

Temple Mount Fanatics Plot 'Clash Of Civilizations'

by Scott Thompson

On Nov. 7, a group of self-described "Zionist Christians" and right-wing Zionists, under the banner of the National Unity Coalition for Israel (NUCI), called for a "Clash of Civilizations" crusade against Islam, in a press conference in Washington. This was the first major NUCI Washington event since its July 30 meeting with President George W. Bush, in which NUCI representatives sought to blackmail the President. At that meeting, they threatened to withhold the Christian Evangelical vote, unless the President left Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon "unfettered" to initiate a religious war in the Middle East (see *EIR*, Aug. 24, 2001). The NUCI claims to be 200 organizations, representing 40 million Americans.

The event was also the first by NUCI in the capital since the Sept. 11 onset of an irregular warfare coup d'état in the United States, and since the start of the Afghanistan war. It took place in the context of a raging debate within the Bush Administration, in which a neo-conservative faction has pushed a crusade against Islam, targeting not just Afghanistan, but also Iraq, Syria, Sudan, and most emphatically, leaders of the Palestinian Authority, including Yasser Arafat.

It was clear that NUCI was intending to mobilize the "Christian Right" to tip the balance in the Bush Administration. In particular, Secretary of State Colin Powell, a staunch advocate of building an international coalition against terrorism, was savaged by many of the NUCI speakers, who accuse the Administration of threatening the Israel's security by rein-ing in the Sharon government.

Before the press conference, *EIR* interviewed Rev. Elwood McQuaid, who is the head of the NUCI-affiliated "Friends of Israel" and who broadcasts on 300 Christian radio stations, as well as on the Hollinger International-owned *Jerusalem Post* Internet radio, a mouthpiece for Sharon's war aims. McQuaid stated that President Bush had made "a great mistake, in my judgment," advocating that, once the Mitchell Commission's proposed cease-fire takes effect, there would be an independent Palestinian state with a divided Jerusalem as the capital of both Israel and Palestine. McQuaid stressed, "This is a fight to the finish. It is a 'Clash of Civilizations,' and what the United States does not understand is that the Palestinian issue is an integral part of Islamic resolve to dominate this world, and do away with the civilization of the Western world."

McQuaid referred to the *Clash of Civilizations*, the 1996 book by Harvard Prof. Samuel Huntington, which claims that the West's new "enemy image" ought to be Islam and China. Huntington is a protégé of President Jimmy Carter's National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, and wrote the "The Crisis of Democracy," for a 1975 Trilateral Commission meeting. That report called for "fascism with a human face." McQuaid said Huntington "is a genius. What he says is exactly true."

Asked whether he supports Jewish zealots' destroying al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock on al-Haram al-Sharif (a.k.a. the Temple Mount)—an attack on Islam's third most holy site, which would ignite the Mideast—in order to rebuild the Third Temple of Solomon, Reverend McQuaid said, "Sure I do. I think they have a right to do it. . . . I think . . . trying to extinguish a Jewish presence on the Temple Mount is equivalent to the revisionist . . . Holocaust idea—that it discredits Judaism. It discredits Christianity, because if there was no Temple, Judaism is disqualified. Christianity is disqualified."

McQuaid admitted he is in close contact with U.S. casino and bingo-gambling multimillionaire Irving Moskowitz, who is funding this Third Temple project, and with Gershon Solomon, who, as head of the "Land of Israel and Temple Mount Faithful," is the project's co-sponsor, with additional funding coming from "Zionist Christians" throughout America.

Similarly, at the NUCI press conference, Dr. Labib Mikhail urged, "There would be no Israel without Jerusalem and no Jerusalem without Israel. The Third Temple should be built."

Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Kan.) dropped by to put in his two cents: "We are doing everything we can to strike back [after Sept. 11]. And Israel has been hit for a number of years, and just recently, in a similar situation, lost a tourism minister. And what did we tell Israel? 'Hold back.' 'Show restraint.' It was difficult for [U.S. Secretary of State] Colin Powell at a recent hearing to respond to that question of a double standard."

Revival Of The 'Bernard Lewis Plan'

Brownback urged everyone to read articles by British intelligence agent, Princeton University's Dr. Bernard Lewis, to understand what must happen in the Middle East. As *EIR* has reported, the "Bernard Lewis Plan" for carving up the nation-states of the Middle East into manageable religious and ethnic entities, was a major part of Brzezinski's "Arc of Crisis" policy for perpetual conflict there. In his most recent book, *The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy And Its Geopolitical Imperatives*, Brzezinski has broadened the "Arc of Crisis" into a "Eurasian-Balkans zone of instability," to revive the "Great Game" of the Anglo-American-Israeli establishment, pitting Transcaucasian and Central Asian Muslim states against Russia in an effort to grab oil and other resources. Brownback said proudly that he had just hosted a

dinner honoring Dr. Bernard Lewis.

