

War Plan Against Syria: 'Made in London'

by an EIR Investigative Team

Jan. 2—A British-based network of Syrian opposition operatives is behind an effort to withdraw Arab League monitors who have been in Syria under an agreement made by Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, and to replace war-avoidance efforts, led especially by permanent UN National Security Council member Russia, with a Libya-style war. Since Dec. 27, 100 Arab League monitors have traveled to different locations in Syria, secured the release of some 3,500 prisoners, many of them political detainees in Syrian jails, and observed the Syrian Army's withdrawal of heavy weaponry from around cities controlled by the opposition.

And as the result of a significant Russian war-avoidance intervention, especially Russia's and China's veto of a U.S.-French-British-backed resolution against

Syria, combined with splits in the Arab League and strong U.S. Pentagon resistance to another Libya-style military intervention, there are some signs that the London-led forces promoting violent regime change in Damascus are being pushed back, and are in some disarray.

In the last 72 hours, there have been significant developments that point to the possibility of a peaceful outcome in Syria. But at the same time, British-controlled assets in the Syrian opposition, led by the London-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and its affiliated Barada satellite television, and Anglo-Saudi Salafi¹ voices, such as terrorist supporter Omar Bakri, are demanding that the violent overthrow of Bashar al-Assad through foreign military intervention is the only acceptable option.

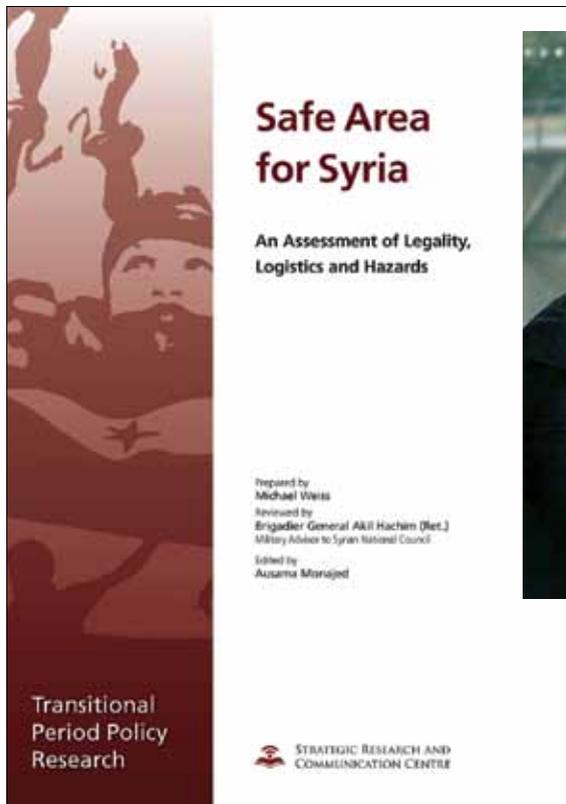
Among the leading war-avoidance developments over the past week are the following:

- At the end of December, in Cairo, leaders of the two leading Syrian opposition groups, the Syrian National Council (SNC) and the National Coordinating Committee for Democratic Change (NCC), signed an agreement on what was described as the "three no's": that there would be no foreign intervention, no use of violence against the Assad government, and no fomenting of sectarian conflict. This is the first time that the SNC and NCC have reached a major agreement on anything, and the document is to be submitted to the Arab League, which is organizing a convention of the Syrian opposition sometime this month.

- On Jan. 1, NCC leader Haytham al-Manna, one of the unity document signers, gave an interview to the Beirut-based newspaper *Al-Akhbar*, in which he emphasized the role that Russia had played in brokering a peaceful solution to the Syrian crisis, and suggested that the opposition should look to Russia, China, and Iran—rather than unreliable Western countries like France and Britain—to secure genuine reforms for the country. Al-Manna also emphasized that criticisms of the "three no's" that are coming from the Syrian National Council, which is foreign-based, are not unexpected, because the SNC is itself not unified.

A Libya-style NATO or Western war against Syria is *unacceptable*, al-Manna said. "We don't want anyone to destroy our country. We've never seen a situation where Santa Claus appears, saves a country from a dic-

1. The Salafis are a fundamentalist sect of Sunni Islam.



Ausama Monajed is “London’s man” in the Syrian opposition. His London-based Strategic Research and Communication Centre issued this policy paper to build support for “regime change” war against Syria.

tatorship, and then waves good-bye peacefully and leaves. We understand the pressure on the Syrian people is immense, but Western military intervention is simply not a solution.”

- On Jan. 1, on the sidelines of a meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, the Turkish head of the organization, said that the OIC opposes any foreign intervention in the Syria crisis, and called for dialogue to resolve the problems, as well as all conflicts in the Persian Gulf region, especially over the Strait of Hormuz.

