

Clinton moves to take back his Presidency

by Debra Hanania Freeman

Invoking the spirit of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the World War II generation, Bill Clinton took the occasion of an April 15 address before the American Society of Newspaper Editors, to reassert his control over U.S. foreign policy, following the violent 18-month assault on his Presidency.

Clinton's remarks before the San Francisco gathering, which were billed in advance as a major foreign policy address by the President, left little doubt that his policy outlook, both in the Balkans and elsewhere, differed radically from that of his own foreign policy Principals Committee, whose dominant players, from Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, to Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Henry H. Shelton, to Vice President Al Gore and Gore's power-hungry national security adviser Leon Fuerth, clearly have much more in common with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, than the President they nominally serve.

Before the first NATO bombs were dropped on Slobodan Milosevic's Serbia, Lyndon LaRouche, in the pages of *EIR*, challenged the popular delusion that it was the elected government of the United States, headed by President Clinton, that had devised the policy. LaRouche asserted that, in fact, a "British-American-Commonwealth bloc," and *not* the President, was steering the current war and depression policies of NATO, the International Monetary Fund, and the United States. LaRouche commissioned a series of reports that documented that BAC policy has nothing whatever to do with *American* national interests, but rather is made in London, and then implemented by operatives on Wall Street, in Washington, and in the countries of the British Commonwealth, in particular.

Ironically, on Sunday, April 18, both the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times* were forced to admit that the current policy for war in the Balkans was decided on Jan. 19 by the

so-called Principals Committee. The *Times* points out that the President was *not in attendance at the meeting*. It is worth noting the date: Jan. 19. It was the day that President Clinton's lawyers were starting their argument on the Senate floor, against the illegal coup attempt that was going on at the time. It was also the night the President was to deliver his State of the Union address.

Standing up to the China-bashers

Since that day, the President managed to beat back the attempt to remove him from office, but it has only been in the recent weeks that he has begun to take the necessary steps to regain control over his Presidency. First, Clinton stood up to the Cold War hawks and China-bashers in the Congress, and pulled off a largely successful series of meetings with Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji.

Then, in the April 15 speech, Clinton delivered an unmistakable rebuttal to the increasingly insane rantings of British Prime Minister Blair. Clinton expressed profound sympathy for the suffering of the Kosovars, saying that, "after what they've been through, it's only natural that they should equate sovereignty with survival."

But, despite an increasing clamor from the City of London and their assets on Capitol Hill, such as Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.), to arm the Kosovar independence movement, the President insisted that such a recommendation "is not the best answer. Kosovo lacks the resources and infrastructure to be viable on its own. Moreover, Yugoslavia's long-suffering neighbors fear that an independent Kosovo would be unstable, and that the instability itself would be contagious."

Clinton continued, "We must remember the principle we have been fighting for in the Balkans is the principle of multi-ethnic, tolerant, inclusive democracy. We have been fighting



President Clinton meets with members of his administration on April 9. “So however this conflict ends or whenever it ends, we have some building to do. They have to have something to live for. You just can’t tell people what they can’t do; they’ve got to have something to be for, something to dream of, a future to build, and we ought to be a part of it,” the President said on April 15.

against the idea that statehood must be based entirely on ethnicity.

“Some people think the best way to solve Kosovo’s problems — and Serbia’s and Bosnia’s — is to redraw their borders and rearrange their people to reflect their ethnic distinctions. Well, first of all, a lot of people who think that way haven’t looked very closely at the maps. It is a problem of staggering complexity. Once it starts, it would never end. For every grievance resolved, a new one would be created. For every community moved to a new place, another community would, by definition, be displaced. If we were to choose this course, we would see the continuous fissioning of smaller and smaller ethnically based, unviable states creating pressures for more war, more ethnic cleansing, more of the politics of repression and revenge. *I believe the last thing we need in the Balkans is greater balkanization*” (emphasis added).

A Marshall Plan?

Clinton offered a different approach. “We must follow the example of the World War II generation, by standing up to aggression and hate, and then by following through with a post-conflict strategy for reconstruction and renewal,” the President said. He stressed that the solution to the Balkans problems lies in locating them as part of the broader, more fundamental question, of the economic and political condition of Europe as a whole, especially Europe’s East. And, he was emphatic that any effort must include Russia as a full partner.

During the question and answer period, the editor of a Washington State newspaper asked the President, “You didn’t mention the Marshall Plan by name, but that seemed to be what you were talking about, as a way to resolve this. . . . Could a greater effort have been made after the fall of the Berlin Wall, to do more along the lines of a Marshall Plan. . . ?

