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## Lunacy of the U.S. War Party

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# 'Why Stop at Iraq? On to Brazil!'

by Dennis Small

- “A new terrorist and nuclear weapons/ballistic missile threat may well come from an axis including Cuba’s Fidel Castro, the Chávez regime in Venezuela, and [Country X].”

- “[Country X has] many advanced sectors, including in aerospace and military production. From 1965 to 1994, this country had an active program to develop nuclear weapons. . . . [After that, there were] secret plans of the military to build an atomic bomb.”

- “China, which has been actively courting [Country X’s] military . . . has sold [Country X] enriched uranium and has invested in [Country X’s] aerospace industry, resulting in a joint imagery/reconnaissance satellite.”

- “[Country X could shortly be] re-establishing its nuclear weapon and ballistic missile programs, developing close links to state sponsors of terrorism such as Cuba and Iran. . . . [This could lead to] a very dramatic increase in the threat of terrorist attack in the U.S.”

- “This disaster for U.S. national security . . . must and can be averted. . . . The new axis is still preventable. . . . The Bush Administration and other democracies [must]. . . act in time to prevent this from happening.”

Does this sound like the latest rant by U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, calling for war against Iraq? Or one of the Hudson Institute’s lunatic ideologues of a new utopian world order, justifying a planned Israeli nuclear strike against any one of half a dozen Arab countries on their hit list?

Close . . . but not quite.

The quotes do come from one of the influential Hudson Institute’s numerous resident whackos—in this case, Senior Fellow Constantine Menges. But the country being targeted is not Iraq; it is *Brazil*.

### A Scenario From Deep Right-Field

Menges has had, let us say, a checkered career. A Columbia University Ph.D. in international relations, in 1961 he helped individuals escape as the Berlin Wall was being built. In 1963 he worked in Mississippi as a volunteer for equal voting rights. By 1968 he was at the RAND Corporation, the staging ground for many of today’s War Party insiders who have seized control over the Bush Administration. From 1981 to 1983, Menges was national intelligence officer for Latin America at the CIA. And from 1983 to 1986, during the cru-

cial Iran-Contra period of the Reagan-Bush years, he was special assistant to the President at the National Security Council.

Today Menges is a Senior Fellow with the Washington, D.C.-based Hudson Institute, which has become a major policy-shaping force in the Bush Administration. Hudson is bankrolled through a nexus of tax-exempt foundations, led by the Olin Foundation, the Bradley Foundation, the Smith Richardson Foundation, and the Mellon Scaife family funds. Among its prominent board members are Richard Perle, chairman of the Pentagon’s Defense Policy Board, and Conrad Black, the British Commonwealth’s billionaire magnate who owns the Hollinger Corp., the London *Daily Telegraph*, and the *Jerusalem Post*. The director of Hudson’s Middle East program, Meyrav Wurmser, has extensive ties to Israeli intelligence, through her previous work as co-founder and executive director of Middle East Media Research Institute.

Menges is directly influential in shaping the Bush Administration’s Ibero-American policy, through what one well-informed Washington source described to *EIR* as Menges’s close working relationship with Cuban-American Otto Reich, the Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs.

Menges’ call for a jihad against Brazil was published in a string of articles appearing in the Moonies’ *Washington Times* (Aug. 7), the neo-conservative *Weekly Standard* (July 29), and elsewhere. His argument is that the leftist candidate Luiz Inacio “Lula” da Silva could well win the Oct. 6 Presidential elections in Brazil, and that his victory would establish a new axis of evil in the Americas, centered on Castro’s Cuba, Hugo Chávez’s Venezuela, Colombia’s FARC terrorists, and, of course, Brazil. Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru would quickly follow suit, Menges posits. “If these regimes recruited only one tenth of one percent of the 30 million military-aged males for terrorist attacks on the U.S., this could mean 30,000 terrorists coming from the south.” This is good arithmetic, but bad political analysis. Menges and his utopian friends at Hudson are *not* actually worried about Lula; they are worried about *Brazil* breaking ranks with the Anglo-American financial interests they represent.

Brazil is the largest country in Ibero-America (in population, geography, and economy), and the region’s one nation that has managed to preserve a semblance of sovereignty, in the face of the onslaught by the international financial oligarchy and their policies of economic zero growth, technological apartheid, Malthusian depopulation, and war—in short, a New Dark Age.

### Brazil and LaRouche Alternative

Consequently, Menges reserves particular venom for Brazil’s high-technology sectors, in particular its nuclear and aerospace programs, and he repeatedly targets Brazil’s cooperation with China in these areas. Although President Fernando Henrique Cardoso’s two successive administra-

tions played by the rules of globalization for eight years, and defended free-trade economic policies, they also kept other options open, especially vis à vis China and other Asian economies.

