

Aid is mobilized to save Iraqi children

As more information comes out every day about the suffering and deaths of Iraqi children as a result the destruction of that nation's infrastructure, an increasing density of activity has been mobilized internationally to provide food and medical aid, and to lift the U.N.-imposed economic sanctions.

In a breakthrough on July 7, the Committee to Save the Children in Iraq sent a shipment of medicines and food to Iraq, on board an Aeroflot Ilyushin-76 cargo plane, made available for the humanitarian purpose by the Executive Delegate to the United Nations, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan. Dr. Hans Koechler of the International Progress Organization, a constituent part of the committee, had discussed the shipment with Austrian President and former U.N. Secretary General Dr. Kurt Waldheim, who in turn approached Prince Aga Khan.

The shipment contained food and medicine donated by Action Medeor, the Schering pharmaceutical firm, the Letter of St. James (Sweden), the Essen Doctors' Initiative, and Lindau Help for the Needy, among others. Members of the delegation that accompanied the shipment were Mr. and Mrs. Fakhoury (Essen Doctors' Initiative), Dr. Said Azzau (International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War), and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Weissbach (Committee to Save the Children in Iraq).

The goods were flown, through a special arrangement of the U.N. Executive Delegate's office, directly from Frankfurt to Baghdad, where they were delivered to representatives of the Chaldean Church in Babylon. Patriarch Raphael I. Bidawid of the Chaldean Church is a founding member of the committee, and is overseeing distribution of relief goods to all those in need.

In its organizing efforts in the United States, the Committee to Save the Children in Iraq has sought to change Washington's policy and lift the embargo against Iraq, to allow the rebuilding of power plants, sewage facilities, and other infrastructure. The committee organized days of lobbying in Washington, D.C. on June 12 and June 26, conducting meetings with scores of congressmen and their aides. If the U.S. policy is not changed, the embargo will remain in effect, since each Permanent Member of the U.N. Security Council has the power to veto any resolution to lift the sanctions.

Congressional resolutions

Two U.S. congressmen have submitted resolutions addressing the crisis. The strongest is that of Rep. Henry Gonzalez (D-Tex.) (see full text in the last issue of *EIR*), who is circulating a "Dear Colleague" letter to the Congress which

says, in part:

"The economic embargo of Iraq is killing 1,000 people every day. Most of these civilians are children. Immediate action is desperately needed to save tens if not hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians from death by starvation and disease. For this reason, I introduced H. Res. 180, calling for the end of the economic embargo of Iraq, and I invite you to join me in this effort.

"Relief organizations now working in Iraq, including the United Nations, the Red Cross, and Physicians for Human Rights have documented the fact that thousands upon thousands of Iraqi civilians are now dying. Cholera, typhoid, and gastroenteritis have become epidemic. Starvation could reach famine proportions. The Harvard Study Team estimates that 170,000 Iraqi children under the age of five will die in the upcoming months from these delayed effects of the war. . . .

But the genocide lobby has . . . Chip Berlet

The activity of the Committee to Save the Children in Iraq has drawn slanderous attacks on both sides of the Atlantic in an effort to slow or stop its campaign to reverse the genocidal conditions in Iraq. With the committee's widely reported press conferences, its successful lobbying, and now the shipment of medicine and food to Iraq reported above, the salvos have been fired against the committee by John Foster ("Chip") Berlet, an aging leftist and pro-drug scribbler with a long history of FBI and CIA connections.

The Committee to Save the Children in Iraq was founded as a non-partisan coalition of doctors, intellectuals, civil rights leaders, religious leaders, politicians, right to life activists, farmers, and others who cherish the sacredness of human life, including Mrs. Helga Zepp-LaRouche.

Chip Berlet has been active inside the anti-Gulf war movement in attacking the work of political prisoner Lyndon LaRouche and his associates; yet all of his attacks are identical to simultaneously published ones by Iran-Contra hand John Rees and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the perfervid *proponents* of Bush's "Desert Storm" butchery.

Berlet has a long history of disrupting political coalitions and of cooperating with federal agencies in order to protect Anglo-American establishment policies. His "leftist" career began when he ran publication production for the National Student Association, exposed as a CIA-funded front group in 1967. According to reports, the CIA ran "Operation Chaos" through 1973 in order to disrupt

"These deaths are the result of severe scarcities of food and medicine caused by sanctions against Iraq and the destruction of Iraq's electrical and water purification infrastructure by the massive U.S.-led bombing during the war. . . .

