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## Seminar Report

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# LaRouche's reconstruction plan for the Balkans is a strategic emergency

by Katherine Notley

The international fight for reconstruction of the Balkans was the subject of an *EIR* seminar and press conference in Washington, D.C., on June 23, attended by 75 individuals, and a smaller seminar in New York on the same day, representing 20 nations. The seminars took place only days after the bombing of Serbia had ceased, but also as the British raised the war-cry “not one red cent” for reconstruction of Serbia—and especially “not one red cent” for clearing the NATO bombing debris from southeastern Europe’s lifeline, the Danube River.

The purpose of the seminars was to combat this form of “war by other means”—whose weapons include everything from self-righteous sanctions to generous hand-outs from so-called international financial institutions (e.g., the International Monetary Fund), as always, conditioned on privatizing state industries, cutting subsidies for staple food, fuel and transportation, and opening the national currency to international speculation. The Britain-centered financial oligarchy waging “this war by other means” in the Balkans, is desperate to save itself and its own rotten financial and monetary system from global collapse. This global speculative system would evaporate like so much morning dew if the kind of great projects that Lyndon LaRouche has specified were to be built.

The issue of Balkans reconstruction epitomizes either a good problem to be solved, or the nodal point for ongoing instability and wars that the oligarchy can exploit against its opposition. In the first instance, the Balkans is one of the cross-roads of what has become famous as the Eurasian Land-Bridge, a “grand design” transportation project acting as the spine for “development corridors,” bridging the expanse from China’s Pacific coast to Rotterdam.

Below, we present the remarks by the panelists at the Washington seminar, who were introduced by Debra Freeman, national spokeswoman for Lyndon LaRouche’s Presidential campaign, the Committee for a New Bretton Woods. She communicated to the press conference and seminar participants her discussions with LaRouche, regarding the global strategic stakes involved in reconstructing what might seem to be a small corner of the world.

### Debunking the ‘Who pays?’ myth

The first seminar speaker was Paolo Raimondi from *EIR*’s European bureau, who is an expert on the Balkans region. The failure of the June 12-13 Group of Seven heads of state summit in Cologne, Germany to address the urgency for reconstruction constitutes a serious problem, Raimondi said. “It is a problem that we cannot ignore even for one second, because the reconstruction of this region is not optional.” He stressed: “But the fundamental question is not a question of money. It’s absolutely not a question of charity. It’s not a question of humanitarian aid. It is a question of putting together economic reconstruction.”

Raimondi gave short shrift to the hysterical question: “‘Who pays? Who pays? Who pays? Where do we get the money?’” He answered, “What is involved in the reconstruction program for this region of the world . . . is the creation of credit. And this is the point that LaRouche, in his proposal, is making extremely clear. . . .

“First of all, he said we have an emergency situation, so we have to call in the engineering corps of the different armies to deal with the emergency. The emergencies are the bridges. You have to clear the area of the mines, because that’s why nobody can move. Then you have the bridges, the roads, the railroads, and so on and so forth; the hospitals, the houses—the immediate things that you have to do, to avoid the situation that by September or October you have the majority of the people in the area going into winter without having a way to survive.

“The second most important point, a very important point LaRouche is putting forward, is the creation of a special financial facility. So, this is what should be the center of the new Marshall Plan for the Balkan region—i.e., *how to create credit*. And . . . if somebody comes and proposes a donors’ conference, forget it! There is no time to gather people to donate—what? They don’t have it anyway!

“It’s not a time for charity. It’s a time of identifying *the way how to create the real economic development, the real reconstruction*. And this has been the experience, and the

successful experience, on several occasions. Here in the United States, after the Great Depression, with Roosevelt; in Europe, in particular in Germany after the Second World War, with the Bank for Reconstruction, the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau: that from a totally destroyed nation — much more destroyed than Kosovo today — you were able, in less than 10 years, to bring Germany to become again one of the leading industrial-technological . . . nations of Europe.”

Raimondi’s full speech appeared in the “American Almanac” feature in the July 12 issue of the LaRouche movement’s weekly newspaper, *New Federalist*.

Raimondi was joined by Panamanian Congressman Miguel Bush, who also provided *EIR* with an interview, which we publish in this section; Pennsylvania State Rep. Harold James; and Michigan State Rep. Ed Vaughn. An important scheduled speaker, Faris Nanic, Secretary General of the Democratic Action Party (SDA) in Croatia, and former Chief of Staff for President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, was unable to attend due to a family illness, but sent a message to the conference (see *EIR*, July 2). Nanic participated in the general discussion by phone later. In addition, Croatia’s Ambassador to Washington, Miomir Zuzul, had been expected to attend, but had returned to Croatia for the signing of an energy project originally set up by the late U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown. (An interview with Ambassador Zuzul appeared in our June 25 issue.) Attending in his stead was Aleksandr Heina, the Economics Counsellor of the Embassy of Croatia.

From the New York seminar, we include excerpts of the remarks of Le Yuchen, Counsellor to the Chinese Mission to the United Nations.

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## Debra Hanania Freeman

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# Secure peace must be based on development

*Dr. Freeman is the U.S. Intelligence Director for EIR, and the national spokeswoman for Lyndon LaRouche.*

In beginning today’s events, I’d like to convey to you some of the discussions that we’ve had leading up to today’s conference, and also to convey to you some thoughts from Mr. LaRouche, whom I spoke to earlier this afternoon. I think that there’s very little question — at least, there’s very little question in *my* mind, I hope there’s not so much question in your mind, either — that the just-concluded peace accords for the Balkans are resting on a very fragile foundation.

We’re obviously very happy that the bombing has



*Debra Hanania Freeman, spokeswoman for LaRouche’s Committee for a New Bretton Woods, opens EIR’s press conference and seminar on “Balkan Reconstruction: The LaRouche Alternative to Global Catastrophe.”*

stopped, for a variety of reasons, perhaps the most important one being that as long as we were engaged in bombing, the NATO command structure had far more control than was safe — than was safe for our country, and, in fact, far more control than was safe for any sovereign nation.

And one of the things that Mr. LaRouche had asserted, was that in fact, the NATO command structure — although the various people involved are attached to various nations, including this one — that, in fact, what they represent is something of a supernational institution that sees itself as standing above the position of the Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Armed Services — our President — and that sees itself as standing above the authority of any other international institution. So, we are gratified that the control of the situation has now reverted back, presumably, into the hands of the heads of state.

There is no question that the UN Security Council resolution, in ending three months of bombing, put us in a situation where we might achieve peace. But I think that you would be really naive, if you thought that what we had right now was peace. In fact, what we have right now, is an opportunity.

Certainly, as long as the bombing was going on, we were on a very rapid track to World War III. However, I’m not entirely convinced that we are now off that road. On the positive side, very early on, long before the UN resolution was