

CFR Updates Its Crisis Management Scenario

by Scott Thompson

EIR was one of the few news outlets to report on a virtual coup d'état scenario run as a public exercise on July 12-13, 2000, by the New York Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), the U.S. sister organization to the London-based Royal Institute for International Affairs (*EIR*, Sept. 28, 2000).

The scenario, entitled "The Next Financial Crisis: Warning Signs, Damage Control, and Impact," was the public report of the CFR's "Financial Vulnerabilities Project," which had earlier run similar scenarios that did not become public, including how a major terrorist attack could trigger a meltdown of the already volatile economy. The public scenario, and most of the precursor private scenarios, assumed that the President would be in some way incapacitated, and that representatives of the Anglo-American establishment would have to step in, in a virtual coup d'état.

On Sept. 14, 2001, the CFR updated its July 2000 scenario, at an event entitled "The U.S. Commission on National Security For The 21st Century: After The Attack—A New Urgency," at the St. Regis Hotel in Washington, D.C. On Sept. 18, former Director of Central Intelligence and former Ambassador R. James Woolsey, who had played a major role in the CFR's "Financial Vulnerabilities Project," held a news conference sponsored by *Defense Week*; Woolsey called for a "clash of civilizations" war against all governments involved in what has been dubbed "state-sponsored terrorism."

Woolsey's scenario for war against 1 billion Muslims, in the midst of a systemic economic collapse, is a "deliberate strategic blunder" by the Anglo-American establishment, which might ignite world war, and end Eurasian integration around Lyndon LaRouche's concept of a "Eurasian Land-Bridge."

Homeland Defense Security Agency

The CFR promoted the proposal of the U.S. Commission on National Security for the 21st Century—announced three days later by President Bush—to lump the 42 agencies that control U.S. borders (e.g., Customs, the Immigration and Naturalization Service) in with domestic intelligence and emergency management organizations (e.g., the Federal Emergency Management Agency) to create a Homeland Defense Security Agency (HDSA).

Present from the U.S. Commission were its co-chairs, former Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo.), who is today of counsel with Coudert Brothers merchant bank, and former Sen. Warren B. Rudman (R-N.H.), who is now a partner in Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton and Garrison. Also vociferously present, was former House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), today chief executive officer of The Gingrich Group. It was "Newtzi" who first proposed founding the U.S. Commission on National Security, which President Bill Clinton signed off on, to prepare recommendations for the next administration.

At the Sept. 14 event, CFR and commission members called for creation of a Terrorism Czar—Pennsylvania's right-wing Gov. Thomas Ridge was immediately named by the President Sept. 20—arguing that such a person had to hold a Cabinet-level position so that, through immediate proximity to the President, he or she could use the power of the Presidency "to shake up formidable opposition within the bureaucracy."

The Haunting By Newt Gingrich

The most jingoistic person at the CFR event was Gingrich, who dominated the question and answer period:

The proper emotion that the U.S. population ought to display toward states that sponsor terrorism is "hatred," Gingrich said. "Major terrorism must be sponsored by states. Weapons of mass destruction require states. The U.S. must not only defeat terrorist organizations, it must either force these states to change or else to change their leaders. . . . To break the back of state-sponsored terrorism ought to take a military campaign of two to three years."

Gingrich said that it was the goal of the terrorists responsible for the latest attack "to drive the U.S. out of the Middle East." "We are at war," he said, recommending that the United States "should pay and train 100,000 Afghans" to fight the Taliban. As for Sudan, he said, "Sudan is a vicious, slave-owning terrorist regime, and the U.S. must force a change of leaders."

Gingrich said: "Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary Powell have great experience at building coalitions, when they put together a 28-nation coalition to fight the Persian Gulf War. Already, [Russian] President [Vladimir] Putin is actively supporting the coalition. We have just put Special Forces in Tajikistan, that are becoming acclimated."

When asked whether a "Team B" should be created to look over the shoulder of the current intelligence analysis, Gingrich said, "Team B served its purpose in the 1970s, when you had an administration that did not want to look at the danger posed by the Soviet Union. The U.S. under the previous administration even signed a rule that the intelligence community could only hire as agents, people with no human rights violations. That is, to put it mildly, out of touch with reality."

While there was not complete unanimity among the

Kissinger Called For War

Both in interviews with German TV and radio Sept. 11, and in a *Washington Post* commentary Sept. 12, Henry Kissinger called for the United States to respond with immediate war, to the attacks on New York and Washington. The commentary which must have been written by Kissinger from abroad, said, "Of course there should be some act of retaliation," and went further than his previous days' interviews in planting the suggestion—by implied reference to Hiroshima and Nagasaki—of a U.S. nuclear re-

sponse. "But then the [U.S.] government should be charged with a systematic response that, one hopes, will end the way that the attack on Pearl Harbor ended—with the destruction of the system that is responsible for it."

On the afternoon of Sept. 11, interviewed by German television while waiting at the Frankfurt airport for a flight to Beijing, Kissinger (speaking in German) said that Osama bin-Laden has networks in several countries; and that in his "personal view"—not currently being in government—the U.S. should act militarily against those countries; naming Afghanistan and a number of Arab countries. Kissinger repeated the same "advice" to the Bush Administration on a German radio interview later that evening.

—Paul Gallagher

speakers at the CFR Washington event—e.g., Senator Rudman said that any Arab state that signed on to a coalition to attack another Arab state, faced being overthrown under present conditions—no one directly challenged Gingrich's haunting statements.

'It's The Regimes, Stupid!'

Woolsey opened his Sept. 18 press conference by saying: "Even if the U.S. can catch and kill Osama bin Laden, as with mosquitoes bearing a lethal disease, you don't solve anything by swatting an individual mosquito. In order to fight malaria, you need to drain the swamp."

He added, "While I would welcome the conversion of a country from state-sponsored terrorism, if any regime proves to be hopeless, then its leaders need to be replaced." Woolsey suggested arming and equipping the Northern Alliance to fight the Taliban, and creating both a "no-fly and no-drive zone" in the north and south of Iraq, so that, respectively, the Kurds and the Shi'ites could better fight Saddam Hussein.

"The watchword of the day," Woolsey said, is, "It's the Regimes, Stupid!"

Asked by *EIR* about LaRouche's hypothesis of a covert, strategic intelligence operation to destabilize the United States during a global financial collapse, Woolsey interrupted to insist on his claim, that the Sept. 11 attacks were the *cause* of the collapse: "obviously, if there is major terrorism spreading, then clearly you will have economic problems." When a reporter for National Public Radio followed up, asking whether "intelligence services or elements of intelligence services might have been involved," Woolsey said: "I don't know whether Iraq was involved, but there has been evidence in that direction for some length and breadth." Woolsey said that bin Laden might have practiced "disinformation" to cover up the involvement by a nation such as Iraq, by having his band boast about their terrorist achievements on open tele-

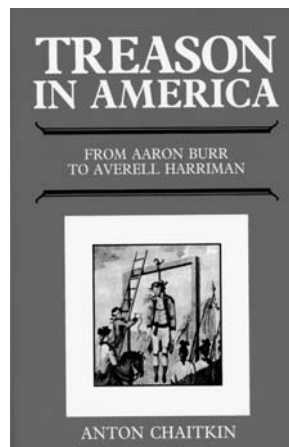
phones that could be picked up. He added that there had been evidence of Iraqi involvement in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, but this was not brought to light during the trial.

"It would be a remarkable achievement to locate Osama bin Laden," he said. Therefore, he reiterated his strategically disastrous call for war against all states that sponsored terrorism.

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