

Will Cheney's 'Strangelove' Bush Go for Nuclear War Against Iran?

by Nancy Spannaus

If there were any lingering doubt in anyone's mind that the President is clinically insane, it was dispelled, forever, by George "Strangelove" Bush's performance on April 18 in the Rose Garden. At a press conference, ostensibly called to announce the appointment of Rob Portman as the new head of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), President Bush had the following exchange with a reporter:

Q: Sir, when you talk about Iran, and you talk about how you have diplomatic efforts, you also say that all options are on the table. Does that include the possibility of a nuclear strike? Is that something that your administration will plan for?

The President: All options are on the table."

Just hours before President Bush refused to rule out preemptive nuclear strikes against Iran, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) announced that it would add Iran, along with India, Pakistan, and Mongolia, as full members, at its next meeting, in June. Founded in Shanghai on June 15, 2001, the SCO is a regional security and economic cooperation organization, made up of China, Russia, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

In response to these two dramatic, intersecting developments, Lyndon LaRouche asked: "What are the consequences of the President of the United States declaring the U.S.A. an adversary of one of the member states of the SCO? If President Bush is threatening a nuclear attack on a state that is part of the SCO alliance, is he, in effect, seeking to provoke general nuclear war? And what about the U.S. military bases on the territory of some of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization states? Doesn't President Bush's Rose Garden declaration show that he is clinically insane?"

The Method in the Madness

No one should be confused about where the President's implicit threat of nuclear attack comes from. George W. Bush

doesn't either decide what to say, or necessarily know what he is saying: The script is determined by the likes of Vice President Dick Cheney, and Cheney's bosses in the Synarchist financier camp. Cheney's record of threatening the first use of nuclear weapons is an open book.

As *EIR*'s Jeffrey Steinberg laid out in detail during the run-up to the Iraq War (*EIR*, March 7, 2003), it was Cheney who, as Secretary of Defense in the early 1990s, commissioned a study of how the United States should respond to the new military strategic reality of the fall of the Soviet Union. The study laid out a policy for an American military empire, which would be committed to striking out against any nation or alliance of nations threatening American military hegemony. The use of a new generation of nuclear weapons, as well as the doctrine of preemptive strike, was included in the document.

In 1992, President George H.W. Bush vetoed the plan, at the urging of his top national security aides, Gen. Brent Scowcroft and James Baker III.

However, Cheney's plans for preparing for a U.S.-initiated nuclear war did not die. Pursuant to a top-secret "Nuclear Weapons Employment Policy" (NUWEP), issued by then-Secretary of Defense Cheney in early 1991, sections of the Pentagon began to plan for the use of nuclear weapons against Third World nations that were thought to be capable of developing weapons of mass destruction. From this program, came the development of so-called mini-nukes, or "bunker-busters," the weapons currently touted as being prepared for use against Iran.

The Russians, who responded with loud alarm to the initial Defense Policy Guidance prepared under Cheney in 1991, have, not surprisingly, remained extremely sensitive to such threats. President Bush's April 18 statement that the use of nuclear weapons to attack Iran is "on the table," received wide



White House photo

Dick Cheney, the author of the preemptive nuclear strike policy for this Administration, has to be removed, in order to take that threat off the table.

coverage in Russia, even as it was effectively buried in the American press.

Notable is the fact that none other than British Prime Minister Tony Blair also responded to a query on the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons against Iran, by refusing to rule it out.

Will the U.S.A. Attack?

Negotiations between Iran and the international community remain stalemated as of this writing. Although Iran's much-touted achievement of a new level of uranium enrichment has been evaluated by nuclear experts as bringing them nowhere near the possibility of having weapons-grade nuclear capability, the Cheneyacs and their international allies have seized the occasion to try to stoke immediate confrontation.

U.S. spokesmen John Bolton and Condoleezza Rice have called for immediate action at the United Nations, with the hope of beginning a regime of sanctions, which could lead to authorization for military attack. A prescheduled meeting in Moscow for the week of April 17-20, was the scene of debate on the issue.

Although apparently the United States and United Kingdom arranged to have the talks on Iran "expanded" to include Canada, Italy, and Japan (as the G-8), this did not help the war party's mission.

U.S. Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns demanded that Russia abandon its cooperation with Iran to complete the Bushehr nuclear power plant, saying, "We also think it is important for countries to stop cooperation with Iran on nuclear issues, even on civilian nuclear issues like the Bushehr facility." The Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mikhail Kamynin, issued a flat no: "We have an agreement with Iran that nuclear fuel for the nuclear power plant will be delivered

from Russia, and spent nuclear fuel will be returned to it, which will rule out any possibility of using it in the military area, and Washington knows this. From this point of view the nuclear plant does not constitute any threat to the non-proliferation regime."

The official Foreign Ministry spokesman of China, Qin Gang, speaking of Deputy Foreign Minister Cui Tiankai's mission in Moscow, reasserted his government's commitment to a diplomatic solution. "We hope," he said, "that the world community will not renounce the efforts to solve the Iranian nuclear problem peacefully. In Beijing, we welcome the dialogue between Iran and the EU-3, and hope that the two sides can enhance mutual trust and make progress on the way to a peaceful solution."

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov explained that the group made no progress in two days of talks, because "we are convinced of the need to wait for the IAEA report." His French counterpart Philippe Douste-Blazy reportedly agreed.

What Is the Urgency?

Clearly, there is no urgency in terms of a physical threat, which would call for an attack on Iran by the United States, or anyone else. Competent military professionals in the United States have insisted that such an attack would be both ineffective, and counterproductive, in that it would set off a much-expanded wave of irregular warfare throughout the world.

The urgency, therefore, only lies in the political-ideological realm defined by the Cheney crew which controls the Bush Administration, and their own Synarchist mentors. An expanded war would provide the pseudo-justification for the Administration to quash all opposition to its drive for dictatorship, and outright fascist looting measures.

Presently, the Administration is finding its popularity plummet, and the White House itself is under increasing siege by Special Prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald, for its crimes of leaks and coverups. The cosmetic personnel changes undertaken so far, cannot be expected to save the higher-ups responsible, who clearly include Vice President Cheney, if not the President himself. All indications at present, are that Fitzgerald's investigation is speeding up, and headed toward the Vice President's office, whether through an indictment of Karl Rove, or more directly.

Thus, it would be the height of irresponsibility to ignore the potential for the White House to do *precisely* what Cheney, and now Bush, have threatened: Carry out a preemptive nuclear attack on Iran. In this way they would hope to intimidate the entire world into submission, but would simultaneously destroy civilization, including the United States itself. In this light, the urgency of getting Cheney out of office, couldn't be greater.