

Lebanon Facing Condi's Whip

The biggest danger to peace in Lebanon is coming from the George Shultz-controlled "war party" inside the Bush Administration. They are using Lebanon for another agenda—the destruction of Syria, under a policy known as the "Clean Break," named for the policy paper written by U.S. neo-cons for right-wing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in 1996. Three overlapping groupings are involved: Vice President Dick Cheney's office; Shultz protégé Condoleezza Rice's "democracy mafia" (actually run by Cheney's daughter Liz, who is Assistant Secretary of State for the Near East and South Asia); and, the Pentagon neo-conservative chickenhawks, who brought about the Iraq War.

Up till now, this anti-Syria war gang has used UN Security Council Resolution 1559, which demands the

withdrawal of all Syrian troops from Lebanon, as the basis for threats against both countries. But, with the rapid removal of some Syrian forces already accomplished, and statements from Syrian President Bashar al-Assad that the withdrawal is going ahead fully, the U.S. war party has had to come up with another excuse: an investigation of the alleged (but so far unsubstantiated) Syrian role in the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri on Feb. 14, and the continuing mantra from Washington that Syria is pressuring President Emile Lahoud to cancel the upcoming elections.

However, the Lebanese people now have something new to fear: a military intervention by U.S. and French troops under the banner of the UN, supposedly to "protect Lebanon," while investigating the Hariri murder. One opposition leader bluntly told *EIR* that he doubts Bush's "sincerity" in always mentioning Lebanon. "There is another agenda for him—we know that. Bush is pushing 'demockery,' not democracy," he said.—*Michele Steinberg*

try, just as it has to many other parts of the world.

"The proposed plan," Eisenhower continued, "would thus help to solve the problem of the more than a million Arab refugees. When the Republic of Israel was established in 1948, hundreds of thousands of Arabs living there left their homes and moved into refugee settlements in neighboring Arab states. There, in camps, most of which are a disgrace to the civilized world, many of these people exist in idleness and poverty, with little hope, supported largely by a UN dole. Large numbers of them could be employed in building the new installations and water conduits and in preparing the land for irrigated crops. Later, a great many could doubtless be settled on the new farming areas in the Arab countries."

The Eisenhower-Strauss plan revived President Johnson's 1965 "Water for Peace" initiative, which was based on work at Oak Ridge National Laboratory on nuclear desalination. The LBJ plan envisioned what were called "nuplexes," agro-industrial hubs, built around the nuclear desalination plants. From May 21-23, 1967, the U.S. State Department hosted a conference on "Water for Peace," attended by over 6,400 participants from 94 countries, including Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Yemen, and Saudi Arabia.

When Richard Nixon took office in January 1969, he named one of Eisenhower's top Cabinet officials, former Attorney General William P. Rogers, as his Secretary of State. Rogers, painfully aware of the continuing Israel-Egypt low-intensity conflict over the Suez, wasted no time in trying to revive the Johnson and Eisenhower peace initiatives. On March 13, 1969, he summoned Israel's Ambassador, Yitzhak Rabin, to the State Department, to discuss his proposals for a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace, based on mutual security guarantees, and a return to the pre-Six Day War borders, guar-

anteed by the stationing of United Nations peacekeepers.

On Dec. 9, 1969 Secretary Rogers delivered a speech at the Galaxy Conference on Higher Education in Washington, in which he elaborated on his peace proposal, which was then labeled "The Rogers Plan." Israel, still basking in the triumph of the Six Day War, issued a Cabinet decree on Dec. 22, rejecting the Plan. However, the real subversion of the Secretary's efforts was taking place in the corridors of power in Washington and London.

Behind the scenes, Henry Kissinger, then the National Security Advisor to President Nixon, was plotting against Secretary Rogers, and Rogers' two closest Cabinet allies, Assistant Secretary of State Joseph Sisco and Defense Secretary Melvin Laird. Rogers had been engaged in sensitive détente talks with Soviet Ambassador Anatoli Dobrynin on a package of issues, including the Vietnam War, the Middle East, and nuclear weapons. In a good-faith gesture, Nixon had frozen delivery of Phantom jets to Israel, to give Moscow a chance to pressure Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser into backing the Rogers Plan. Following a June 1970 trip to Cairo by Sisco, Nasser formally endorsed the Rogers Plan, with enthusiastic Soviet backing. Kissinger opposed the whole détente effort, arguing to Nixon that Moscow harbored secret plans to conquer the world, starting in the Middle East. The kind of "softness" shown by Rogers, Laird, and Sisco, Kissinger argued, was just what the Soviets were looking for.

Suddenly, a string of terrorist attacks took place in the Middle East. Jordan's King Hussein, then under strong London influence, launched his infamous "Black September" crackdown on the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) inside the Hashemite Kingdom; Syrian tanks moved towards the Jordanian border; Israel offered to provide Jordan with