

President Clinton is back on the policy offensive

by Jeffrey Steinberg

In a radio interview with "EIR Talks" on July 18, Lyndon LaRouche reported, with satisfaction, that President Clinton has, since the beginning of July, reasserted leadership on a wide range of foreign policy fronts. "I think," LaRouche said, "that what the President has done, respecting Bosnia, in particular, and a couple of other things, in the past couple of weeks in the foreign policy area, as signalled by his address to the NAACP, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People conference, shows that the President is really, shall we say, *really back on track*, at least in terms of foreign policy, and that he is resisting those kinds of things which are represented by Dick Morris, and so forth, in many respects. I think that's all beautiful."

LaRouche cited the President's involvement in Bosnia, his deployment of National Security Adviser Anthony Lake to China, and his decision to lift the U.S. entry visa of Colombia's narco-President, Ernesto Samper Pizano (see article, p. 58), as the most significant indicators of a revival of the kind of foreign policy, that earned him the hatred of the British Crown, since he came into office in January 1993.

The *Financial Times* also reported, on July 13, that the President had ordered the National Security Council to send a strongly worded letter of protest to the British government of John Major, holding it accountable for the recent rioting in Northern Ireland. Three days of the worst rioting in decades were triggered, on July 11, by the Royal Ulster Constabulary, when they permitted Order of Orange rioters to march through a Catholic neighborhood in a suburb of Belfast. A powerful car bomb that wrecked a resort hotel near the Irish-Northern Ireland border on July 14, is also suspected of being the work of British intelligence-controlled "countergangs."

According to the *Financial Times*, President Clinton has decided to renew the U.S. travel visa of Sinn Fein leader Gerry

Adams, as another public display of his anger at the British efforts to sabotage his Northern Ireland peace initiatives. The Northern Ireland peace process has been a Clinton administration initiative since Day One, and the President's personal emissary, former Sen. George Mitchell (D-Me.), remains on the scene, chairing the Peace Forum, in an effort to hold the fragile process together.

The 'Dirty Dick' factor

Since the beginning of the year, every single benchmark Clinton foreign policy has been systematically undermined, principally through the Rasputin-like influence of his campaign strategist, Dick Morris. Morris, a protégé and relative of the late Roy Cohn, has had an on-again, off-again relationship with the Clintons since 1977. He was brought back into the Clinton campaign apparatus, following the disastrous 1994 Republican Party mid-term election victories, and he has done everything in his power to turn the President into a warmed-over Republican, ever since.

It was Dick Morris who pressured the President into accepting the Republican ground rules for a "date-certain" balanced federal budget, according to Bob Woodward's recent Clinton biography, *The Choice*. Morris conducted White House inside information to the Republicans, including to his client Trent Lott (R-Miss.), who is now Senate Majority Leader, in order to give the GOP an inside track on how to bend the President toward accepting their balanced budget demands. The conduit? The Republican Party's primo consulting firm, Manafort, Black, Stone, and Kelly. Partner Roger Stone was a lifetime intimate of Roy Cohn; and Dick Morris, when not peddling bad advice to Bill Clinton, spent the better part of the 1990s, working with Manafort, Black on behalf of a number of Clinton's leading Republican enemies, including

Lott, Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), Gov. Tom Ridge (R-Pa.), and Gov. William Weld (R-Mass.).

Morris had also steered the President into a state of mind, in which all strategic policy considerations took a back seat to his re-election campaign. Gradually, over the first half of this year, the President withdrew from leadership on many of his most important foreign policy initiatives.

