

## Conference at CSIS: the geopolitics of energy

by Scott Thompson

On Dec. 8-9, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), based at Washington, D.C.'s Georgetown University, co-hosted with the *Financial Times* energy division a conference on "The Geopolitics of Energy into the 21st Century." While Clinton administration officials such as Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, whose speech concluded the conference, differed significantly with the neo-colonial policies presented by the CSIS gang of geopolitical mafiosi, the overall theme of the conference was to plot a Cecil Rhodes-style grab of raw materials, particularly oil and gas, worldwide.

The co-director of CSIS's Middle East program, Tony Cordesman, wrote a background paper for the event, entitled "Are Energy Wars Still Possible?" His conclusion was a definite, "Yes." Cordesman calls for a resurrection of the "Great Game," which historically pitted the British, French, Russian, and Ottoman empires against one another in Transcaucasia, Central Asia, and the Middle East. CSIS counsellor Zbigniew Brzezinski, who gave the keynote address on "The New Global Geopolitical Framework," called for "ostracizing Russia"—through means that carry the potential for World War III—to grab the oil and natural gas reserves of the Transcaucasus, the Caspian Sea basin, and Central Asia, while Russia is going through a "time of troubles" and therefore unable to stop this process. Brzezinski, who had been the founding executive director of the Trilateral Commission from (1972-75) before becoming President Jimmy Carter's National Security Adviser, presented what informed sources in Europe call "the New Carter Doctrine" (see accompanying article).

Some of the highlights of the conference, which was intended to project sources of potential Western energy needs 10 to 15 years into the future, include:

- There were brief introductory remarks from former Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), the new chairman of CSIS, and from Carter administration Secretary of Energy and former Director of Central Intelligence James Rodney Schlesinger, a senior associate at CSIS. These two were co-chairs of the CSIS two-year-long Strategic Energy Initiative, which has generated numerous background briefs and mini-conferences.

- Brzezinski's keynote speech, according to the U.S. Information Agency (USIA), laid out a kind of domino theory, that if the Russian offensive in Chechnya succeeds, then "the neo-colonial thinkers in Moscow" would be encouraged to

destabilize Georgia, which is the "central link" for two proposed pipelines to carry oil and natural gas from the Caspian Sea to Turkey and ports in western Europe, thereby bypassing Russia. Brzezinski argued that "if Georgia falls under the influence of Russia, the pipelines, and by extension, the economic and political pluralism of Central Asia, would be at stake." He also said that Russia considers the "competition for Central Asian energy resources as a 'zero sum game.'" Brzezinski wants the United States to "soften" its policy toward Iran, too, in order to use pipelines from the Caspian Sea basin, Transcaucasia, and Central Asia through Iran against Russia. Brzezinski concluded by calling for pressure to be put on Russia by "setting aside the questions of sovereignty" in Chechnya, and having a U.S./European Union economic development project for the region.

- Robert Priddle, the British executive director of the International Energy Agency (IEA), was among those speaking on "Energy in the New Millennium: Does Change Overwhelm Continuity?" Priddle had been Deputy Secretary of the U.K. Department of Energy and Director General of Energy Resources from 1989-92, through which posts he had management responsibility for the U.K. energy sector.

- Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) and Jessica Matthews, president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, were among those speaking on "Energy and the Environment: A Dialogue." Lieberman is one of the leading environmentalists in Congress, and has been chairman of the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC), one of the leading institutions promoting the "Third Way" policies of "triangulation" of Vice President Al Gore, Jr. and British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

- The luncheon speaker on Dec. 8 was Undersecretary for Economic, Business, and Agricultural Affairs at the U.S. State Department, Alan Larson.

- The central panel, chaired by Schlesinger, was on "Geopolitics and the World Energy Market." Speakers included: Tony Cordesman (on "The Middle East: The Key to Global Supply"), a former member of the staff of Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), who is now close to McCain's bid for the GOP Presidential nomination; the CSIS director of the Energy and National Security Program, Robert Ebel, who spoke on "Russia: Breakthrough or Breakdown?"; and, the Iranian-born Fereidun Fesharaki, senior fellow at the East-West Center and former energy adviser to the Prime Minister of Iran in the 1970s, who spoke on "Asia: The Key to Global Demand."

- Peter I. Bijur, chairman and CEO of Texaco, Inc., spoke next on "A New Era for Energy Suppliers."

- The dinner speaker on Dec. 8 was Ali Al-Naimi, Minister, Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Saudi Arabia.