"Unless Iraq is allowed to re-enter international commerce, to buy food and medicine, and to repair power, sewage, and water treatment plants, tens of thousands of people will die. For this reason, I ask that you take into serious consideration the co-sponsorship of H. Res. 180, in the effort to end the economic embargo of Iraq to save innocent Iraqi civilians, especially children, from disease, starvation and death."

Rep. Craig Washington (D-Tex.) indicated on July 9 that he, for one, would co-sponsor the Gonzalez bill.

A second resolution, introduced by Rep. Tim Penny (D-Minn.), is much weaker, since it would not lift the embargo, but only release a portion of Iraq's frozen assets to the U.N.

for the purpose of providing medical and humanitarian assistance to Iraqi civilians. Penny held a press conference on July 10 in Washington to publicize his initiative.

The call for an end to the embargo has been joined by such relief groups as the Interaction Council. A new group called the Coalition for Human Rights in Iraq held a press conference in Washington, D. C. on July 1, at which four doctors from the Arab-American Association reported on their fact-finding tour of Iraq. Iraqi hospitals are operating by candlelight, and they reported, finding conditions they had been trained to look for in Africa, but never expected to see in Iraq.

In Michigan, a group of Arab-American doctors convened a meeting to discuss getting the sanctions lifted. One doctor reported this comment from an Iraqi mother: "It may be too late for my child, but go back to your country and change the policy."

and monitor the new, "non-CIA" NSA. Berlet joined the NSA in the early 1970s, during "Operation Chaos." Was he sent in to gather intelligence?

Berlet claims that his history of ties to FBI and CIA agents is mere happenstance. He even claims that he was "duped" into hiring an acknowledged CIA agent to be the Paris correspondent for the College Press Service. He alleges he was "fooled" into entertaining the FBI spy in the Gainesville conspiracy case.

After leaving the NSA staff, Berlet surfaced as a public figure in the dope lobby, serving for years as the Washington, D.C. "bureau chief" of *High Times* magazine, where he stumped for legalization of drugs.

His role in assisting the goals of the Anglo-American establishment in attempts to silence Lyndon LaRouche—first by shutting down publications that print LaRouche's writings, then by getting him jailed on false charges—has been an active one. On Dec. 16, 1981, Berlet joined Dennis King (later the author of a book-length libel against LaRouche financed by the CIA-linked Smith Richardson Foundation) in a press conference in Washington, D.C. . The two drug lobbyists called for federal and state investigations of Lyndon LaRouche. Their seven-page press release was filled with wild fabrications, yet it became the basis for federal and state prosecutions years later.

Berlet was given cash to give a briefing on LaRouche to a Wall Street- and CIA-backed "salon" in New York City in 1983, where legal attacks on LaRouche were planned as part of an effort to protect the foreign policy later known as "Iran-Contra." John Train, Wall Street investment counselor and financial angel of Freedom House, sponsored this salon. The guest list read like the unredacted pages of Oliver North's notebooks. Besides his old pot-smoking pal John Rees, founder of Western

Goals, Inc., Berlet enjoyed the company of Roy Godson of the National Security Council, who later ran money for Oliver North; Mira Lansky Boland, "former" employee of the CIA and Washington, D.C. head of the ADL Fact Finding Division; and Richard Mellon Scaife, the leading private funder of Iran-Contra operations.

Berlet's career as a provocateur and snitch on behalf of the establishment was well prepared by his father, a career Army officer, Lt. Col. George N. Berlet, Jr. In 1949, the colonel named his son John Foster Berlet, after his hero John Foster Dulles, the British-loving future secretary of state. Berlet has recently bragged about serving cocktails to Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf when "Stormin' Norman" socialized with his dad. His mother, Vera Berlet, still active in the West Point social scene, strongly supports her "leftist" son.

The activity of Berlet against the Committee to Save the Children in Iraq and against others, such as former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who denounce Bush's new world order as a depopulation plan, has increased as the plight of the Iraqis has become better known. According to the London *Times*, the White House worries that "countervailing pressures might encourage some softening of sanctions." George Bush is concerned, the *Times* reports, that news accounts of Iraq's children dying of disease and malnutrition after the bombing campaign that destroyed vital infrastructure may become a political liability.

Just in case there is any new resistance building up against this genocide, Berlet has put himself in charge of the Civil Liberties Committee national computer bulletin board of the National Lawyers Guild. There he can easily monitor anyone who dares to speak out against the new world order. —Nancy Primack