

Eastern Times

Monthly



A man can not be a Muslim till his heart & tongue are so-
Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh)

VOL. III, No. 70

WASHINGTON, D.C., March, 1991

RAMADAN 1411

PRICE \$1.00

U.S.-Israeli Effort To Impose "False Peace"

By Mark A. Bruzonsky
Special to Eastern Times

"We went halfway around the world to do what is moral and just and right We ask nothing in return."

President George Bush
Address to Congress, March 6, 1991

Washington — George Bush has far more in common with his predecessor Ronald Reagan than we've previously understood. He has truly evolved into a marvelous stage actor — a President combining the primary skill of Reagan with Bush's far more astute abili-

ties to understand and manipulate the workings of government and the game of nations.

And so, in short, George Bush has now proved himself to be a far more dangerous imperial President than Reagan ever had the capacity to be.

Bush's speech last week before a flag-waving joint session of Congress was masterful in its rhetorical flourishes. Not only the words; but the hint of tears and the expressions of concern, even for the Palestinians.

Beyond doubt, this speech, even more than previous ones, was cho-

reographed right down to the watering eyes, to the near tearful emotional grimaces.

But for many gullible and self-righteously patriotic Americans — a whole country full it seems, still flushed with a victory that had everything to do with technology and money and little to do with courage and dignity — it was just what they wanted to hear to give them back pride and a "good feeling" about the future; both seriously tattered in recent years.

The morning after the speech

(Contd. on page 9)

New Look For Roosevelt Hotel Planned

Eastern News Service

New York — Roosevelt Hotel finally seems to be on way to be-

However, the most important factor why the hotel has not been a viable proposition has been the absence of a professional hotel

ments have been concluded after painstaking and prolonged negotiations with the parties concerned and have been duly endorsed by

Pakistan Urges India To Resolve Kashmir Issue

Islamabad — Pakistan urged India to resolve the dispute over Kashmir peacefully.

An official statement in Islamabad accused Indian troops of carrying out atrocities in the name of maintaining security in Kashmir.

It said New Delhi was not allowing the Kashmiri people to

exercise the right of self determination pledged to them in the 1949 United Nations resolution which stopped the first war fought by India and Pakistan over the Himalayan territory.

Kashmir resistance has been carrying on an armed struggle in Kashmir for 15 months to gain freedom from India.

Gen. Beg Meets Chinese Military Delegation

Islamabad — General Mirza Aslam Beg, Chief of the Army Staff of Pakistan, met in Rawalpindi with a visiting Chinese military goodwill delegation led by Xu Xin, deputy chief of the army staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

They discussed international and regional issues, especially the Gulf issue.

According to an official source here, the two sides reached a consensus on all issues they discussed.

After reviewing the development of friendly relations of cooperation between the two countries and the two armies of China and Pakistan, Xu Xin and Beg agreed to further strengthen such relations of cooperation.

Nawaz Congratulates Kuwait

U.S.-Israeli Effort To Impose "False Peace"

(Contd. from page 1)

the *New York Times* subheaded in large type its front-page lead story: "Hints At Pressure on Israel."

But this is hardly an accurate expression of reality. Indeed, in just the past few weeks George Bush's Administration and the Congress have rewarded Israel with more than an additional billion windfall dollars — over and above the annual \$3.5 billion American subsidy of Israel. And this at a time when Israeli brutality toward the Palestinians is still escalating!

Furthermore, in view of the history of American journalistic reporting about the Israeli-Palestinian quagmire — reporting that is spearheaded and considerably influenced by *The New York Times* — one should automatically be more than a little suspicious about this kind of situation.

The actual political reality is that George Bush is using the classic technique of rhetorical flourish to mask actual policies. Bush is trying to position himself as the peacemaker rather than the hypocrite; as the concerned advocate rather than as the oppressor's accomplice.

