

the future of Afghanistan as an independent and non-aligned state.' . . . The underlying process of the 'European proposals' is obvious. Their authors want to lead the process of settlement away from the discussion and elimination of the basic, main reasons for the tension over Afghanistan. . . . The Western capitals and Peking are keeping completely silent about the objective motives by which the Soviet Union was guided. . . ."

In his BBC talk, Arbatov frankly explained the December 1979 invasion of Afghanistan as due not so much to destabilization in that country, but to NATO's acceptance on Dec. 12 of the Carter administration proposal to place Pershing missiles on European soil and to build up U.S. naval forces in the Persian

Gromyko on Haig

The Soviet foreign minister wrote for *Pravda* Aug. 8, the tenth anniversary of the Soviet friendship treaty

with India. He used the opportunity to elaborate the geopolitical threat perceived by Moscow to the South.

"The results of the negotiations of Haig with the Chinese leaders cannot be evaluated otherwise than as an escalation of a reckless policy. It goes without saying that the Soviet Union cannot remain indifferent, above all, to the plans of granting China modern American arms. The American-Chinese rapprochement on a basis which is hostile with respect to the U.S.S.R. will be considered by us in an appropriate manner, in the context of our relations to the U.S. and China.

"The Soviet Union will take all measures which the development of the situation may dictate. Nobody should have doubts about the fact that the Soviet state will be capable of defending itself and its allies and friends. . . . Pakistan is more and more notably entering a path in its policy which provokes the justified concern of its neighbors."

LaRouche Statement

'Imminent Soviet moves against Pakistan'

Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., *EIR* founder and chairman of the advisory committee of the National Democratic Policy Committee, warned on Aug. 7 that Soviet military "hot-pursuit" operations from Afghanistan into Pakistan are to be expected within the next 30 days. Although such Soviet preemptive actions to destroy Afghan rebel bases in the border areas of Pakistan will be given justification on the grounds of the defense of Afghanistan, the anticipated Soviet actions cannot be seen merely as part of a widening conflict on the subcontinent.

LaRouche, who is currently touring West Germany, stressed that such Soviet preemptive action would represent a strategic response by the Soviet leadership to a rapidly deteriorating international situation. Abundant public as well as private evidence on the present strategic posture of the Soviet military leadership indicates this type of characteristic response. The prominence of articles in the Soviet media authored by the highest military leadership is but one of many indicators of the increasing visibility of the Soviet military command in the decision-making process. For all practical purposes the political and military leaderships of the Soviet Union are presently merged.

LaRouche noted that just as the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was part of a predictable strategic re-

sponse to the evolving China Card and Euromissiles policy of the Carter administration, an active "hot pursuit" military policy toward Pakistan is being dictated by the overall strategic military situation. The latter is defined in Soviet eyes by the simultaneous crises represented by the new Begin government's preparations to invade Lebanon, the ongoing Polish crisis, and of course, the United States' commitment to ring the Soviet Union with middle-range missiles. The Soviet leadership, seeing itself subject to an encirclement strategy, will "choose the path of least action" to make a demonstrative military action or series of actions, in LaRouche's words. Those analysts who would try to define the subcontinent situation in local terms would thus completely fail to understand the overriding motivation of Soviet policy at this time.

With both the Soviet Union and the United States on a military buildup and confrontation course, any major Soviet move of the type indicated above would signal the Soviet perception of a) the failure and uselessness of the so-called Carrington Plan, and b) the increasing imminence of much broader strategic conflict.

The launching of military operations against Pakistan would thus represent the first of a series of military actions in a deteriorating world strategic environment.

While the Soviets tend to see the deployment of Pershing and cruise missiles in Europe as the outer parameter of the ongoing crisis, LaRouche stressed that the economic and financial crisis anticipated for the last quarter of 1981 in the West could detonate a series of major conflicts long before 1983.