And might that have prevented something like we are facing today?”

Although Clinton avoided a direct attack on the policies of President George Bush and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher following the fall of the Berlin Wall, the President took the opportunity to first praise Germany’s policy at the time — which was bitterly attacked by the British as a “Fourth Reich” — and then to reiterate his commitment to helping Russia solve its enormous economic problems.

On Germany, he said, “The Germans took on East Germany in an act of patriotism and generosity and costliness of absolutely staggering proportions. They’re still paying the economic price today, *but it was a brave and good and generous thing to do*” (emphasis added).

On Russia, he said, “What happens to Russia? . . . Does it become stable? Can it be prosperous enough in the painful transition? . . . Russia has maintained its democracy, but its economy has been so burdened it’s caused all kinds of other problems. . . . We’re working on that and we’re trying to maintain our strategic partnership with Russia even as we disagree about the conflict in the Balkans.”

As Clinton brought his remarks to an end, he quoted the Bible: “‘Where there is no vision, the people perish.’ We need to have an alternative vision. They need to be brought into the vision of a prosperous Europe. They need to have more to gain by working together than they do by having constant fights with one another . . . and *we* need to reach out and help lift them up there,” he said.

“So however this conflict ends or whenever it ends, we have some building to do. They have to have something to live for. You just can’t tell people what they can’t do; they’ve got to have something to be *for*, something to dream of, a future to *build*, and we ought to be a part of it.”

The President must go further

There is no question that President Clinton means what he says. He reiterated the same themes the next day in Michigan, in an address to organizations involved in humanitarian relief efforts in the war-torn region. But, if President Clinton hopes for the future are to be realized, he is going to have to go further.

President Clinton is going to have to, as LaRouche has clearly defined, line up with Russia and China, and with at least one leading European nation, perhaps Germany, to dictate the peace around several key concepts.

First, it must be acknowledged that the December 1998 bombing campaign against Iraq was a mistake, manipulated by the British. Its goal was to create a severe rift in the strategic partnerships that President Clinton was forging at the time with Russia and China.

Second, priority must be placed on the reconstruction of the Balkans, *as a starting point*.

Third, the new alliance must use the Balkans reconstruction effort to address the global economic crisis. Until the United States brings Russia in on solving the global economic and monetary collapse, there is little hope for true cooperation in the Balkans.

In short, the only way out is a serious move toward the measures best expressed in LaRouche's New Bretton Woods and Eurasian Land-Bridge policies.

The President expressed his hope in San Francisco that "the Balkan war that began in Kosovo 10 years ago must end in Kosovo. It should be the last conflict of the 20th century; it should not be the defining conflict of the 21st century. The United States has the opportunity and the responsibility to make that decision come out right for our children and our grandchildren. We can help to lead to a new day for the people of this long-suffering region, a more peaceful and prosperous time for all of Europe, and a better future for the United States."

If he is prepared to take the necessary actions, President Clinton can make that noble wish a reality.

Documentation

Clinton on the need for economic reconstruction

From President Clinton's address and comments before the American Society of Newspaper Editors, on April 15, 1999:

. . . We should try to do for southeastern Europe what we helped to do for western Europe after World War II and for central Europe after the Cold War: to help its people build a

region of multi-ethnic democracies, a community that upholds common standards of human rights, a community in which borders are open to people and trade, where nations cooperate to make war unthinkable. . . .

Now, what does all this mean for the future of Kosovo and the region as a whole, starting from where we are right now? What many Kosovars want is independence. That is certainly understandable. After what they've been through, it's only natural that they should equate sovereignty with survival. But I continue to think it is not the best answer. Kosovo lacks the resources and infrastructure to be viable on its own. . . .

The real question today is not whether Kosovo will be part of Serbia. The real question is whether Kosovo and Serbia and the other states of the region will be part of the new Europe. The best solution for Kosovo, for Serbia, for Bosnia, Croatia, Macedonia and all the countries of southeast Europe is not the endless rejiggering of their borders, but greater integration into a Europe in which sovereignty matters but in which borders are becoming more and more open and less important in a negative sense.

