

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.

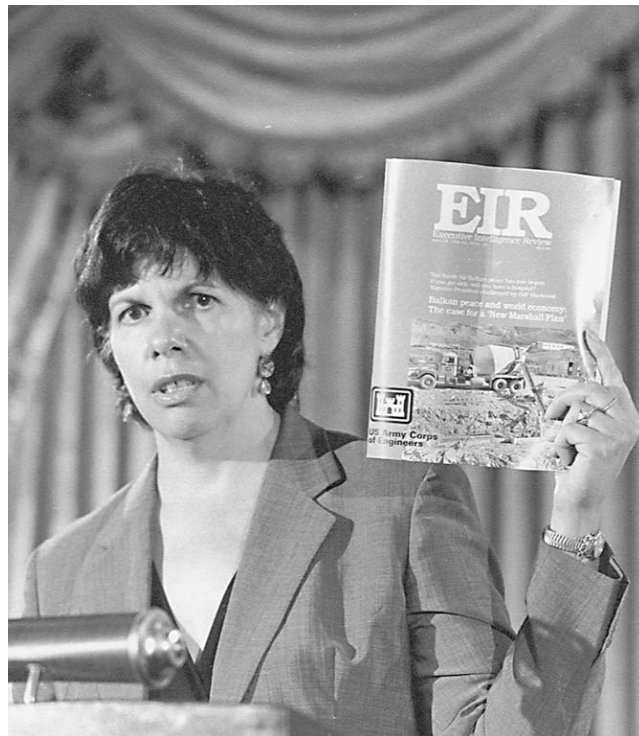
Debra Hanania Freeman

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

consolidated, President Clinton took the advice that had been conveyed to him by Mr. LaRouche: that the only way out of what would otherwise undoubtedly be a complete catastrophe—the only sound exit strategy, would be to pursue a conception of peace that was based on the redevelopment of the region, not only of the Balkans but of the much broader region. A reconstruction that would be based on participation, not only of the countries involved, and certainly not only of NATO, but also of the Russians, the Chinese, and other interested parties. President Clinton embraced that idea on April 15.

Clinton's break with Britain

About a week later, he did something very important, which is, he initiated a public break with British Prime Minister Tony Blair. And this occurred at the 50th anniversary summit of NATO here in Washington. At that point, Mr. Clinton publicly repudiated the enormous pressure that was coming from Blair and from the British monarchy, for a full-scale ground invasion of Kosovo.

And, in downgrading our relationship with Her Majesty's Prime Minister, Mr. Blair, President Clinton also took other moves which we thought were critical. And that was that he downgraded the position of the two strongest advocates of the British monarchy's position in his own administration—those people being Al Gore and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Indeed, were it not for that specific downgrading, probably the agreement that led to the cessation of the bombing would have never been reached. Because Mr. LaRouche identified, very early on in this conflict, that the cause of the war, the issue that was driving us into war, had absolutely nothing to do with the ostensible reasons that were put forward. And frankly, it did not take a genius to figure this out.

The American people were told that the reason why we were engaged in bombings, was to stop ethnic cleansing. We were told that it was a humanitarian mission to save the people of Kosovo. Yet, over the course of the last 10 years, we had watched the situation in that region deteriorate. Why was it necessary to begin the bombing now? And what did President Clinton think about all of this?

Well, we know that President Clinton actually believed that what he was doing, was intervening to save the people of the region. We know that President Clinton was manipulated, in large part. It was very well known, and it continues to be very well known, that President Clinton carries with him a tremendous portion of guilt for his failure to intervene in Bosnia much earlier than he did. It was on President Clinton's conscience that the delay in moving in Bosnia cost the lives of many innocent people, that it caused tremendous suffering, and in fact it did.

But President Clinton was then manipulated into this situation, which was not the same, which was not in the best interests of this country, and which certainly—and I think

anyone who looks at the situation now, can say most emphatically—did very little to save the people whom we were presumably trying to save. It's very difficult to make an argument that anybody in that region is any better off than they were three months ago before the bombing started.

Scrap the oligarchy's financial system

However, there is *potential* for them to be better off, and that is really the subject of today's program. But the question that would then have to come up, is: Well, if the purpose of the war was not to stop the ethnic cleansing, then what was the purpose of the war?

And again, Mr. LaRouche outlined very clearly, that the driving motivation behind this war was the collapsing financial system. And it was in the midst of this collapsing financial system, and the increased recognition by sovereign nations all over the planet, that if we were to make it safely into the twenty-first century, that this rotten, corrupt financial system that emanates out of the International Monetary Fund, etc., would have to be scrapped, and that a new, more just system would have to be put in its place.

And there was tremendous momentum in this direction by a grouping that Mr. LaRouche had identified as the Survivors' Club. We saw momentum coming out of the nation of China. We saw momentum coming from other nations in Southeast Asia, that had been the victims of this insane financial system over the course of the last year and a half.

