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Economic sanctions not solving Iraq crisis

The anti-American sentiment in Iraq

The Iraqi Government over the past week has expelled the six US delegates of the UN weapons delegation out of Iraq. This comes after the UN imposed further sanctions on Iraq in the form of travel restrictions.

Although Saddam Hussein has little support for his cause to eradicate sanctions and expel the US members of the UN delegation in Iraq, there are countries who oppose the manner in which the US is proposing to resolve the conflict. The US seem to feel that further economic sanctions or military force is the only way to solve this conflict.

However, this conflict between the Iraqi Government and the United States is helping to divide the powers of the Western World, as the US is not supported by countries that wish to explore economic trade with Iraq once the sanctions are lifted.

Furthermore, they are not supported by humanitarian groups who feel sanctions are an unjust way of punishing the masses of people within the country without resolving the political issue. However, the US is using allegations of chemical and biological weapons secretly being produced in Iraq to justify their involvement in Iraq. So why do other countries oppose the manner in which the US are tackling this conflict?

Both France and the former Soviet Union oppose military action against Iraq because they wish to tap into the oil industry, which has been under sanctions for the past seven years. With the lifting of economic sanctions against Iraq, both France and the former Soviet Union will be in a position to acquire economic trade with Iraq.

Military action would mean that both France and the former Soviet Union would have to delay their economic ties to

Iraq. Furthermore, by supporting the US in military action both France and the former Soviet Union would be burning their bridges with Iraq for future economic trade.

In addition to the military oppression that the US face, they also face a humanitarian dilemma as economic sanctions are under close scrutiny as being an unjust form of retaliation or punishment.

Recent studies have suggested that sanctions in countries such as Haiti, Libya, Cuba, South Africa and Iraq have all been devastating to the countries economies, while achieving little or no political changes. They have even suggested that sanctions helped strengthen the cause of apartheid in South Africa, rather than destroy it.

By being sanctioned, South Africa was able to make their own fuel and military weapons at a cheaper cost, which enabled them to market their military equipment to countries like Iraq and Israel, thus strengthening their economy. Also, sanctions over the past seven years to Iraq have done little to change the political agenda of Saddam

Hussein, so why should all Iraqi people have to pay for Saddam Hussein's mistakes?

In addition, economic sanctions tend to destroy the poor and working class as opposed to the rich ruling class of these countries. The economic sanctions imposed on Iraq has helped grow an anti-American sentiment in the people of Iraq, and the Iraqi government feels the US is only trying to find a reason to impose further economic sanctions on their country.

This is the reason why the six delegates were refused entry to the Iraqi weapons sites and later expelled. This anti-American sentiment began when the US led the attacks against Iraq during the Gulf War in the early 1990s, which saw Iraq conquered decisively.

Susan Mann Trofimenkoff once said "conquest is like rape". Well if conquest is like rape then the Iraqi people certainly must feel violated by the US, and this has helped deepen the resentment against the American people.

Iraq feels that the US delegates are spying on them and giving false information to the CIA, which is then being used against them to prolong

the economic sanctions. By eradicating economic sanctions, Iraq will once again be able to take its place as a world power in the oil industry.

By understanding this it is not too difficult to understand why Iraq feels that the American delegation of the weapons inspection team should not be allowed to join the rest of the team on their weapon inspections.

However, according to American President Bill Clinton, "the UN weapons inspection team have been stopped by Saddam Hussein". This statement conflicts with what the Iraqi government was doing; the Iraqi government was only stopping the six US members of the weapons delegation and not the other 94 members from the rest of the world.

The Iraqi government says that the American delegation has falsified information to the CIA to help prolong the economic sanctions against Iraq. According to recent CIA information, Iraq is reportedly purchasing five electronic warfare radar systems from the Czech Republic for about \$375-million (US).

This will give the Iraqi

government the capability of destroying radar-evading aircraft. Furthermore, there has also been allegations that the Iraqi government are currently developing chemical and biological weapons. Whether these allegations are true is one in which only time will tell, and what these weapons' purpose will be is also unclear.

A good percentage of the decision to invade Iraq hangs in the balance of President Clinton. One can only hope that he has learned from history's mistakes.

However, it is interesting to note that many US oil companies will continue to gain, due to the economic sanctions on Iraq; one resolution may be to find an alternative to economic sanctions. As to the allegations of weapons of mass destruction being made in Iraq, one can only question the validity of their existence. With the presence of 100 weapons inspectors in Iraq over the past 7 years, the Iraqi Government must have been like Houdini in their production.

With the Western World being divided over this issue, the US must surely learn how to resolve an issue rather than destroy it.

MICHAEL HEAL

Good riddance to you, British empire

In 1963, upon hearing about the assassination of US President Kennedy, Malcolm X remarked that, indeed, "the chickens had come home to roost". What he was getting at was that the climate of racism and poverty that was (and is) the United States had finally claimed one of their own.

It is with this firmly in mind that I must admit that the last issue of the Gazette inspired me to no end.

In it, I read of fired-up faculty and teaching assistants who are tired of being paid the worst wages for their work in the country. I learned of students in Quebec who

organized a sit-in at the Ministry of Education to protest massive cuts to education and other social programs in that province.

I read articles on this new "corporate bill of rights", the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), and how folks in our community are mobilizing to counter it. Postal Workers are on the move and will soon be on strike.

All this confirmed for me that we are in fact living in different times. People are starting to stand up. No more meekly turning the other cheek and being taken advantage of. Unite and fight!

Then, of course, there are the pathetic groans of empire. In the last issue, Daniel Clark bemoaned the decline of the British Empire in quasi-racist fashion. Actually, it's hard to imagine anyone these days maintaining that Britain civilized the world and remains the great modernizing culture.

That said, it's good to see those on the top of society sweat a little. They've certainly had it too good for too long. To the likes of Paul Martin and the federal Liberals, Lucien Bouchard, Canada Post and the Dal administration, watch out! Your underlings are restless.

More and more people are

starting to see through the lies of empire.

No one buys the deficit hoax anymore. Students are tired of tuition hikes and unemployment. Workers and the poor are sick to death of paying debts they don't owe. The ruling class have created a climate where good 'ole fashioned class struggle is the result.

If you bother to look around, you can see the chickens on the horizon!

Malcolm continued, "...being an old farm boy like myself, chickens coming home to roost never made me sad, in fact it made me glad."

STEPHEN ELLIS

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