- On Jan. 1, the *Damascus Times* reported that President Assad will soon deliver a nationwide address, announcing a new government with opposition figures included. The President has reportedly been conferring for the past three days with top advisors who have been meeting with opposition figures to work out the details of the deal.

Brits Say ‘Stop the Monitors’

But even as these positive developments were unfolding, the London-based Syrian opposition went into high gear to stop the Arab League monitors, by pulling

them out immediately; to break up the SNC/NCC unity agreement that rejects foreign military force; and to campaign for a foreign military overthrow of President Assad. Using its most powerful propaganda weapon—a daily fabricated body count—the British-based network, repeatedly echoed in Paris by French Foreign Minister Alain Juppé, is calling for the Arab League to pull out its monitors.

How does this operation work? As revealed in a Dec. 26 statement from the La-Rouche Political Action Committee (LPAC) titled “Brits Are Source of All Accounts of Syrian Deaths,” the operation centers around three intertwined organizations: the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, the Strategic Resource and Communications Centre, and a satellite television broadcast operation in London called Barada TV.

LPAC’s release, which has been posted on blogs around the world says:

“The Syrian Human Rights Observatory is the single source for all Western press accounts, including those of UN Human Rights Commission head Navi Pillay and Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, of the numbers of Syrians supposedly killed by Assad every day. The Syrian Observatory Committee for Human Rights in turn gets these numbers from the London-based Strategic Resource and Communications Centre, headed by Syrian-born Ausama Monajed.

“Who is Monajed? His background makes it clear that not only are these death-counts completely unverified, and not only do they come from the opposition itself, as columnist Phil Giraldi has noted, but that they probably originate from British intelligence.

“As was the case with the Libyan terrorists, LIFG [Libyan Islamic Fighting Group], operating from Britain against the Qaddafi regime, Britain controls the Syrian, Ausama Monajed, head of the London-based

Strategic Resource and Communications Centre. Monajed, who provides the information to the Western media about the ‘mayhem’ committed by the Bashar al-Assad regime, wears many hats and is well-protected by British intelligence. He is a founder-member of the Syrian National Council, the group that is urging the Arab League to remove al-Assad, and Monajed is also a member of the London-based Syrian Observatory Committee for Human Rights.

“Monajed, according to one report, works with other people based in France, Lebanon, and Qatar. It is evident that Qatar, which has become a cat’s paw for Riyadh and London, and has now just adopted Wahhabism as its national religion, is a major source of financing for Monajed’s operations.

“Monajed is also trotted around in international forums. He was invited to the British intelligence-run Chatham House to speak on a panel titled Envisioning Syria’s Future. He is a darling of the U.S.-based Project Democracy, and has spoken at USIP (U.S. Institute of Peace, a Washington quango) seminars on Syria.

“An economist by training, Monajed worked for the United Nations Development Programme and then the European Commission, on development programs inside Syria. He quit the Syrian government job in 2005 and moved to Britain that year to be under the umbrella of MI6 and Tony Blair in working against al-Assad.”

War Plan: Made in the U.K.

That’s not all. On Dec. 30, LaRouchePAC followed up its investigation of the British control of the operation to overthrow President Assad with a second press release, entitled “British Writing Obama’s Script for Syrian Trigger for World War III.”

“A posting on The Cable, a blog of *Foreign Policy* magazine, Dec. 28, headlined the creation of a secret committee by the Obama Administration, which is preparing ‘options’ for aiding the Syrian opposition. The process, led by NSC Senior Director Steve Simon, involves only a few select officials from State, Defense, Treasury, and other relevant agencies,” LPAC warned. “It is unusually small, presumably to prevent media leaks, and bypasses the normal channels of Interagency Policy Committee, Deputies’ Committee, and Principals’ Committee meetings.”

The NSC grouping is oriented to Obama’s repeated insane demands that Assad *must leave office*.

And it turns out that the very same British network

that produces the daily “body count” to provide Obama with the pretext for another illegal regime-change war in the Middle East has written its own blueprint for how that war has to unfold—and the network is partially funded by the Obama Administration itself.

In the same *Foreign Policy* item of Dec. 28, blogger Josh Rogin reports that Monajed’s Strategic Research and Communications Centre just released a policy paper titled, “Safe Area for Syria,” adopting the policy of foreign military action in Syria. The paper was prepared by Michael Weiss, the Communications Director for the Henry Jackson Society in London; reviewed by Brig. Gen. Akil Hachim (ret.), Military Advisor to the Syrian National Council; and edited by Ausama Monajed, a member of the Syrian National Council, which hopes to become the sole center of the Syrian opposition, and to be recognized by the United Nations as the government-in-exile.