Bush knows he's dealing with a potentially explosive situation and his cheap gestures are specially designed to deflect political pressures and divide critics. When it came to Iraq Bush used clear and definitive actions and overwhelming force. When it comes to Israel and the Palestinians George Bush's words are merely deceptive cover for actual policies that are much in contradiction.

The actual political reality is that the U.S. and Israel are working in tandem, behind-the-scenes of course, out of range of cameras and snoop journalists of course, to attempt a separate peace with Syria's Assad and to undermine the Palestinian nationalist idea so that some new form of autonomy can possibly be foisted on the Palestinians.

The basic game-plan is to manipulate the new alliance that links the long-time partners, Washington and Tel Aviv, with Riyadh and Cairo in such a way that either or both Hafez el-Assad or King Hussein will join in and help make some kind of new accommodation with Israel.

The actual goal, of course, is to push the Intifada out of the headlines, crush the Palestinian nationalist agenda, further deligitimize the PLO, and buy another decade or more (as was done at Camp David) with some kind of deceptive autonomy arrangement.

Thus the next period of time is a terribly dangerous one for the

Palestinians, for the PLO leadership, and for all those who have struggled so long for a true Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation.

In short, those who think that Israel is somehow about to reverse its long-held positions regarding the Palestinians now that it is back on top simply don't understand the basic dynamics of the post-Iraq war situation in the region.

Furthermore, neither is the Bush Administration — infiltrated as it is with Kissingerian rhetoricians and Machiavellian mentalities — really about to reverse course and enter a politically historic struggle with Israel on behalf of real Palestinian statehood.

Instead, what is in the sadly in the cards it seems, is a concerted and joint American-Israeli effort to finally undermine or circumvent the Intifada, to keep the Arab world divided and insecure, and to foist a false peace upon world public opinion.

All of this is happening in a context, of course, in which George Bush is riding high in the saddle, standing tall, at the apex of his political life.

Indeed, in the long history of Gallup public opinion polling, no President has ever had more than the 89% public approval rating that Bush now enjoys. And even more of the public approves of Bush's handling of the war with Iraq — a whooping 92%.

Deserved or not, the result of luck or good fortune, earned or simply a windfall, President George Bush is at a moment few politicians ever achieve.

Consequently, Bush's domestic political ability to move forward on a variety of issues both at home and abroad is truly considerable; especially realizing that he faces a Congress controlled by America's only other substantial party and a list of primarily economic problems that hasn't really changed very much from when Bush's approval ratings were closer to setting record lows.

Indeed, it's a bit difficult to clearly recall at this moment that just before recent historic events in the Gulf the focus of attention here in this capital was considerably different.

It wasn't that long ago that the press was full of talk about the failed war on drugs and crime, the growing burdens of the homeless and jobless, the escalating uneasiness brought on by the Savings and Loan fiasco, the mounting budget deficits and the continual confrontations with Congress.

And yet, today, just a year and a half before the next Presidential

election, George Bush's political opposition seems almost as disarmed as the disheveled, shell-shocked armies of Saddam Hussein.

From both sides of the narrow American political spectrum — from Pat Buchanan on the right to Teddy Kennedy and Mario Cuomo on the left — all of those who just a few months ago were preparing with glee to battle Bush in 1992 have all gone running for cover. No one, it seems, wants to be out front right now while Bush basks in the glow of his startling military success and looks like a sure victor a year from this November.

No doubt about it. George Bush's political opposition both from within his own party and from the Democrats is clearly befuddled and unsure of itself. You could see the despair and confusion in the faces of the Democratic members of Congress as they joined the chorus of accolades and flag waving that surrounded the President as he appeared in triumph on Capitol Hill.

By this time — just a year before the political primary season in the upcoming election year of 1992 — the majority party should have a variety of contenders for the throne already in the field. And it was quite literally just a few months ago that a panoply of conservative pundits were quite publicly and scathingly attaching Bush and pushing forward others from within their own ranks.

The realities of political life at the moment are extraordinarily good for George Bush. His triumphant appearance before the Congress may well go down as the high-point of his Presidency. Indeed where do you go from approval ratings of 89%!