In the case of the Middle East peace process, this pull-back took a disastrous form. While actively campaigning for Prime Minister Shimon Peres's election, the President made the strategic blunder of turning to the "Dirty Dick" team. *EIR* has learned from Israeli sources that Morris dispatched one of his protégés, pollster Doug Schoen, to Israel, to "help" Peres. Schoen, like Morris, is a political "switch-hitter." He cut his teeth working for Republican pollster David Garth (and Dick Morris) on Democrat Ed Koch's mayoral campaigns in New York City. In Israel, Schoen had served as campaign adviser to the Likud Party's Menachim Begin, during Begin's successful campaign *against Shimon Peres!*

Israeli and Washington, D.C. sources confirm that Schoen's impact on the Peres campaign was "very negative." Was Morris working at cross-purposes with the President inside the Israeli election campaign? The remnants of the Roy Cohn apparatus in New York City (Cohn died of AIDS in 1986) poured huge amounts of cash into the coffers of Likud candidate Benjamin Netanyahu, who is now Israel's prime minister. Netanyahu's campaign was run by another Cohn protégé, pollster Art Finkelstein, whose other principal "client" is Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.), perhaps the U.S. Senate's most rabid Clinton-basher. D'Amato owes his political career to Roy Cohn and Cohn's law partner, Tom Bolan.

EIR has also learned that, in 1981 and 1988, Schoen served as a pollster for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. The ADL was one of the driving forces behind the effort to defeat Peres's re-election efforts and scuttle the Middle East peace process. When Netanyahu won the recent Israeli election, ADL National Chairman Abe Foxman was beside himself with joy.

Three bozos in Moscow

The dirty hand of Dick Morris was also behind a nasty public relations stunt against President Clinton, surrounding this month's elections in Russia. On July 15, *Time* magazine claimed that three American political consultants, including Dick Dresner, longtime partner of Dick Morris, had been the "secret weapon" behind Boris Yeltsin's victory over Communist Gennady Zyuganov. In television interviews, Dresner hinted that he had been working on the Russian election project with Dick Morris, and that the entire operation, although it involved nominally GOP-linked campaign operators, was sanctioned by President Clinton.

While Dresner, George Gorton, and Joe Shumate (the trio that ran Pete Wilson's aborted Presidential campaign) were, indeed, in Moscow, their role in the Yeltsin victory was

greatly exaggerated by *Time*. It didn't do President Clinton any good to have his own name, and that of his campaign strategist, linked to dirty tricks in Russia.

A break from paralysis

At the June 27-29 Group of Seven summit in Lyons, France, Clinton reportedly got into a behind-closed-doors confrontation with his British and French counterparts on a variety of issues. After his return to the United States, he began to break from his Morris-induced political paralysis.

When the President returned to the White House, he undoubtedly learned that Washington, D.C. had been saturated, in his absence, with copies of the *New Federalist*, the newspaper of Lyndon LaRouche's political movement, blasting Morris as a Roy Cohn mole, out to wreck his Presidency. Thousands of copies of the newspaper had been circulated on Capitol Hill and near the White House.

One of the earliest signs of the policy shift came when the President spoke, on July 10, before the annual convention of the NAACP, in Charlotte, North Carolina. The President announced that he had just met with Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor and the son of the late Ron Brown, to give them final instructions before they left on a mission to Bosnia and Croatia "to finish the mission Ron Brown started," to help rebuild the war-ravaged Balkans. A week earlier, the President had sent Defense Secretary William Perry to Sarajevo, to nail down the details of a military agreement, under which the Bosnian Armed Forces will be armed and trained.

Following the NAACP speech, the President also called Richard Holbrooke out of retirement, to make one more trip to the Balkans, to secure the removal of Radovan Karadzic, the accused war criminal, from the leadership of the Bosnian Serbs.

The President also sent Anthony Lake to Beijing in a major diplomatic initiative, aimed at putting U.S.-Chinese relations on a solid footing for years to come. Lake met with the entire Chinese leadership, and laid the basis for an exchange of head of state visits, perhaps before the end of the year. While Lake was in China, the U.S. Export-Import Bank announced that it was granting millions of dollars in credits for the building of a new hydroelectric power plant on the Yellow River. Commenting on the Lake visit on July 18, LaRouche noted that the cornerstone of any effective relationship with China is support for the New Silk Road project, also known as the Eurasian land-bridge. "It looks like the United States has come to a good understanding with the Chinese government on this question," said LaRouche, "and that the President might be over there fairly soon, to concretize this—all of which I think is excellent."

With this shift back onto the policy offensive, President Clinton has now positioned himself to take yet another crucial step toward securing his re-election, under circumstances favorable to himself, to the United States, and to the world: dumping Dick Morris.