Under the government of Mr. Primakov, Russia was moving in a very clear direction. President Clinton had repeatedly discussed the need for a new financial architecture. This was sufficient to throw the City of London and their minions here on Wall Street into a complete panic. And the question of the war in the Balkans, had one intention, and one intention only, and it was *not* out of concern for the Kosovars.

In fact, it had as its principal objective, ending *any* potential for cooperation between the Clinton administration, Russia, China, and other key nations in the world toward a new, more just financial order—toward, specifically, the New Bretton Woods proposal that Mr. LaRouche had put on the table months earlier. That's why the war started.

So, when President Clinton embraced this exit strategy, there was obviously—it was a moment of tremendous hope, and also one of tremendous irony. Because here, in this place that was supposed to be the beginning of World War III, you have the potential to actually turn it into the cradle of a new, more just economic order.

How? Well, obviously, with a move toward the reconstruction of the region. Because what Mr. LaRouche had outlined, is that a New Marshall Plan for that part of the world had to become the catalyst for shifting the entire global agenda away from the march toward war, which the Balkan war itself represented, and toward collaboration again, between the United States, China, Russia, key European allies, etc., to move into a new monetary system, based on a crash program

for development and reconstruction, first in this part of the world, where it's obviously necessary, and then branching out.

Now, Mr. LaRouche outlined it. He later elaborated it in the program that is the basis for this conference. April 14, the President endorsed it, so that should be the end of the discussion. But, obviously, that's *not* the end of the discussion, and we now find ourselves in a huge battle, because there are others who had different ideas.

Certainly, the dominant Republican power structure in the United States, which, like Mr. Gore and Madeleine Albright, tend to take their direction not from the White House, but from the British throne, had a very different view. And as the final negotiations to stop the bombing were being put together on June 7, in what threatened to disrupt those negotiations, the Republicans in the Senate passed a non-binding resolution barring the use of U.S. funds for reconstruction of Serbia.

So, what they said is, "Well, we can allocate money for rebuilding Kosovo, but clearing the Danube, restoring the power grid, restoring the bridges that we bombed—no way."

Now, it was a non-binding resolution. It did threaten to disrupt the negotiations—happily, it did not—and on June 10, the UN resolution was passed. That night, President Clinton went on TV, and President Clinton did what President Clinton is famous for, which is: He went on TV; he again talked about how happy he was that we had brought a halt to the bombing; he again talked about a Marshall Plan for the region, but he said, not one penny for the reconstruction of Serbia, as long as the barbarian Milosevic is in power.

And by doing so, our President thought he would "quiet the beast" in London, quiet the beast in the Republican Congress. He later explained what he meant, and said that we would not give one penny for reconstruction, but we would in fact give money for humanitarian aid. But humanitarian aid, in his mind, did, in fact, include restoring the power grid, clearing the Danube, and doing other things that most people would probably put in the category of "reconstruction."

It was our view that perhaps, with the meetings in Cologne this past weekend, that an important step forward would be taken—that President Clinton would take the initiative actually to move for a real reconstruction program. After all, he had said repeatedly, that we missed a crucial opportunity after the fall of the Berlin Wall—that we shouldn't miss that opportunity again, that we had to move forward with a real program of economic reconstruction, not only for the immediate nations involved in the conflict, but for the broader area. He addressed directly the question of restoring economic health to Russia.

The legacy of Ron Brown

But again, the question that was immediately on the table, was: How this would be achieved? Who would pay for it? We know that one of the things that occurred in the United States,

was that there was a tremendous amount of motion around the Congressional Black Caucus and other people, both within the Commerce Department and the Department of Transportation—people who had worked very closely with former Commerce Secretary Ron Brown. And it was their idea to carry on the legacy that Ron Brown began in Bosnia.

Now, just to let people know what that was—and I'm sure that our speakers will shed much more light on this. But certainly in the wake of the Bosnia conflict, we embraced the policy of reconstruction. The Dayton Accords were signed, but it was very clear to Mr. Brown and to others, that Dayton itself would not lead to reconstruction. And in fact, Ron Brown was appalled, because what he saw, was that what was coming out of Dayton was anything *but* reconstruction; that what was going on, was privatization, the implementation of the equivalent of the shock therapy that had been applied earlier to Russia.

So, he had an idea. His idea was that what he would do, is he would run around the Dayton Accords—make an end-run around the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. And if you knew Ron Brown, you knew that Ron Brown could never suffer bureaucracy under any circumstance. And if you know the President that Ron Brown served, you know that end-runs are a famous page in their playbook.

So, Ron Brown pulled together American companies. He had the idea that, by using the Ex-Im Bank, we could get around the problems with the IMF. The Ex-Im Bank, of course, is a semi-private institution in the United States; that they could provide loan guarantees, he would get the American companies together. There were also Japanese companies that were interested, and others. He would get them together, he would take them over [to Bosnia and Croatia], there would be bilateral agreements, we would initiate reconstruction. It would be good for Bosnia, it would be good for the region, it would be good for America, people would make money, and we could do the whole thing, and we could do it all without ever really getting into a head-on fight with the IMF.