NUCI went out of its way to declare Islam a religion of violence, by presenting an Egyptian author, Dr. Labib Mikhail, a Christian cleric who had left Egypt to pursue a career denouncing Islam. This speaker said that there ought to be crusade against Islam, particularly the Palestinians—whom he claimed were pre-ordained as terrorists—rather than a “Dialogue of Civilizations.” Mikhail started by stating that the Koran contains 114 Chapters, which his paraphrase mischaracterized as saying that all Muslims are enemies of Christians and Jews—the Infidel—whom Muslims must “torture,” “terrorize,” and “kill.” He said that anyone “martyred in the cause of fighting the Infidel is promised 72 white and wide-eyed virgins in Paradise.” Mikhail also sought to discredit the Koranic story that, one night, the Prophet Mohammed journeyed to al-Haram al-Sharif, where he ascended to Heaven and met with Jesus. Mikhail cited other material, which supposedly shows that Mohammed was with his wife that night. His aim was to undermine the Islamic significance of al-Haram al-Sharif, hence making it all right to destroy the Al Aqsa Mosque, and to rebuild the Third Temple of Solomon on that site.

Muslims wish to conquer the world and destroy all other cultures, Mikhail railed, adding. “America is the only superpower. If the Muslims destroy America, then Islam will become a global power in its place.”

Mikhail had run a church in Egypt, and now has a congregation in the Washington suburb of Fairfax, Virginia. The author of 60 books in both English and Arabic along these lines, he stated that should he return to Cairo, he feared he “would be executed as happened with Afghansi leader Abdul Haq.”

A taste from among the other “fruits and nuts” gathered for the NUCI press conference includes:

Frank Gaffney: The main thrust of Gaffney’s speech was his claim that the Palestinians, under President Arafat, remain committed to the destruction of the Israeli state, to supplant both it and the Occupied Territories with Palestine. This is ironic, because Prime Minister Sharon has, in the past, advocated “Jordan is Palestine,” which today is a theme for many fanatics within the Israeli Defense Forces, who chafe at Sharon for failing to let them unleash Israel’s nuclear might against Syria, Iraq, Iran, and possibly even Egypt and Jordan.

As does Sharon, Gaffney compared the Bush Administration’s anti-terrorist coalition-building, which views Israel, at best, as an “inconvenient ally,” to the “appeasement” of British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain at Munich. However, Gaffney said that a better analogy would be how Chamberlain, throughout the 1930s, pursued a policy of “lessening the readiness of France to counter what was to come with Hitler.” He noted that in one of Winston Churchill’s “great speeches” in 1934, he had said, “This is about the most dangerous policy one could imagine.”

Gaffney, a “wannabe” Bush Administration member, is

head of the Center for Security Policy. He had been Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (1983-87), under Richard Perle, the current head of the Defense Policy Board. Both Perle and Gaffney have been primary suspects for membership in the “Mr. X Committee,” which steered the anti-U.S. espionage of Jonathan Pollard on behalf of Israel. Also, Gaffney and Perle have, in their op-eds, made chilling calls for a Desert Storm-like war to topple Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, bespeaking their membership in the “Wolfowitz cabal” of Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, which has been in a vicious fight against Colin Powell.

Itamar Marcus: In his speech on “The Influence Of The Official Palestinian Authority Media,” he said that the level of violence in Palestinian media had begun to increase two weeks before Sharon’s Sept. 28, 2000 visit, with thousands of armed guards, to the Temple Mount; this was Marcus’ alleged proof that the Palestinian Authority had merely used Sharon’s visit as an excuse to launch the pre-planned “Al-Aqsa Intifada.” NUCI president and press conference moderator Esther Levens later attacked the Clinton Administration, in an anecdote about his Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright. She had allegedly censored a presentation by Marcus in the U.S. Congress, by threatening to tell Israel that his appearance would demonstrate that Prime Minister Ehud Barak had dropped the Oslo Accords and the peace negotiations.

Marcus is the director of Palestinian Media Watch.

Rev. Elwood McQuaid: His topic was “The Persecution Of Christians And Destruction Of The Holy Sites Under Islam.” He said: “‘Zionist Christians’ believe that God gave the Land of Israel to the Jewish people in perpetuity,” and, “We must stand unequivocally with Israel.” He continued: “Thank God for unity. I have been associated with the leadership of Israel since 1970, who understood that Christian Evangelicals were crucial to bring Jews and Christians together.”

After citing the *Clash of Civilizations*, McQuaid asked rhetorically, if the problem is the U.S. alliance with Israel, then why are Muslims persecuting Christians and burning their churches in Indonesia, Sudan, the Philippines, and so forth? “The problem is that Bush, [British Prime Minister Tony] Blair, and even Sharon accept a Palestinian state,” McQuaid said. “And what about Christian churches? They are asleep. They thought that there was normality and peace, democracy, and freedom. But, Christians are being killed around the world.”

Although few press representatives were in attendance, the NUCI had “Zionist Christian” and right-wing Zionists marching and lobbying throughout the day in Washington. The most heavily represented right-wing Zionist organizations were the warhawks of the Zionist Organization of America. However, there was at least one leader of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, which includes among its leaders another suspected member of the “Mr. X Committee.”