

# Straussian Beast-Men Descend on Jerusalem

by Dean Andromidas

In the first two weeks of October, the Bush Administration made it clear that it would not stop the war plans of Israel Prime Minister Ariel Sharon—Vice President Dick Cheney’s “hand grenade.” Sharon bombed Syria for the first time in three decades, orchestrated blunt threats to use nuclear weapons against Iran, and escalated a brutal military campaign against the Palestinians with targeted assassinations and the destruction of hundreds of Palestinian homes. The Bush Administration has expressed support and encouragement. The killing of three U.S. diplomatic security personnel in the Gaza Strip on Oct. 15, promises to harden the Administration’s position against the Palestinians, and to see it walk away from brokering any effort for peace. War seems assured.

Amid these exacerbated events, a conference took place in Jerusalem Oct. 12-14 which could be a harbinger of the evil that could befall the region. Called the First Annual Jerusalem Summit, it brought together hardline cabinet ministers of Sharon’s government and messianic fascists from the United States, including Christian Zionists and neo-conservative disciples of the late fascist philosopher Leo Strauss, who make up Cheney’s policy establishment. Those present included the infamous Richard Perle, advisor to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld; Israeli Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu; and top American neo-con Daniel Pipes, who is leading a global anti-Islamic crusade.

Setting the tone for the conference was Perle’s applause for Sharon’s attack on Syria: “President Bush transformed the American approach to terrorism on Sept. 11, 2001, when he said he will not distinguish between terrorists and the states who harbor them. I was happy to see that Israel has now taken a similar step in responding to acts of terror that originate in Lebanese territory, by going to the rulers of Lebanon in Damascus.” Perle hoped the air strike reflected a new Israeli policy, and encouraged Israel to launch more strikes that will target the city of Damascus as well. “We have problems with the Syrians who continue to support terrorism. We have to find a way to get them to stop.” Asked whether the United States would use military force, he replied, “Everything is possible.” Though American armed forces are bogged down in Iraq, Perle claimed the United States could still deploy troops against “militarily weak” Syria.

A glance at this conference’s program would suggest it was a burlesque caricature of the now-famous pamphlet ex-

posé, *Children of Satan, The Ignoble Liars Behind Bush’s No-Exit War*, distributed in the hundreds of thousands internationally by the LaRouche in 2004 Presidential campaign. But a closer look revealed that this was a deadly serious gathering of beast-men committed to unleashing a Middle East war that could involve the first deployment of nuclear weapons since World War II.

The theme of the conference, incredibly, was “Building Peace on Truth.” Anyone who has read carefully *Children of Satan* would see in this theme the paw-prints of the ideological mentor of the neo-cons: Leo Strauss, whose own mentor was Carl Schmitt, Adolf Hitler’s “crown jurist.” The conference themes were based on a Straussian medley of lies.

## Financed by Cheney’s Friends

The conference was financed by the Michael Chernoy Foundation; Chernoy is a top Russian “tycoon” and reputed *mafia* boss. He resides in Israel because several outstanding international arrest warrants prevent him from travelling abroad. But he is much more than an organized crime kingpin living on the run. Chernoy was put into business—the centerpiece of which is a giant aluminum smelting empire—by notorious international sanctions buster and tax fraudster Mark Rich, whose lawyer has been Lewis “Scooter” Libby, chief of staff to Vice President Dick Cheney, the *capo di tutti capi* of the neo-con mafia in the Bush Administration.

Another sponsor was the National Unity Coalition for Israel (NUCI), which is a front for 200 Christian Zionist organizations claiming to represent 40 million Christian fundamentalists in the United States. They stand at the center of Cheney’s campaign strategy for the 2004 Presidential elections. These fundies are in full agreement with their Israeli Likud and other right-wing counterparts—especially in the effort to build the “Third Temple” and bring on a new Middle East war. This Armageddon, their TV ministers proclaim, will enable them to be “raptured” into heaven while the rest of the world is destroyed. Parallel to this conference, NUCI held an event in honor of the Jewish holiday Sukkot (the feast of Tabernacles) where 5,000 Christian fundies heard the unholy Ariel Sharon welcoming them to the holy land. NUCI founder Ester Levnes attended the conference along with other Christian Zionists, including Gary Bauer, the president of American Values; Michael Evans of the Jerusalem Prayer Team; and Rev. Malcolm Hedding, director of the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem.

Israel’s Ministry of Tourism backed the conference officially; Tourism Minister Benny Elon is better known as “Mr. Transfer,” whose idea of tourism is to give every Palestinian a one-way ticket to Jordan. Before entering the Knesset, Elon was a rabbi of the Temple Mount Faithful, who want to destroy the mosques on the al-Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount, in order to build the “Third Temple.” According to Yigal Amir, the assassin of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Elon was a “spiritual guide.”

