

The international demographic context will see huge changes by 2050. By then, Yemen's population will be larger than Germany's, and Yemen's people will understandably long for the standard of living that prevails in Europe. The immigration pressure on Europe will be immense. Given liberal European laws on family reunification, the exodus from the Middle East and North Africa will indeed have monstrous repercussions.

Instead of integration of immigrants into a majority European society, the opposite will occur: the immigrants will integrate the existing European culture into their own civilization. One does not have to be a supporter of Jean-Marie Le Pen to feel somewhat anxious. This is not a problem of ethnicity, but a matter of society, its values, and democracy.

Radical preachers of fundamentalist Islam openly condemn democracy and interpret it not as a social system but as a pagan cult, which prefers the voices of people to the voice of God. This is proclaimed in many mosques throughout Europe. Thus the problem is not that a large percentage of future Europeans will have dark skin and go to mosque. The problem, and tragedy, is that Europe's tradition of democracy and tolerance may be threatened.

The Czech daily *Lidové Noviny* recently published the opinion of an Albanian student in the Czech Republic who identified herself as Adriana:

I think that family ties are not very strong here. ... The divorce rate is nearly 50 percent. Czechs like to criticize the Islamic family model, in which family members must obey the father. But I wish you could experience the feeling of family cohesion. Besides, it's not true that our women are restricted in their rights. A woman has security—she can be sure her husband won't leave her just because she

In spite of regulations requiring that foreign broadcasters only be hired by Voice of America

if there is no qualified American available, Avi Davidi, an Israeli national of Iranian descent, has been hired by the Persian service. The Persian service broadcasts in Farsi and English and is intended to reach the Iranian audience. Davidi moderates a talk program called "Looking Ahead." His appointment came about when American Enterprise Institute alumnus Seth Cropsey, Bush White House appointee as head of the International Board of Broadcasters, intervened in the selection process and vetoed the hiring of Poopak Taati, an American journalist who had been selected by VOA management. Davidi believes in "fair and balanced" reporting, so much so that he has interviewed Richard Perle twice as well as Elizabeth Cheney. He also features other neoconservatives from the American Enterprise Institute and the Project for the New American Century who voice their grievances against Tehran and occasionally call for a military strike. Davidi has also been promoting a recent book by Jerome Corsi called *Atomic Iran: How the Terrorist Regime Bought the Bomb and American Politicians*. VOA, which once enjoyed a hard-won reputation for objectivity, has an in-house review process to make sure that reporting is balanced. When the review of "Looking Ahead" started, it was clear that there would be problems. Senior managers at VOA responded by calling off the review, reprimanding the reviewer, and outsourcing the process to a consultant who has yet to be named.



In intelligence circles, "blowback" is the unintended consequences that come out of high-risk operations.

The empowerment of Osama bin Laden was, for example, blowback from U.S. involvement against Russia in Afghanistan. The British government has recently suffered its own case of blowback in Iraq. A Ministry of Defense investigation has determined that a series of recent bombing attacks against UK troops in Iraq was carried out using sophisticated devices that were triggered by infrared beams. The triggering devices employ technology developed by the Irish Republican Army for its attacks against the British in Northern Ireland. Ironically, the actual infrared technology that is key to the bomb's success was given to the Irish separatists in a badly botched sting operation that took place more than a decade ago. It was hoped at the time that using the sophisticated technology as bait would lead to a series of arrests of top IRA leaders. The operation was not successful, and the technology was lost to the terrorists. The British government of Prime Minister Tony Blair now believes that the Iranian Revolutionary Guard was able to obtain the technology from the IRA and has now passed it on to the Iraqi insurgency, yet another indicator, if true, of how terrorist groups support each other and communicate. At least eight British soldiers have been killed using the devices, leading to the recent joint UK-U.S. declaration that Iran is directly supporting the Iraqi insurgency. The bomb uses a command wire, a radio trigger, and an infrared beam for targeting, which enable the device to be set up to explode from a long distance, permitting the bombers to escape.

