

Editorial

The real agenda

The recent decision by the Soviet government to call in large-denomination ruble notes was the occasion for some reflection. Along with new KGB surveillance of enterprises, at minimum it appeared to presage trouble ahead for those Westerners in the U.S.S.R. who had hitched their future to the free-marketeers. Now an interview has appeared in the Soviet trade union daily *Trud*, with the new Soviet Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov, which sheds some light on the incident. More to the point, it highlights a dramatic shift in the U.S.S.R. to a renewed Cold War stance vis-à-vis the British and Americans.

Pavlov cites a foreign bankers' plot to manipulate Soviet currency, which was intended to destabilize the Gorbachov regime. Such tactics are not unknown to British and American intelligence agencies, and certainly it is in the perceived interest of the governments of both countries to have a free hand in their bare-faced attempt at global imperial domination, and therefore to keep the Soviets embroiled in civil war at home and paralyzed on the foreign policy front.

Pavlov charged that Western banks have been engaging in ruble-currency transactions that have the aim of causing hyperinflationary chaos in the U.S.S.R. He referred to banks in Austria, Switzerland, and Canada as participating in the operation. They were, he said, working on behalf of free-marketeers who wished to buy the U.S.S.R.'s resources at rock-bottom prices, with black-market rubles.

Another signal of serious Soviet displeasure with the West issued from the Soviet ambassador in Mexico, who was participating in a round-table discussion on the future of the Baltic republics. The ambassador, Oleg Daruchenkov—as reported in the Mexican newspaper *Excelsior* on Feb. 13—said that those who are anticipating a Soviet government collapse should remember that the U.S.S.R. has “the capacity to destroy the United States in 30 minutes.”

While the Soviets have officially continued to support the demand that the Iraqis evacuate Kuwait as a precondition for any cease-fire, statements by their

military openly oppose this policy and even in some instances have called for military support to Iraq. For example, Gen. Vladimir Lobov was reported by *Washington Post* correspondent Georgi Mirsky to have claimed that the United States was threatening Soviet territory in the Transcaucasus by the Gulf war. One Soviet daily, which generally has a KGB-military line, charges that Moscow's support for the war is threatening to “end the U.S.S.R.'s existence as a superpower.”

Despite the unwillingness of the Anglo-American crowd to face their growing problem on the Soviet flank, it is not likely to go away soon. On the contrary, the reemergence of the Cold War can very well lead to a hot war, within the next few years.

Despite the grimness of the present situation, there are still grounds for hope. The very brutality of the “coalition” war effort—the deliberate murder of over 500 defenseless women, children, and elderly men, and the killing of 60 Jordanian citizens traveling in a bus—is inciting a backlash. We are seeing the beginning of an ecumenical coalition against this evil war, which includes Christians, Hindus, and Jews, as well as Muslims; and includes people of all nations, not just Arabs. We are seeing a recognition in countries such as Brazil and India, that the self-same oligarchy which is trying to impose an imperial dictatorship against them is conducting genocide against Iraq.

There is an alternative to a Cold War showdown turning into a hot war. It is found in the kind of programs for global development which Lyndon LaRouche has proposed over decades. Crucial is the Productive Triangle program centered in Germany, which he has proposed. This would link the Soviet Union to a Europe governed by the economic policies identified most recently with the names of Charles de Gaulle, Konrad Adenauer, and LaRouche. For this to happen, however, the German government must move into open opposition to America and Britain.

Germany then would become the rallying point for all those who—in the words of the Pope—would fight to save the Creation, not only in Europe, but everywhere.