## **'Healthy Morality' or Bloody War?**

The purpose of the conference was to explore "alternative pragmatic paths to peace for Israel and its Arab neighbors in a post-Oslo post-roadmap period." Conference organizers talked of promoting a "healthy morality" by their anti-Palestinian, anti-Islamic policies. Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert expressed this healthy morality by telling the conference that Sharon's government is following a policy that "will create irreversible facts" preventing an agreement with the Palestinians. As for morality, Olmert is infamous for his rapacious fundraising for the Likud, functioning as its "bagman" when he goes to the United States to collect hundreds of thousands of dollars from Christian Zionist and right-wing Zionist organizations. His "sticky fingers" have led to an Israeli police investigation of his taking bribes from Israeli contractors. One of the co-conspirators in that case is his boss, Ariel Sharon.

The highlight of the conference came when Richard Perle received the first-ever Henry "Scoop" Jackson award. The award was named after the Senator from the state of Washington who, in the 1970s, was the chief sponsor of many of today's neo-cons, including Perle and Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz. Conference director and head of the Chernoy Foundation, Dr. Dmitry Radyshevsky, in announcing the award to Perle, stated, "There is no better model to base such an award on than the legendary Scoop Jackson, and no more fitting recipient of the first annual award than Scoop's close friend and colleague Richard Perle."

One senior Israel political observer told *EIR* that most of the Israeli political class saw the Jerusalem Summit as one of "cuckoos" and fringe extremists. But among the "cuckoos" were half of Sharon's government. The rotund Infrastructure Minister, Avigdor Lieberman—co-leader, along with Benny Elon, of the fascist National Union Party—is financially backed by Russian tycoon Chernoy, and is known for advocating bombing "Teheran and Cairo," as well as killing Arafat. Housing Minister Effi Eitam, the head of the National Religious Party, whom many Israeli commentators refer to as a "messianic fascist," also believes in transferring Palestinians out of the Land of Israel, not to Jordan, but to Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. Others attending included Uzi Landau, minister in Sharon's office, and Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The latter gave a speech entitled, "The Failure of the UN in Dealing with the Global Moral Crisis."

Otherwise, the conference featured restatement after restatement of the neo-con Straussians' warped "moral" defense of their anti-Islamic, anti-Arab, anti-peace policies, and justifications for a wider Middle East war launched by Israel. Thus during the first session, "The Crisis of Morality and International Policy: How Israel May Be the Solution," one found Dr. Avi Becker, secretary general of the World Jewish Congress, attacking the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, the largest relief organization dealing with impover-

ished Palestinian refugees whose numbers are increasing every day, as "incubating terror." During the same session, Morton Klein of the ultra-right "Zionists of America," led one of two panels on anti-Zionism as the "heart of immorality." Also on hand was Dr. Hillel Fradkin, president of the the Ethics & Public Policy Center at the stronghold of the neo-cons in Washington, the American Enterprise Institute, better known as the "Temple of Doom." Fradkin, who was a disciple and friend of Leo Strauss, spoke on the "prospects for moral revival."

One of the afternoon workshops was "Peace Against Truth: When Peace Movements Reinforce Evil." Its moderator was Prof. Aryeh Eldad, a member of the ultra-right National Union, which is devoted to the "transfer" of the Palestinians to Jordan. Eldad's father is well known for having been a member in the 1940s of the terrorist Stern gang, and for his translation of the works of Nietzsche into Hebrew.

## **Peace by Ethnic Cleansing**

A conference session on "Israel Endangered: A Threat to the Free World" featured speakers denouncing a Palestinian state from every possible angle, including the security, economic, social, and strategic aspects. Among them was Yossef Bodansky, director of the Congressional Taskforce on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare, and one of the chief neo-con propagandists in Washington. Bodansky is notorious for having been a controller of the American spy for Israel, Jonathan Pollard, now serving a life sentence in the United States.

The conclave concluded with "Alternatives for a Just and Durable Peace in the Middle East," chaired by Herbert Zwiabon of the Americans For a Safe Israel. Here, the featured speaker, again, was Benny Elon, who presented his "peace initiative." Its center is the transfer of Palestinians to what he considers the true Palestinian state, Jordan. No fewer than five "scholars" debated the merits of this "peace plan."

Other conference speakers included a bevy of American neo-cons, such as: Alan Keyes of the American Enterprise Institute; Frank Gaffney, Center for Security Policy; Fox News host Cal Thomas; and Prof. Johnny Swails from Oral Roberts University. According to the conference organizers, the creation of an "international think-tank" dedicated to "searching for solutions . . . based on the rock of everlasting values" will follow. But make no mistake: Behind this Straussian double-talk is a commitment to perpetual war, and a clash of civilizations against the Islamic world.

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