But, Ron Brown never lived to do that.

Now, there are people, as I said, who worked with Mr. Brown, who are trying to revive that initiative. And let me say, their intentions are as noble as his were. Their intentions are good, and they are acting out of concern for the region, they are acting out of concern for peace, they are acting in opposition to what they know are genocidal policies emanating from institutions like the IMF.

But there's only one problem: It won't work. It simply will not work. And for all those people who say, "If only Ron Brown had not died in that plane crash"—in that very suspicious plane crash that killed his idea—"if only that had not occurred, maybe this would have never happened, maybe we wouldn't be in this position." Well, the only way we would not be in this position, would be if Ron Brown lived to embrace the policy that Mr. LaRouche has put on the table.

A new Marshall Plan, or World War III

Because, ladies and gentlemen, if there was one message that Mr. LaRouche wanted me *most emphatically* to convey to you today, it is that if, in fact, there is going to be reconstruction and development in the Balkans, or anywhere else in the world, it is going to have to be done through a financing mechanism which represents a distinct and clear alternative to the IMF. It is not going to be “snuck in.”

We have a financial system that is in a state of decay and collapse. And it is not just that the financial system is “too weak” to support a policy of the scale necessary. This financial system is in direct opposition. Its goals are the *opposite* of development. And if you have any doubt about that, look at what they have done on the continent of Africa. And if that looks like development and peace to you, then you go support that policy.

But what Mr. LaRouche wanted conveyed, is that at this moment, nothing but a direct political battle which succeeds in defeating those pro-British, pro-IMF forces within the U.S. government and within other governments, that only that kind of a fight will lead to peace. If we do anything less than that, I guarantee you that the people who control Mr. Blair—although he may not be with us very much longer—the people who control Al Gore (God knows who controls Madeleine Albright; the problem is, it doesn’t seem that anyone controls her)—that they will sabotage any effort toward peace, just as they tried to sabotage the consolidation of a cessation of the bombing.

And for our President, who I know has looked at Mr. LaRouche’s program—and if you look at some of the speeches that he made in Europe this past week, there is no question that he likes the program, he likes the idea of a Marshall Plan as an alternative to World War III and a Dark Age. Who wouldn’t? It’s a good idea. Most people would prefer peace and development over the end of civilization and war.

But our President says, “This is a great idea,” and then he turns to his advisers, and he says, “Can’t we find some acceptable way to do this? Isn’t there some compromise we can work out? I’ve got an idea. Let’s say that this is what we’re going to do. And we can praise the IMF in the process, and we’ll figure *something* out. It doesn’t matter what we say publicly. Let’s just say these various things publicly to try to lull these guys, and then we’ll figure something out, we’ll figure out some way to do this.”

Well, I’m sorry, but it is not going to work that way, this time. There is no compromise that’s going to be made. And that really, I think, is the message that we hope to be able to convey to you today. Because I think that what you’ll see, after some of the presentations that you’ll hear this afternoon, is that the question of a Marshall Plan is not “a good idea.” It’s not just that it’s a noble thing to do, and it would be nice to undo some of the damage that we’ve already done in this region; but that the question of the reconstruction of this re-

gion, and the financing mechanisms necessary for it, and what it would represent for the world, is as necessary to the continued survival of the United States, as it is to the continued survival of Kosovo.

And I think that if people actually manage to get a glimmer of that from today’s presentations, then delivering the mandate to this government that the American people, that the policy institutions, and that other governments will settle for absolutely nothing less, will be far closer to being accomplished. And that is really what Mr. LaRouche wanted me to convey to you today. And I hope that I’ve done that adequately.

Congressman Miguel Bush

Panama is threatened by drugs, subversion

Panamanian Congressman Bush’s speech to the seminar is excerpted here, following remarks by moderator Debra Hanning Freeman. The Congressman’s statement was translated from the Spanish. An interview with him is published on p. 46.

Freeman: I want to tell you something about Panama’s Congressman Bush. I met him for the first time about nine years ago, when then-President Bush—to whom I think you can figure out that the Congressman bears absolutely no relation—held Mr. LaRouche in prison. Mr. LaRouche was at that time a political prisoner. He had been sentenced to 15 years in Federal prison, because he had won the enmity of the Bush administration.

At that time, we asked for help. We asked for elected officials from the United States and from around the world, to speak out against this injustice, and to help us free Mr. LaRouche from prison. And Miguel Bush, who then was a young Congressman from Panama—and Panama had problems of her own, as a result of also having won Mr. Bush’s enmity—Miguel Bush was one of the very first people in the world, to answer that call.

He was on, I think, the first or second delegation of elected officials that came to Washington to lobby Congress to fight for Mr. LaRouche’s freedom. And I think that that speaks to the kind of person he is. It is something for which we will always be grateful.

Bush: . . . There is a silent war being waged, which day by day is killing our citizens, both here in the United States