

## Editorial

### *You can't fool all the people all the time*

There are signs of panic in the highest British policy circles, as it becomes clear that these would-be game-masters are in danger of losing their game. In fact, more and more people are beginning to catch on to just what that game really is.

One crucial part of British strategy has been to revive an Entente Cordiale, with France and Russia, against Germany; the other is to force President Clinton back in line. Instead, the schism between the British and American governments is widening, and there are powerful indications that the Russians may throw off British shackles.

On May 29, Vladimir Polevanov, the former head of the Russian Privatization Ministry, cited the Presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, as an appropriate model for Russian economic planners. When we consider how President Roosevelt sided with Stalin on several occasions, in order to embarrass a livid Winston Churchill, and the fact that President Clinton has identified his Presidency with that of Roosevelt, this in itself is reason for consternation in British circles.

Polevanov was featured on a one-and-one-half-hour national Russian television broadcast, on the theme of how the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is looting Russia. Not too surprisingly, this political bombshell has been blacked out by the U.S. and European media.

Polevanov had been removed from his post in January, for his opposition to the IMF, but he commands a significant enough following to allow him to continue to play an important political role in Russia, even though pressure was brought on the television network not to air the interview. Two days later, Polevanov held a press conference in Moscow, where he and his associates announced the formation of a new political movement, Novaya Rossiya (New Russia).

In his television interview, Polevanov described the way that the IMF has orchestrated the looting of Russia, by putting on pressure to sell Russian industries to western interests virtually for nothing. The very same interests that systematically robbed Russia of its assets,

demand usurious interest payments, as that nation falls more and more into debt.

While Polevanov attacked the IMF, he did not explicitly identify the role played by then-Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and her clone, President George Bush, in forcing the IMF's so-called "free-market" policies down the throat of the Yeltsin government; he did, however, say that he did not hold Yeltsin himself responsible, as there were larger forces involved.

The day after Polevanov's interview, on May 30, an attack was made upon the way in which the British have traditionally manipulated the Russians to fight their wars against Germany. A leading Russian columnist on defense matters, Pavel Felgenauer, wrote a commentary in the Russian daily *Sevodnya* with the title, "Shock Therapy, Serbian Style." His argument was that Russia is not ready to go to war for the Serbs, as Czarist Russia was ready to do back in 1914. This statement directly undercuts British attempts to use the threat of Russian intervention to prevent President Clinton from taking effective action to curb Serbian aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Felgenauer argued: "The Serbs are always lying to us. We went to war for them in 1914. We will not make the same mistake again." He continued that "Russia does not want to be hostage to the Serbs. . . . The Balkans have never brought anything but bad fortune to the Russians." He cited the history of misbegotten Russian adventures in the Balkans, from the time of Peter the Great, through the Crimean War period, to 1878, and, finally, 1914.

On May 22, Lord William Rees-Mogg, a leading mouthpiece for the British oligarchy, had charged that comparisons with 1914 in the Balkans are "not inappropriate," and that Germany was responsible for having "precipitated" the break-up of former Yugoslavia, by its recognition of the independence of Croatia and Slovenia. If the British wish to point to the past in order to revive the Entente Cordiale, they should bear in mind that people also learn from history—or as old Abe said: "You can't fool all of the people all of the time."