That is the solution that Western Europe accepted not too long ago, really, when you think of it: after Europe had been consumed by two of the bloodiest wars in all of human history, after the Holocaust almost erased an entire people from the face of the Earth. That is why we've been working to help the countries of the region consolidate democratic reform and build professional armed forces under civilian control. We need to intensify these efforts and to work with the European Union and the international financial institutions to mobilize more support for these countries. And we need to condition this help, just as we did with Western Europe 50 years ago, on closer cooperation among the beneficiaries and a new understanding of their sovereignty. . . .

The United States has the opportunity and the responsibility to make that decision come out right for our children and our grandchildren. We can help to lead to a new day for the people of this long-suffering region, a more peaceful time for Europe, and a better future for the United States. . . .

If you want to think about what you want your children to live like, you imagine: What do you want to happen in Asia, how are we going to work out our relationships with China, and deal with the remaining security threat in North Korea, and try to bring—help Japan and the other countries come back? How are we going to have the strongest possible alliance in Latin America, what kind of new partnership can we have with Africa? But it all could come a cropper unless we have a united, democratic and free Europe. And the three things are what I said: our relationship with Russia, what happens in the Balkans and southeastern Europe, and how will Islam and Christianity be able to coexist in a positive way in the underbelly of Europe.

And so I would say maybe it could have been—maybe more could have been done, I don't know. I just know now,

right now, all those people are fighting over smaller and smaller pieces of land. It's like life is a zero-sum game. "You kick me out of my village, I'll kick you out of your village."

If—the Bible says, wisely, that “where there is no vision, the people perish.” We need to have an alternative vision. They need to be brought into the vision of a prosperous Europe. They need to have more to gain by working together than they do by having constant fights with one another. They need to have—and we need to reach out and lift up there.

So, however this conflict ends or whenever it ends—I think I know how it's going to end—but whenever it ends, we have some building to do. They have to have something to live for. You just can't tell people what they can't do; they got to have something to be for, something to dream of, a future to build, and we ought to be a part of it.

From President Clinton's address to humanitarian relief organizations, in Roseville, Michigan, on April 17, 1999:

... Do we want a future where every ethnic group is con-

finied in smaller and smaller and denser and denser pieces of land, and then, just to be secure, they must be a separate country? Or do we want a future in the Balkans and in south-eastern Europe where they can do what we are struggling to do here in America, where, yes, people can have their own heritage and their own faith and their own traditions, but they are a part of a larger effort to share a bigger future?

I think the answer is clear. If you want people to give up the misery of yesterday, you must give them the hope of a better tomorrow. And that is what we have to focus on. After World War II, that's what we did for Germany, our adversary, as well as France and Great Britain, our allies. After the Cold War, we reached out to Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic with economic and other aid. We reached out to Ukraine and to Russia to try to help to deal with the nuclear problems, to try to help them get started again. And if you look at the success of Central Europe, it's hard to say that it wasn't the right decision. . . .

So, I ask you, all of you here today, who have been so

Schiller Institute's call for Balkan Marshall Plan

The Schiller Institute and EIR promoted the idea of a Marshall Plan for Bosnia, in a campaign launched by Institute founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche in 1996. Here is an excerpt from "Launch a New Marshall Plan to Rebuild Bosnia," EIR, May 10, 1996.

At a press conference in Washington, D.C. on May 2, members of the Schiller Institute's Committee to Save the Children in Bosnia-Herzegovina called for the United States to launch a program for reconstruction of the devastated Bosnian economy, a "new Marshall Plan" like that which rebuilt Europe after World War II. Unless this is done, they said, the situation could quickly deteriorate, bringing with it the danger of a new world war.

Four committee members gave a first-hand report on the situation in Bosnia and Croatia, following a visit there on April 12-19. The full delegation was comprised of Nihad E. Dzinovic, chairman of the Bosnia Relief Organization in California and member of the National Advisory Board for Humanitarian Aid; James Mann, former U.S. Congressman from South Carolina; Dr. Jozef Miklosko, the president of the committee, and former Vice Prime Minister of post-communist Czechoslovakia; Theo W. Mitchell, former State Senator from South Carolina; Benjamin Swan, State Representative from Massachusetts; the Schiller Institute's Elke Fimmen and Paolo Raimondi; and

Umberto Pascali of the Schiller Institute and secretary of the International Parliamentarians Against Genocide in Bosnia.