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loses her sex appeal, unlike a Czech woman, who is under constant pressure. She has to be successful at work, take care of the household, and she's supposed to look like a model. When I debated this with a Czech girl, she argued that our women are forced to bear more children. It's true that a woman's value grows with the number of children she has. However, it's naturally a woman's desire to have children, and women want to have as many children as possible. Usually, it's the wife who tries to convince her husband to have a family.

This patriarchal lifestyle seems hard to understand now, but it was widespread in Europe only a few decades ago. I'm hardly preaching the virtues of the patriarchal family model, since I don't practice it myself. Yet the fact remains that one day in the not-so-distant future, today's young childless-by-choice men and women will be old men and women living in underfunded communities for the elderly, without children or grandchildren to visit and advocate for them. The fortunate will have formed family-like relationships with younger, non-family friends, but others will be left on their own.

Maybe modern Islamic civilization has more in common with the traditional Western world than we generally think. In terms of family life, the main difference is only about half a century. Adriana is no sworn enemy of democracy. Rather, she possesses a set of values and preferences that differs from what is considered normal and around which policy is made in today's Europe. But are we so sure that modern Europe and its social policies are indeed normal? ■

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Forging the Case for War

Who was behind the Niger uranium documents?

By Philip Giraldi

FROM THE BEGINNING, there has been little doubt in the intelligence community that the outing of CIA officer Valerie Plame was part of a bigger story. That she was exposed in an attempt to discredit her husband, former ambassador Joseph Wilson, is clear, but the drive to demonize Wilson cannot reasonably be attributed only to revenge. Rather, her identification likely grew out of an attempt to cover up the forging of documents alleging that Iraq attempted to buy yellowcake uranium from Niger.

What took place and why will not be known with any certainty until the details of the Fitzgerald investigation are revealed. (As we go to press, Fitzgerald has made no public statement.) But recent revelations in the Italian press, most notably in the pages of *La Repubblica*, along with information already on the public record, suggest a plausible scenario for the evolution of Plamegate.

Information developed by Italian investigators indicates that the documents were produced in Italy with the connivance of the Italian intelligence service. It also reveals that the introduction of the documents into the American intelligence stream was facilitated by Undersecretary of Defense Doug Feith's Office of Special Plans (OSP), a parallel intelligence center set up in the Pentagon to develop alternative sources of information in support of war against Iraq.

The first suggestion that Iraq was seeking yellowcake uranium to construct a nuclear weapon came on Oct. 15, 2001, shortly after 9/11, when Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and his newly appointed chief of the *Servizio*

per le Informazioni e la Sicurezza Militare (SISMI), Nicolo Pollari, made an official visit to Washington. Berlusconi was eager to make a good impression and signaled his willingness to support the American effort to implicate Saddam Hussein in 9/11. Pollari, in his position for less than three weeks, was likewise keen to establish himself with his American counterparts and was under pressure from Berlusconi to present the U.S. with information that would be vital to the rapidly accelerating War on Terror. Well aware of the Bush administration's obsession with Iraq, Pollari used his meeting with top CIA officials to provide a SISMI dossier indicating that Iraq had sought to buy uranium in Niger. The same intelligence was passed simultaneously to Britain's MI-6.

But the Italian information was inconclusive and old, some of it dating from the 1980s. The British, the CIA, and the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research analyzed the intelligence and declared that it was "lacking in detail" and "very limited" in scope.

In February 2002, Pollari and Berlusconi resubmitted their report to Washington with some embellishments, resulting in Joe Wilson's trip to Niger. Wilson visited Niamey in February 2002 and subsequently reported to the CIA that the information could not be confirmed.

Enter Michael Ledeen, the Office of Special Plans' man in Rome. Ledeen was paid \$30,000 by the Italian Ministry of the Interior in 1978 for a report on terrorism and was well known to senior SISMI officials. Italian sources indicate that Pollari was eager to engage with the