of Samuel Huntington, that the United States faces an imminent and unavoidable "Clash of Civilizations," pitting "the West" against the combined forces of Islam and China.

- In February 1998, Mr. Armitage was a co-signer on an open letter to President Clinton, advocating a "Contra" war to overthrow Saddam Hussein. This is both a dangerous and ludicrous proposition that, if carried out, would isolate the United States from all of our traditional allies in the Arab world, and feed into the "Greater Israel" adventurism of the new Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon.

- In 1999, he signed an open letter, circulated by the Heritage Foundation, calling for the United States to abandon its "one-China" policy, in favor of a destabilizing shift to an anti-Beijing military alliance with Taiwan. Such an action on the part of the United States would likely throw the entire Asia-Pacific region into a political-military crisis, with immediate spillover consequences for the already-collapsing economies of Japan, South Korea, and other nations of the region.

- He also has harshly criticized South Korean President Kim Dae-jung's "Sunshine" policy towards North Korea, favoring, instead, a re-armament of Japan and a "militarization" of America's policy in the Asia-Pacific region, which would lead to a needless and devastating crisis throughout Asia, extending to U.S. relations with Russia, as well.

In one of Mr. Armitage's more honest recent remarks, as reported in the *Washington Post*, he promised a gathering of the New York Council on Foreign Relations that he would bring "mud, blood, and beer" to the State Department. After the fiascos of Vietnam, Desert Storm, and Kosovo, this is hardly what the doctor ordered for American diplomacy.

Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., the founder and contributing editor of *Executive Intelligence Review*, has warned that the

Bush Administration's currently stated policies will produce a string of short-term crises and disasters, that will rapidly confront President Bush and his key advisers with the choice of either changing their underlying policy assumptions, or bringing the United States to the brink of ruin. The President's insistence, to date, on defending the interests of his backers at Enron and other energy cartels, against the Constitutionally prescribed general welfare of the American people, as in the ongoing Western States electricity crisis, is but one example of LaRouche's warnings-come-true in the first 60 days of the Bush Presidency.

Whether or not they pursue specific policies in the best interest of the United States, it can be fairly expected that Secretary of State Powell and Defense Secretary Rumsfeld will take a rational and reasonable approach to the policy-making process. No such assumption can be justified in the case of Mr. Armitage. His presence in such a senior position — responsible for the day-to-day management of the United States Department of State and our in-field foreign service — could be just the monkey-wrench that sabotages the ability of the Administration to make the needed policy corrections, as the failures of their current policy lead from one crisis to the next, in accelerating succession.

### The Standard for Policy

In a March 3, 2001 policy memorandum, "SDI Under Reconsideration: War as Peace by Other Means" (which appears in this issue), Lyndon LaRouche discussed the unique foreign policy mission of the United States, as it was first set forward by our Founding Fathers, and continues through to the present day: "The strategic perspective of the U.S. — since the 1776 Declaration of Independence, to the present day, has depended upon the projection of the principle of the general welfare, as a doctrine of international law, a doctrine of law enforced by a community of sovereign nation-states committed to that principle of their internal affairs and mutual relations. This was crucial for the John Quincy Adams and Abraham Lincoln's perspective for the sovereign states of the Americas, in their time. Since the change in the world's affairs, brought about by the U.S. military and economic successes of 1861-76, this notion of a community of principle, has been an essential, indispensable strategic outlook for U.S. global policy of practice. Every serious error in our foreign policy and strategy, has been the fruit of either simply the neglect, or even outright violation of that principle."

Elsewhere in that same document, Mr. LaRouche observed that, while the original Monroe Doctrine of Secretary of State John Quincy Adams, which formed the basis for all subsequent American foreign policy, oriented towards the nations of the Western Hemisphere, America's later foreign policy vision was centered on the fate of Eurasia.

America's late-19th-Century involvement in the founding of the German nation-state, in league with the great re-

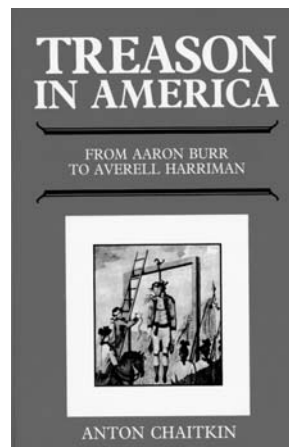
formers and the American System economist Friedrich List; our contribution to the Trans-Siberia Railroad construction; the role of American System political economists and missionaries in the development of modern Japan during the Meiji Restoration; the emergence of a modern China, free from the British Opium War colonialism, as envisioned by the friend of America, Dr. Sun Yat-sen:

This was the legacy of American foreign policy, later revived by President Franklin Roosevelt, whose premature death prevented him from realizing his goal of ridding the world of the last vestiges of British, Dutch, Belgian, Portuguese, and French colonialism. These lofty ideas were revived, briefly, again, under President Kennedy. And President Reagan addressed a crucial aspect of this American tradition, of a community of principle among sovereign nation-states, when, in his March 23, 1983 Strategic Defense Initiative speech, he offered to cooperate with the Soviet Union, to bring about an end to the nightmare of global, mutually assured thermonuclear extermination.

It is from this higher moral and philosophical standard of qualification — deeply embedded in the American intellectual tradition and in our institutions of government at their finest moments — that the members of this Committee must judge Mr. Armitage, and find him wanting.

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