- On Dec. 9, the panel was on "Geopolitical Risks in the World Energy Market," and was addressed by Daniel Yergin, chairman of the Cambridge Energy and Research Associates, an international consulting firm. Yergin won the Pulitzer

Prize for general nonfiction, for *The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money and Power*, which became a number-one best-seller and was made into an eight-hour PBS/BBC television series. He is a member of both the New York Council on Foreign Relations and the Royal Institute for International Affairs (Chatham House).

- U.S. Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson gave the concluding speech.

### CSIS Energy and National Security Program

The conference was the culmination (except for a book that is to follow) of CSIS's Strategic Energy Initiative. This initiative is one of four programs that have been run at CSIS under the umbrella of the Energy and National Security Program (ENSP).

ENSP Director Robert Ebel has held positions in the CIA, the Department of the Interior, and the Federal Energy Agency. He was a member of the first U.S. government oil delegation to the Soviet Union in 1960, and in 1970 he returned to Russia to inspect the new oil fields in western Siberia. In 1994, he was named by the International Energy Agency to a team of experts examining Russia's long-term energy strategy, and in November 1997, he led a team to examine the oil and gas sectors of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. He is the author of numerous books on Russian, Transcaucasian, Caspian Sea basin, and Central Asian oil and natural gas.

The programs for which he provides overall coordination, apart from the Strategic Energy Initiative, include:

1. "Global Nuclear Materials Management." This initiative was to study a post-Cold War strategy for secure nuclear energy operations in the next century. On Dec. 4, 1998, CSIS's Sam Nunn hosted a conference to discuss nuclear policy and its future.

2. "Nuclear Regulatory Process Review." This initiative was focussed on a review of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) regulatory process for commercial nuclear reactors and its internal efforts to improve this process. It produced a final report under CSIS auspices, *Regulatory Process for Nuclear Power Reactors: A Review*.

3. "Caspian Sea Oil Study Group." The ENSP report on this study group states: "After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Caspian Sea basin held great promise to foreign investors for its potential oil and natural gas reserves. Since then, deals have been struck, millions of dollars invested, but very little oil has been exported. This ongoing group focuses on foreign investor developments in oil production and export in the Caspian Sea states, taking into consideration current political and economic climates. Since the beginning in April 1994, the group has hosted the Prime Minister of Armenia, the Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan, and the President and Vice-President for Exports of the Azerbaijan International Operating Company (AIOC)."

## Lunatic Brzezinski's 'New Carter Doctrine'

by Scott Thompson

The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), especially through its counsellor, Carter National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, has been one of the key centers advocating what high-level European sources have called a "New Carter Doctrine," and with it the threat of an escalation of regional crises toward World War III.

According to this "doctrine," the Caucasus-Central Asia region is defined, in effect, as the Persian Gulf of the twenty-first century, whose raw materials deposits are of vital importance for the West. While Russia is in what the CSIS calls a "meltdown," Brzezinski describes Transcaucasia, Central Asia, and the Caspian Sea basin as part of a "Zone of Instability" which includes the infamous "Arc of Crisis," of which he spoke before and during the time he infested the Carter administration.

At least since the 1997 publication of his book *The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy and Its Geostrategic Imperatives* (Basic Books), Brzezinski has advocated a new version of the historic "Great Game," by which Britain, France, and the failing Ottoman Empire sought to wrest Transcaucasia, Central Asia, and the Caspian basin, with its significant raw materials, away from any re-assertion of Russian dominance.<sup>1</sup> Brzezinski's colleagues at CSIS, through its Strategic Energy Initiative, argue that such moves today ought not cause a Russian backlash, because Russia receives most of its oil and natural gas from the Urals-Volga region and Siberia. Thus, a plot has been hatched by British asset Brzezinski and his Anglo-American oligarchical faction, to grab this region, while Russia remains enmired in a "time of troubles."

### Brzezinski on U.S. supremacy

In *The Grand Chessboard*, Brzezinski asserts that the United States is today the supreme superpower, on a scale

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1. For more on Brzezinski's geopolitical lunacy see Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., "Mad Brzezinski's Chessboard," *EIR*, April 2, 1999; Scott Thompson, "A Lexicon of 'Brzezinskisms': Brzezinski Testifies Against Himself," *EIR*, April 9, 1999; Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., "Brzezinski's Role in the Nuclear-War Potential," *EIR*, Sept. 10, 1999; and, Scott Thompson, "An Oily Family: The Brzezinskis and the 'Great Game' in Transcaucasia," *EIR*, Sept. 10, 1999.