

Editorial

Cut the Mideast Gordian Knot, Mr. Clinton

The recent turn of events in the Middle East, with the still-ongoing government crisis in Israel, and the equally uncertain succession process in Syria, following the death of Hafez al-Assad, ought to give President Clinton and others reason to pause, and consider a bold new approach to the elusive Middle East peace, an approach that we have advocated in the pages of *EIR* for years, and, as recently as the May 19 issue (“Solving the Water Shortage Is the Key to Mideast Peace”).

It is an open secret around Washington that the President, as of this moment, will not place any undue pressure on Israel to secure the final status agreement with the Palestinian Authority, because to do so, might jeopardize the First Lady’s chances of winning the New York U.S. Senate race, and would all but certainly finish Al Gore’s already sinking quest for the Presidency. “Don’t cross the New York Zionist Lobby in an election year—even if it means that a decades-long effort to secure a just and lasting peace in the Mideast goes down the tubes, for some time to come.” That is the word of the day, coming out of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Never mind, that the neo-conservative wing of the Zionist Lobby—the people the President does not wish to antagonize between now and November—are the very people who put their last ounce of effort into destroying his Presidency through all of their Clintongate shenanigans. Never mind, that in the June 2000 issue of the *American Spectator*, the flagship publication of the “Get Clinton” mafia, Zionist Lobby propagandist Michael Ledeen states, unequivocally, “Peace between Israel and Syria will come, if at all, after the next war.” Ledeen’s foamings are buttressed by his fellow neo-cons in both the Al Gore and George Bush Presidential camps, who recently launched an outfit called the United States Committee for a Free Lebanon, which has called for a new “Operation Desert Storm,” involving American and “coalition” military forces invading Lebanon to drive the 35,000 Syrian troops back across the border.

The only way to defeat these war hawks, and overcome the apparent lack of consensus within the Israeli

political-military establishment for bold peace moves, is for President Clinton to take the lead and do the unthinkable.

Take up the requests from both Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat and Prime Minister Ehud Barak for a Camp David-style summit in Washington. But broaden it to bring in the other major players in the immediate region: Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. And put the issue of water—the life and death issue for the Middle East—squarely on the table. Send Al Gore and his Luddite, eco-freak friends off to summer camp, and make a firm commitment to help build the necessary number of *nuclear desalination plants* to satisfy the expanded water needs of the region, under conditions of genuine economic growth. *EIR*’s recent study showed that 16 such plants could provide sufficient water to 34 million people in five Mideast countries that constitute the fulcrum for war or peace in the region.

Mr. President, turn the clock back six years, to 1994, when, faced with a growing war danger on the Korean peninsula, greatly exaggerated and fueled by the same neo-cons and Zionist Lobby fanatics preaching war with Syria today, you did the unthinkable. You offered North Korea access to Western light-water nuclear reactors, to satisfy their energy needs, while denying them the ability to produce weapons-grade fissionable material. Back then, it didn’t matter in the least that the right-wing Zionist Lobby crowd hit the ceiling, and pilloried you for pandering to “rogue states.”

You held your ground, and it can be said, with certainty, that your actions around the light-water reactor offer, helped lay the basis for the breakthrough North-South Korea summit that recently gave everyone hope, that peace and security in the Far East is in sight.

It would be truly tragic, for all of your efforts, over the past seven years, to secure a just and lasting peace in the Mideast, to have come to naught, as your Presidency enters its final months. To avoid the tragedy, take the kind of initiative you took in Korea, with such stellar results, and put the issue of nuclear desalination on the Middle East peace table.