

Editorial

The Chinese Premier's visit

The fact that Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji made his visit to the United States is a testament to the determination of the Chinese political leadership and President Clinton's commitment to developing a strategic partnership with the world's most populous nation. Obviously, the concrete results of the visit were severely curtailed by the insane "Yellow Peril" McCarthyism within the United States, which is prepared to blame everything but the Y2K problem on alleged Chinese espionage. But there is reason to hope that the trip was not a failure from the standpoint of the broader strategic necessity.

There is no way to exaggerate the importance of the U.S.-China relationship in this period of crisis. As Lyndon LaRouche emphasized as early as three years ago, the combination of these two nation-states provides the *sine qua non* for destroying the British Commonwealth's plans for reasserting a geopolitical regime that will seal the world's fate, plunging it into a long-term New Dark Age. Both China and the United States have the potential to reassert the principles of the sovereign nation-state, and must form the core of an alliance of sovereign nation-states, which is required to bury the International Monetary Fund system, and build a New Bretton Woods based on economic development.

The current Chinese leadership, around President Jiang Zemin and Premier Zhu Rongji, has demonstrated an eloquent understanding of the principles required for such an alliance. They assert them regularly in their discussions of the nation-building concepts of America's greatest President, Abraham Lincoln, for example—who was also a key inspiration for the founder of the Chinese Republic, Sun Yat-sen. President Jiang's most compelling discussion came in his November 1998 speech in the Russian city of Novosibirsk, where he described scientific and technological collaboration toward progress for all mankind, as the foundation for Russian-Chinese relations. This could apply to the U.S.-Chinese relations as well.

This is not to say that the Jiang-Zhu group has no opposition in China. As President Clinton has astutely pointed out, there is a grouping there which warns that the United States is trying to contain China and keep it

"down on the farm," and thus opposed Zhu's trip, as well as closer strategic ties. What President Clinton has not said, is that the aggressive unilateral military actions of the United States in Iraq and now Yugoslavia, have given added impetus to this opposition grouping.

On the U.S. side, President Clinton has carried the ball in favor of what he called a "strategic partnership" with China. His opening remarks at the the Premier's arrival ceremony on April 8 provide the flavor: "Your visit is an important event in the long relations between our people, a relationship that spans nearly the entire history of the United States. Before this city even existed, even before our Constitution was signed, China granted our newly independent nation equal standing with the powers of Europe. At the dawn of a new century, we now recognize that our interests coincide on many issues and diverge on some others, but that we have a fundamental responsibility to speak with candor and listen with an open mind. And certainly we can agree that China and the United States can best achieve our hopes in the next century if we continue to build a constructive strategic partnership, a relationship that allows us to make progress on the issues that matter to our people."

But it is President Clinton's responsibility to go beyond such sentiments. The U.S. President must emulate Franklin Roosevelt—as he recently indicated he wished to do—and assert his personal authority to bring China, and Russia, into direct, responsible co-partnership (together with some relevant continental European nations) to settle the Balkans mess. Such a combination is the political prerequisite for preventing a no-end war that is rapidly escalating toward World War III. At the same time, the President should personally take similar steps in establishing a new, just world economic arrangement, in partnership with these nations.

We have no way of knowing what President Clinton and Premier Zhu discussed in private. With world peace hanging in the balance, we can say with certainty, however, that the nature and content of those discussions may well determine world history for decades to come.