

Bush's call is a tactic to pressure the Soviet Union, because the US can test chemical weapons elsewhere if it wants and not on US soil. Moreover, there is a contradiction between supporting nuclear build-up and claiming to want to ban chemical weapons. In fact, Bush would like to increase the defense budget, especially that of SDI (Strategic Defense Initiative) or «Star Wars.» He favors the deployment of new weapons designed to shoot down enemy satellites, and a new land-based missile capable of striking Soviet targets with pinpoint accuracy. He also favors continued under-ground nuclear tests and continued flight testing of ballistic missiles.

In regards to Bush's foreign policy, it would continue along the main lines of existing Reagan Administration policy, but with differences in style and priorities and some shifts in substance. He has much experience in foreign affairs, having visited 72 countries and met with leaders of nearly all foreign governments. Bush is more pragmatic and issue-oriented than Reagan. He is reported to support close intelligence cooperation with Britain. Concerning the Soviet Union, he is skeptical about Gorbachev's initiatives. He said he would speak with the Soviets, but calls for caution and realism. He said his election would represent a mandate to press negotiations with the Soviet Union on reducing conventional military forces. As for Bush's policy on South Africa, he opposes further sanctions. He is a strong believer in «constructive engagement» with the apartheid regime in Pretoria. According to Bush, Central America's problems can be traced back to the Cuban missile crisis when the Monroe Doctrine was challenged. His policy is to resist all Soviet-Cuban efforts to «foment communism in Central America and the Caribbean.» He supports military aid to the contras and isolating Cuba.

THE MIDDLE EAST

The lynchpin of Bush's Middle East policy is Israeli security. This means continuing and expanding the Republican administration's policy which brought about a «Golden Era» in US-Israeli relations, exemplified in the Memoranda of Understanding for Strategic Cooperation. Bush has stated

that the US will never waiver in its strategic and economic partnership with 'Israel'.

Bush calls for direct negotiations between 'Israel' and its Arab neighbors along the lines of Camp David, as opposed to a genuine, fully-empowered international conference. He was a major force behind the 1982 Reagan plan for ousting the PLO from the Middle East political map, thus freeing Arab reaction to conciliate with 'Israel'. Bush also played a key role in the airlifting of Ethiopian Jews from South Sudan to 'Israel' in 1985. He was a formulator of the aggressive US attack on Libya in 1986, and supported the re-flagging of Kuwaiti transports in 1987.

Bush has clearly said that he would not deal with the PLO or back a Palestinian state, but has said very little concretely about how he would promote peace. He maintains the Republican Party's position that the PLO cannot participate in negotiations unless it recognizes the right of 'Israel' to exist, accepts UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and renounces terrorism.

A corollary of this Camp David policy is Bush's concern for increasing cooperation and military support to the reactionary Arab regimes, especially Egypt and Jordan that are considered vital in any Middle East settlement, and Saudi Arabia and other oil-rich Gulf states. Bush's policy is basically interventionist. He has stated that the US should be prepared to intervene in the region alone if its interests are threatened. In line with the Republican party generally, Bush sees the establishment of relations between the Soviet Union and some Gulf states as a threat to US interests, while viewing the Soviet position on 'Israel' at the UN as an obstacle to peace.

Bush's Middle East policy carries over to the UN. The Bush Administration pledges to support legislation providing for US refusal to pay its financial share and withdrawal from UN agencies that take any decision to exclude Israeli participation. His program includes working to cancel the 1975 UN General Assembly resolution 3379, naming Zionism as a form of racism; the failure to do so would justify a US decision to cancel financial support to

the UN.

For the above reasons, most Zionist leaders called on the members of their organizations to vote Republican.

DUKAKIS

Michael Stanley Dukakis, 55, the Democratic presidential nominee, lost his bid for the White House after a long struggle. Analysts have said that his loss can be attributed to Dukakis' emphasis on attracting the Reagan-Democrats and tilting his campaign to the right so he could be perceived as a more centrist candidate. Unfortunately for progressive, working-class Americans, his strategy failed; why would Reagan-Democrats vote for a Democrat when they have the choice to vote for another Reagan?

Dukakis' domestic policies by far outweighed those of his opposition. He had outlined programs on housing and the homeless, a national dilemma, endorsing recommendations of the National Housing Task Force. His conservation record was called 'exemplary'. He opposes the death penalty; is pro-gun control; supports the ERA (Equal Rights Amendment), and increased spending for maternal and childcare. Dukakis proposed universally-available college loans and put forth a plan to confront illiteracy. Compared to the Republicans' agenda, Dukakis' domestic policies were generally pro-people, taking into account the issues which affect and concern the majority of Americans.

However, although Dukakis' programs seem to benefit the poor, the difference between him and Bush is a relative one. Both represent the ruling class in essence. Thus, in principle, there is little difference. Rather their respective programs reflect two different approaches for perpetuating the capitalist system. Dukakis' tactic is to instate relative reform, such as a partial redistribution of benefits to the lower and middle classes through more state funding of education, housing, health care, etc. Nonetheless, because his policies represent an alternative to the Reagan era, Dukakis' model is one which progressives could rally around and utilize.

In the military field, Dukakis said he would cancel the MX and Midgetman missiles and two proposed aircraft and