During 2002, the country's establishment watched, aghast, as the International Monetary Fund and the financial oligarchy laid waste to neighboring Argentina. It was such layers that decided, in mid-2002, that it was time to hear directly from U.S. Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche, exactly what the policy options are for a country like Brazil. Thus, LaRouche's historic visit to that country in June.

Although Menges stops short of explicitly advocating a U.S. military attack against Brazil, his argument is identical, in all essentials, to the arguments being wielded by fellow Hudson Institute ideologues, such as Richard Perle, to justify war on Iraq. Not surprisingly, many in the policymaking elite in Brazil—and elsewhere in Ibero-America—are seriously worried that just such plans are afoot. If it's being done to Iraq, they reason, why wouldn't we be next? They view this military threat as part of a grab for oil and other resources, targeting the Brazilian Amazon and other areas. And they think that the call for direct U.S. or supranational military involvement in the war against narco-terrorism in Colombia—emanating from certain circles in Washington, and tolerated as a live option by Colombian President Alvaro Uribe—could be the excuse for far broader foreign military presence across South America. Sound paranoid?

The Brazilians are *not* paranoid, Lyndon LaRouche commented on the matter; the Menges and related plans could well be cooking as U.S. policy. It is true that a natural resources grab is a component of that plan, but the overall policy thrust, LaRouche emphasized, will bring about a planetary New Dark Age. The source of the problem is that insanity has seized control of the White House, and as a result, every ambitious lunatic with crazy ideas, such as Menges, is given a hearing. The Menges and related plans should be listed under the heading, "marketable lunacies," LaRouche quipped.

### **The IASPS Angle: Oil, and More**

The cabal of lunatics that has taken over the unstable Bush Administration called themselves, during the campaign, the "Vulcans," and include Richard Perle, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, and Vice President Dick Cheney—with policy influence now encompassing Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and others. *EIR* has documented that, at the center of this policy cabal is the Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies (IASPS), a Jerusalem- and Washington-based think-tank which, back in July 1996, concocted the policy now being implemented as Washington's war on Iraq. This was presented in a paper called "A Clean Break," co-authored by, among others, Richard Perle and Meyrav Wurmser, both today with Hudson. It called for a series of

wars, including against Iraq, to radically redraw the Mideast political map. The IASPS cabal instantly sold the policy to Israel's Netanyahu government, and short years later managed to foist it on the Bush Administration.

That same IASPS crowd, it turns out, also has an elaborate, utopian plan for Ibero-America, which is of a piece with the Menges call for war against Brazil.

In a July 18, 2002 article in the Buckley family's *National Review*, editor Rich Lowry reported favorably on the arguments put forth by IASPS Strategic Fellow Paul Michael Wihbey, who argues that the United States must end its dependence on Persian Gulf oil, and instead get strategic control of the large oil fields in the South Atlantic, both in West Africa and in off-shore Brazil—"off-shore Brazil and off-shore West Africa are part of the same geological basin," he asserts suggestively. To achieve this, Wihbey calls for the formation of an "Atlantic Free Trade Bloc" and a "North American Energy Grid" to pool the resources of the United States, Mexico (a major oil producer), and Canada.

In Congressional testimony on March 16, 2000, Wihbey further argued that the United States establish a South Atlantic military command to enforce this energy policy. And on Oct. 1, 2001 in the *International Herald Tribune*, Wihbey was quoted praising the Cheney energy report—adopted as Bush Administration policy—noting that "one probable outcome . . . is the creation of a North American energy grid including Canada and Mexico, to be followed by greater energy integration with South America." The article went on to praise the Cheney energy plan as "the beginning of the most radical changes in U.S. energy policy since the oil shocks of the 1970s."

This policy is what is behind the massive pressure brought to bear on the Vicente Fox government in Mexico to deregulate and privatize—i.e., put in foreign hands—the country's substantial energy sector.

In addition to coveting Brazil and Mexico's oil, IASPS and the Vulcans in Washington are also drooling over Venezuela. IASPS Koret Fellow Limor Menirav recently wrote that Venezuela could and should vastly increase its oil exports, "with a free market economy . . . [and] by setting privatization processes in motion." And IASPS President Robert J. Loewenberg gave wild, public support to the ultra-right-wing coup-within-the-coup which tried to topple the jacobin Chávez regime in Venezuela, arguing the case in strictly medievalist terms. For example, Loewenberg wrote that the coup against Chávez "was a revolution, but not on Enlightenment lines. This was a true revolution along the lines of the ancient principle of natural right. . . . All honor to the men of Venezuela."

It is noteworthy that important elements of the opposition to Chávez in Venezuela today share this outlook, and answer to the likes of Menges, his buddy at the State Department Otto Reich, and allied lunatic right-wing elements of the Miami Cuban exile community.