And yet, the juxtaposition of today's post-war euphoria — a kind of collective American high — with the actual problems confronting American society in the 1990s creates a far more uncertain political situation than can be easily touched at this moment.

True enough. Sixty-four percent of the American people feel they will be better off financially in a year than they are now. But the real question Bush has to deal with is how are these people going to feel if and when the recession drags on or even deepens?

Much of American society is collectively in this gleeful mood precisely because Bush overscared and overtraumatized.

For months Americans were led to expect tens of thousands of dead, a lengthy war, terrorism at home and abroad. Chemical weapons were much in the news (turns out

there weren't any), babies thrown from incubators disgusted Americans (but now we know didn't happen), travel plans were altered because of the great threats the government warned about (but hardly any terrorism took place during the war).

And so, with a collective sigh of relief, the country is psychologically going through a period of celebration and thanksgiving not matched in many decades.

But when it comes to basic pocket-book issues Americans are being promised improvements that George Bush may not be able to deliver.

For there are no economic smart bombs and cruise missiles to quickly exercise the demons lurking around the edges of the American society and the U.S. economy.

Thus, by the time American voters go to the polls some 18 months from now, current events in the Middle East are likely to have faded while the basic domestic problems that have confronted American society for over a decade now may be much more in focus.

The Bush Administration warned of great sacrifices ahead in order to defeat Iraq. Then, when tremendous technological advantages and unprecedented devastating air power turned the tide it was quite understandable that Americans reacted with such psychological festivities.

But the opposite is happening when it comes to crucial and basic bread and butter issues. Bush may be overselling his ability to deal with these problems. Americans are expecting a real "peace dividend" this time around; but it may never materialize.

And so, even at this moment of unprecedented standing in the polls, George Bush is running the risk — and it's a substantial risk — that a year from now Americans are going to be wondering just what good the victory over Iraq has actually proved to be to them and their families.

And here too it is the Palestinians who need to be fearful. For if the Bush Administration does find itself unable to meet the high expectations Americans now have about solutions to domestic problems there will be even further incentives for the White House to again turn to foreign affairs, to remind everyone about the "great victory" over Iraq, and to press ahead for some kind of Camp David II.

A far more well-meaning President allowed himself to get trapped in the original Camp David

agreement primarily in order to give himself a chance at reelection. George Bush will certainly not hesitate to further politically capitalize on the Middle East Pax Americana (or is it Pax Americana-Israeliana) by returning to the disingenuous Palestinian autonomy formula.

For Carter all other options were blocked and he simply lacked the ability — politically and historically — to pursue his "Palestinian homeland" concept.

For Bush and his cohorts their actual plan is to work closely with the Israelis — no matter what they say in public to ameliorate their critics and to offer false hope that pro-American Arab regimes can themselves manipulate — to undermine the Palestinian State formula and push the Palestinians into submission.

One would prefer to conclude, of course, that great opportunities lie ahead on top of the mounds of Iraqi rubble and tremendous flow of Iraqi blood. But the greater likelihood is that the dangers of political defeat are far more real than ever for the forces of independence, democracy, self-determination and true Arab nationalism.

Mark A. Bruzonsky, our regular "From Washington" columnist, is also the Founder and Chairperson of the Jewish Committee On The Middle East (JCOME), a growing movement of American Jews who have long supported Palestinian Statehood and major changes in American foreign policy in the Middle East. JCOME's unique recent magazine advertisement has been published in such publications as *The Nation*, *The Progressive*, and *In These Times* as well as *Eastern Times*. Copies of the ad in the form of a flyer can be had by simply calling JCOME at (202) 362-5266 (24 hours daily) or faxing to (202) 362-6965.

Two New Ministers Named

Islamabad — Two new Ministers of State were named to Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's cabinet, government officials said.

Chaudri Amir Hussain and Mohammad Ajmal Khan, members of the national assembly from the Sialkot and tribal areas, respectively, have not been assigned portfolios so far, the officials said.