“The Syrian National Council (SNC) is entering a critical phase in the Syrian revolution,” the paper says, “whereby the hope of a continued campaign of passive resistance to an exceptionally brutal and unrestrained regime is becoming more and more akin to a suicide pact.”

Instead, say Monajed et al. in the paper, “On 19 December, the SNC formally endorsed foreign military intervention for Syria. This represents a significant about-face from the institution’s founding National Consensus Charter, which categorically rejected such a contingency. Moreover, after initially ruling out ‘armed resistance,’ in contrast to the Free Syrian Army (FSA), the SNC has now also, ‘pledged to support’ the FSA as a military custodian of the revolution.”

Lo and behold. On the same day that President Assad agreed to the Arab League plan for releasing prisoners, admitting monitors, and ending violent crackdowns, London’s “Syrian Opposition” called for total war against Assad.

There is no mystery here. Behind the “opposition” paper calling for a foreign overthrow of Assad is the same network that brought us the Iraq invasion of 2003, and supported and funded Anglo-American Iraqi war-monger Ahmed Chalabi and his Iraqi National Congress.

“Safe Area for Syria” is a virtual word-for-word reprint of the call for military intervention issued earlier in December by the Henry Jackson Society, an organization that combines the most fanatical American neo-

conservatives with the descendants of the British Empire's Round Table.

The Jackson Society's document, titled "Intervention in Syria?," is a program for perpetual war and the end of national sovereignty. The only significant difference between the two documents is that the earlier Jackson Society report demands that the Syrian National Council support foreign military intervention, Libya-style, with air attacks by NATO and other Western powers, whereas the SNC version of the document delivers that endorsement.

No one should be fooled by the obscurity of Michael Weiss, the author of the paper, or the fact that the Henry Jackson Society is not well known. Founded in March 2005, the U.S. organizers of the Society are the same people who brought you the Iraq War, predicting a "cakewalk," and ending up with an eight-year war in which hundreds of thousands of Iraqis were killed, tens of thousands of American and coalition soldiers were injured, and nearly 5,000 coalition soldiers were killed. These people care nothing about civilian casualties.

Among the Society's American patrons are foaming-at-the-mouth neo-cons: Richard Perle, former head of the Defense Policy Board at the Pentagon under Rumsfeld/Wolfowitz; former CIA Director James Woolsey; *Weekly Standard* Editor William Kristol; and the American Enterprise Institute's Joshua Muravchik, all early patrons of Chalabi. Another American patron of the Henry Jackson Society is President Obama's new ambassador to Russia, Michael McFaul. On the British side, heavyweights Rt. Hon. Michael Ancram, 13th Marquess of Lothian, grandson of Round Table leader Philip Kerr, 11th Marquess of Lothian; and Sir Richard Dearlove, Tony Blair's choice to head British SIS, 1999-2004, provide the leadership.

The Jackson Society was founded as a strategic move by the American neo-cons, whose credibility was being destroyed in the United States. By June 2006, the Society members in London were cheering the Israeli attack on Southern Lebanon, where some 5,000 civilians were killed in Israeli air strikes. The Society's founding coincided with U.S. funding of the Syrian opposition, according to State Department cables posted by Wikileaks.

These cables show that the sponsorship of the Syrian exile movement went into high gear in 2005, and that about \$6 million in U.S. government money has been funneled into the Syrian opposition since 2006. The

funds began in the aftermath of the 2005 assassination in Beirut of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. The funding coincided with an anti-Syria UN Security Council resolution demanding that Syria remove its troops from Lebanon.

The Bush/Cheney-British alliance was banking on the fact that Syrian President Assad would not pull Syrian troops out of Lebanon, and that the UN's Mehlis Commission investigating the Hariri assassination could be turned into a tool for a military attack on Syria.

The 2005-06 war plan against Syria was derailed, but the opposition funding was put in place for the future, just as the neo-con network began building up the Chalabi option for an Iraq war in the mid-1990s. The world is still paying for the Iraq War debacle. The next British Empire adventure could well turn into a global thermonuclear confrontation.

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A Strategic Defense of Humanity



Were the United States to eject Obama, and reciprocate Russia's offer for an SDE (Strategic Defense of Earth), we would not only avert the danger of thermonuclear war in the short term, but we would eliminate the reason for humanity to ever go to war again. Peace, is not the negation of conflict; it's an active commitment among all peoples to "the common aims of mankind."

An LPAC video presented by Natalie Lovegren (12 minutes).

<http://www.larouchepac.com/node/20616>