Addressing the press conference, Nihad Dzinovic emphasized that there is no real peace now, because Bosnia has not been allowed to have economic reconstruction, productive jobs, and dignity. There is 90% unemployment in Sarajevo, he said, and it is even worse outside the capital city. He outlined the Schiller Institute's five-point plan for securing Bosnia's productive economy and national sovereignty:

1. Bosnian reconstruction must be guaranteed in the form of a crash program similar to the Marshall Plan.

2. The political, institutional, and economic sovereignty of Bosnia must be preserved against the conditionalities of international financial institutions and geopolitical interference by powers such as the heirs of the British Empire.

3. The United States is the only country, at this point, that can push for such reconstruction and sovereignty, and should take up the project of Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, who died in an April 3 plane crash in Dubrovnik, Croatia, along with many industrial executives, representing an investment potential of tens of billion of dollars.

4. The war criminals responsible for the aggression and genocide must be prosecuted and punished.

5. It is necessary to inform and mobilize the public in the West, and especially in the United States, on the necessity of guaranteeing the rights of Bosnia, which nation put a stop to the widening of the Greater Serbian assaults and the designs of their sponsors. . . .

involved in this, we must do for Southeastern Europe, including the Balkans, what was done for Central Europe after the Cold War, and for the battleground nations of Europe after World War II. . . .

From President Clinton's address to the Johns Hopkins Institute for Advanced Studies, on April 20, 1999:

. . . The financial crisis that began in Asia in 1997 put our progress at risk and presented a very severe test to the global system that we have worked so hard to build. Though our economy has continued to grow, we have been affected by the Asian financial crisis, as you can see by the trade figures, by what has happened in steel and by the loss of markets by our farmers.

It is clear to me that we had to do something—to contain the crisis, to restore growth, to prevent such crises from happening in the future. In September, I went to the Council on Foreign Relations in New York and set out a strategy with concrete steps to speed the recovery. We joined with other major industrial nations to act to spur growth. Now seven months later, we see a growing number of signs that those steps have taken hold. Some economies once in crisis are beginning to turn the corner.

But substantial risks and challenges remain. This is not a moment for complacency; it is a moment to act to prevent financial crisis from reaching catastrophic stages in the future. . . .

Our approach includes the following key elements. First, we industrial countries should take steps to reduce the entire financial system's vulnerability to rapid capital flows and excess leverage. For example, we should strengthen bank regulations so they actually take into account the real risks of lending.

Second, we should continue to develop a better way to respond to crises, including appropriate sharing of responsibility by the private sector.

Third, developing countries should take more responsibility as well by strengthening financial regulation and bank supervision and developing sustainable debt management policies, thus avoiding excessive reliance on short-term debt. We will seek to reinforce these policies through the actions of the international financial institutions.

Fourth, the international financial institutions should focus their efforts on encouraging developing countries to adopt sustainable exchange rate regimes and the macroeconomic policies necessary to support them.

Fifth, we must ensure that the most vulnerable citizens do not bear the brunt of these crises. That means the IMF and the World Bank must pay more attention to social safety nets, working with countries to lay strong foundations during good times and to maintain adequate protections during bad times. In moments of crisis, budgets for core social programs should be preserved or at least should not bear the full brunt of necessary cuts.

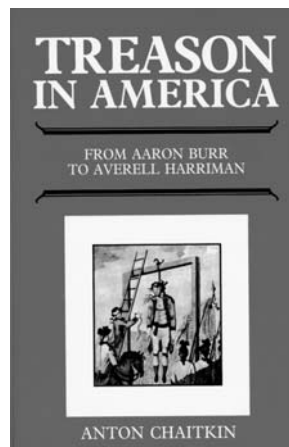
Sixth, we must remember that the poorest countries, nations that private capital flows are bypassing altogether, need help because they are burdened with unsustainable levels of debt. Last month I asked the international community to take actions to forgive \$70 billion in global debt at a meeting we had here with representatives of over 45 African countries. No nation committed to good governance and economic reform should be crushed by a debt burden that is so heavy it will punish ordinary citizens and prevent growth no matter what people do. . . .

Now, the leading industrial nations must be prepared to take the next steps in the design of a strong financial architecture that can be a platform of prosperity for all of us in the next century. We have worked to shape an international consensus and to develop an agenda for long-term reform of the global financial system.

I know this is something that it is very hard to grab headlines with. But if you think about what the world has been through in the last two years because of the problems in the global financial system, and if you account for the fact that 30 percent of our growth until last year has come from expanded trade, it is clear that for the United States, for ordinary citizens in the United States, and for their counterparts throughout the world, there are few more important things for leaders to be doing than working on building a stable financial architecture for the new century.

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