

The Drive Is on for a Purge Of the Obama White House

Nov. 4—Washington sources have confirmed that there is an all-out drive by leading Democratic Party circles, top Pentagon brass, and other sane elements to force a thorough housecleaning at the Obama White House. The recent leaks on Pentagon complaints about White House incompetence in managing the war against the Islamic State (IS) were sanctioned at the very top of the Defense Department and Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), and are aimed at forcing the removal of some of the most egregious White House staffers. Among the top names on the “to-be-purged” list are Chief of Staff Denis McDonough, National Security Advisor Susan Rice, and her deputies, Ben Rhodes and Tony Blinken.

The push is likely to escalate within days after the Nov. 4 mid-term elections, which are widely anticipated to lead to dramatic losses by a Democratic Party crippled by Obama personally, and by Wall Street policies. *EIR* has been told that at least two groupings within the Democratic Party are preparing to move, with at least some degree of coordination, to clean house at the White House.

So far, none of the Democratic anti-Obama forces, nor a sufficient number of Republicans, have indicated that they are finally ready to move for the long-overdue impeachment of the President, who personally represents the prime source of incompetence, in addition to disastrous policies, at the White House. Lyndon LaRouche has emphasized that the future of mankind depends upon suppressing Obama’s ability to block the motion toward a New World Economic Order by the

BRICS nations—and upon preventing him from carrying out his confrontationist policies against Russia and China, which could rapidly lead to World War III.

Middle East Fiasco

One of the major spurs to the action against current White House policy is the Administration’s disastrous course of action in Southwest Asia, specifically on Iraq and Syria.

According to one source, the JCS prepared a complex war plan for defeating IS in Iraq and Syria, but the implementation has been bungled by the White House and NSC team, which repeatedly failed to even consult with the Pentagon before making public statements or sending communications to Congress. The source added that the top military planners belatedly realized that the White House and NSC did not even comprehend the plan, and were thus incapable of explaining what the United States was doing.

The most flagrant incident was the memo written by Susan Rice to Congressional leaders, spelling out the request for authorization of funds to train Syrian rebels and to bomb IS targets. The memo was so poorly written that the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee called the Pentagon immediately and demanded a total re-write, which was done. After six and a half years in office, this White House/NSC team is more incompetent than ever.

To build up pressure on the White House, a series of leaks was orchestrated. One of the most significant was

the subject of an Oct. 29 article in the *New York Times*, which revealed that Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel had written a two-page memo to Rice, highly critical of the Administration's Syria policy.

One source told *EIR* that the Hagel memo, in contrast to some neo-con media claims, was not a demand for more focus on removing Syrian President Bashar al-Assad from power. To the contrary, Hagel simply demanded a clear policy from the President on how to operate inside Syria, where the U.S. has no authorization for action from the UN Security Council or any other body. The Joint Chiefs have insisted that the United States must focus on destroying IS and not engage in any actions that would diminish the efforts of the Syrian Army against Islamic State fighters. Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey has reportedly told the President that the U.S. cannot fight a three-front war against IS in Iraq, IS in Syria, and the Assad government.

‘Obama Is the Problem’

While the active duty military command is constrained not to directly countermand the Commander-in-Chief, some prominent establishment figures are speaking out.

Notable is a series of columns by Leslie H. Gelb, president emeritus of the New York Council on Foreign Relations, and a top foreign policy analyst who has served in the State Department, the Defense Department, and at the *New York Times*. Gelb has been blasting the Administration for its Syria policy, arguing that the only way IS could be defeated is by a U.S. alliance *with the competent ground forces in the region, specifically those of President Assad and the Iranian government*.

In a Nov. 2 column published in the *Daily Beast*, Gelb argues that the *New York Times* story about impending purges of senior staff at the White House must have been a leak from the White House itself. “Notice the White House has not shouted denials from its rooftops,” Gelb writes. “On the contrary, if Obama is behind it, here’s the motive: He’s been taking all the blame for the foreign policy mistakes and wants to disperse the burden.”

While Gelb’s assessment of the source or sources of the story is not confirmed, the main point he makes is that Obama himself is the problem:

“While a shakeup might be a very good thing for this administration, depending on who is brought in, there’s also something deeply worrying in this. The leak suggests that Mr. Obama remains blind to the principal cause of his foreign policy woes. Yes, his team has

been a problem. But he is the person most responsible for the absence of a U.S. foreign policy strategy, for policy zigs and zags, and for the loss of credibility and power. The essential fault lies not with the stars around him, however dim, but with himself.

“It was clear from Obama’s earliest days in office that he would run the most personalized and centralized decision-making operation, perhaps ever. It’s all about him, his judgments, his intelligence, his resistance to making serious strategies (of what can and should be done and how), and his cluelessness about how to get things done. Ask almost anyone in the national security system, and they will tell you that the process is constipated because of his mania for control and ad hoc decisions. If he wants to shake things up and achieve some major accomplishments in his last two years, he’s got to shake himself up first.

“I don’t know if Obama will replace his team, make one or two new appointments or maybe do nothing at all, but what he really needs to do is to look at himself.”

Democrats Can’t Wait

If anything, Gelb is too soft on Obama, and on those Democrats who have tolerated his unconstitutional rampages over the last five-plus years. Take senior Democratic Senator and Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Dianne Feinstein, for example. Despite Administration spying on her committee, and its blatant protection of the Bush Administration’s torture campaign about which she has expressed outrage, she has not yet used the tools at her command to go after the Administration. Similarly, cowardice has prevented both Senate and House action against the Administration for its unconstitutional wars and murderous health-care policies, among other disasters.

This inaction threatens to lead not only to devastating defeats for the Democratic Party electorally, but to bring the United States itself to the edge of extinction—economically, socially, and maybe physically, by detonating World War III.

In his pre-election statement on the weekly LaRouchePAC Policy Committee online [show](#) Nov. 3, LaRouche pointed to the potential turning point ahead, as Obama goes down. The keystone chance lies with Bill Clinton’s role in pulling together the Democratic Party, he said. “Get rid of those Republicans out there,” LaRouche concluded, and make sure Clinton takes a leadership role. That, if properly combined with other elements, could save the United States.