

# 1993, Iraq: Finding Iraq's Next King

By Paul Valley

General Jay Garner has various titles-in-waiting. Before too long he will be, as your preference dictates, King, Regent, Viceroy, Pro-consul or President-designate of Iraq. His official title is more prosaic – director of the Pentagon's new Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance for Iraq. He is in charge of rebuilding Iraq. Until a new Iraqi leader is selected, he will govern 24 million Iraqis.

He has been on the job since January when President Bush summoned him from his comfortable retirement home in the moneyed enclave on the lakes just north of Disney World in the Florida magnolias, barely a mile from where Tiger Woods lives.

Garner turns out to be a controversial character. He is an arms trader whose firm supplied military technology responsible for demolishing the country he is about to rebuild. The *San Francisco Chronicle* revealed in February that the former three-star general and friend of U.S. Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, is president of SY Coleman, which specialises in missile systems, including the Patriot missile so heavily used in Iraq, and the Arrow system, deployed in Israel.

Critics say Garner has been a key voice in controversial military policies, such as undermining the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty.

The fight is on over which Iraqi advisers to appoint. The Pentagon is pushing Ahmed Chalabi, a U.S.-educated former banker with a fraud conviction in Jordan, and leader of the controversial Iraqi National Congress.

Source: *Independent*, April 5, 2003.

## A Little-Read Book: *Quotations from Chairman Garner*

Compiled by Richard Sanders, editor,  
*Press for Conversion!*

### On Lasers and "Killing Systems":

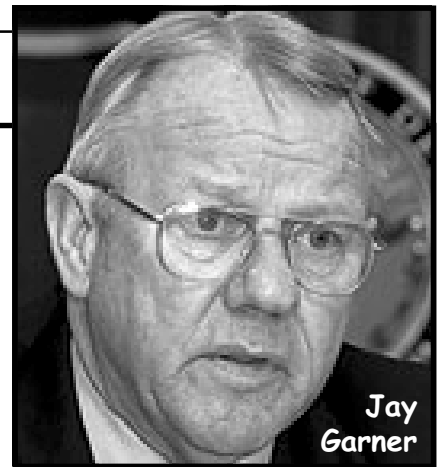
"While the idea that lasers could be used effectively to conduct lethal engagements was promoted vigorously during the heyday of Pres. Reagan's Star Wars program in the 1980s, the reality of using high-energy lasers in killing systems has finally come of age." (*Army Magazine*, Feb. 2002)

### On how Great the Patriot Missile System was in 1991:

"Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the performance of the Patriot [missile] during the Gulf War... The Army is here today to tell you the Patriot Story – a terrific success story, tactically, psychologically and politically" (Committee on Government Operations, House of Representatives, April 7, 1992). The U.S. General Accounting Office found that the Patriot system was a flop that hit only one of the 88 Scud missiles fired by Iraq.

### On the "remarkable restraint" of the Israeli Military:

"We...believe that during the current upheavals in Israel, the Israel Defense Forces have exercised remarkable restraint... A strong Israel is an asset that American military planners and political leaders can rely on." Garner was among retired U.S. military officers signing Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs' "Statement on Palestinian Violence." (October 12, 2000)



Jay  
Garner

### On being the President of SY Coleman, an Arms Company:

"Most of the guys are former military, and you make a lot of money." (*New York Times*, April 15, 2003)

### On smiling and saying "Damn, we're Americans":

"You all are reporting about some demonstrations, and yeah, there's some demonstrations.... That's the first step in democracy – you're allowed to disagree. Damn, fellas, we ought to be beating our chests every morning. We ought to look in the mirror and get proud and suck in our bellies and stick out our chests and say, 'Damn, we're Americans,' and smile." (*New York Times*, May 1, 2003)

### On Winning the Vietnam War:

"[Vietnam] took too long. We should have taken the war north instead of waiting in the south. Just like here. If President Bush had been president we would have won." (*New York Times*, April 15, 2003)

### On Helping Iraqi Doctors:

"We will help you, but it is going to take time," he said at a Baghdad hospital swamped with casualties during the war and then stripped by looters. Dr. Iman said "If they give us anything it is not from their own pockets. It is from our oil." (*Guardian*, April 21)



## U.S. Terror Expert, Paul Bremer, Takes Over Iraq

On May 6, Jay Garner began reporting to Iraq's new "ruler," Paul Bremer III:

- Executive Assistant, Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger (1974-1976).
- Assistant to Secretaries of State, Cyrus Vance, Edmund Muskie, Alexander Haig and George Schultz (1979-1983).
- President Ronald Reagan's Ambassador-at-large for counterterrorism (1986-1989).
- Managing Director, Kissinger Associates (led by Henry Kissinger) (1989-2000).
- Chairman, National Commission on Terrorism (1999).
- Member, President Bush's Homeland Security Advisory Council (2002).
- Executive, Marsh Crisis Consulting, advising corporations on terrorism (2003).
- Top administrator of Iraq (2003).