

Nov. 30, 2007  
Progressive Ponderings  
Open-ended Occupation

American capitalist oil men have long puzzled over why God planted "our oil" under Iraq.

They need puzzle no longer. With the questionable election of two oil men, Bush and Cheney, to the top positions in U.S. government the problem was bound to be solved. On Monday, Nov. 26, General Douglas Lute, the administration's adviser on Iraq and Afghanistan, told reporters that President Bush and Prime Minister Maliki of Iraq endorsed a pact that committed the United States to a long-term military presence in Iraq. Principles of the pact include: deter foreign aggression (Can you believe it? Bush concerned about aggression in Iraq!); help Iraq fight terrorism (Does that include daily bombing?); encourage foreign investment in Iraq, especially American investment; and back Iraq in joining the World Trade Organization.

The agreement is open-ended and sets no targets for troop withdrawal or base closings. Lute noted that the agreement is not a treaty and thus would not be subject to oversight by Congress.

Back in 2003, L. Paul Bremer III of the Coalition Provisional Authority decreed a similar sale of Iraq to foreign investors. Few multinational corporations acted on this opportunity because of its questionable legality and the continued violence within Iraq. Bush and Maliki now want to make Bremer's theft legal. The multinationals, especially the oil corporations, are salivating. God's mistake is being corrected – American Christian oilmen will control the oil and the profits.

The Bush and Cheney modus operandi has been to follow the orders of the multinational hierarchy. Building the largest embassy in the world to house the greatest number of federal employees in a country of 25 million with a decreasing population has to have a different objective than normal foreign relations. This new agreement that reinforces our multiple military bases in Iraq gives the military a very familiar role – the protection of U.S. corporate assets and profits that will disrupt Iraqi economic affairs, domestic governance, and sovereignty.

Naomi Klein, in her latest book, *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism*, describes the above as it has happened around the globe the past thirty years. A disaster occurs, natural or

preemptive. In the aftermath of shock, foreign capital moves in to "rescue" the economy by buying up the infrastructure and natural resources at bargain prices. In exchange for this capitalist "benevolence" the shocked nation must agree to foreign ownership of banks, industry, resources and infrastructure, it must remove all regulations standing in the way of accumulating profits (minimum wage, for example) and cut back or eliminate social programs. This "disaster capitalism" has been one of our chief ideological exports during our right-wing regression.

Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid, to their credit, have denounced this agreement. Whether they will do anything about it is another question. If you are reading about this for the first time, it indicates once again the government/mass media conspiracy against our right-to-know democracy.

Keep in touch with your Congressional reps and senators and tell them what you think about the Bush-Maliki Pact. They need to know we want to return to the America that promotes fairness and justice, not only in our country but around the world.

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