

The new NATO and the new KLA are gunning for another Kosovo war

by Umberto Pascali

The same international oligarchical group that, last year, launched the “new NATO” with two and a half months of bombings in Kosovo, Serbia, and Montenegro, is dead set to go for a new war in the Balkans. Step by step, all the chess-pieces for the war are being set up, from the deployment of a “new” Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) inside Serbia; to escalating provocations inside Kosovo; to the disregard of the UN Security Council Resolution 1244, which mandated the administration of Kosovo; to the NATO decision that “we cannot deal with Serbia” because Slobodan Milosevic is a war criminal, which thereby renders void any cease-fire agreement with Belgrade. And finally, NATO announced that it would conduct military maneuvers inside Kosovo—Dynamic Response 2000—on March 19-April 10, which UN Security Council members China and Russia have denounced as illegal, as have several experts in international law.

The immediate cause of this war danger is not Milosevic, but the Kosovo Liberation Army, the very organization that was sponsored by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Britain’s Prime Minister Tony Blair, and NATO Supreme Commander for Europe U.S. Gen. Wesley Clark. The new KLA, which has been reincarnated as the “Army for the Liberation of Presevo, Medveda and Bujanovac,” has been carrying out bombings and assassinations in this region of western Serbia, as well as murdering moderate Albanians, exactly as it did two years ago in Kosovo. Now, as then, the KLA intends to provoke a reaction from the Serbian police, which then provides NATO with a *casus belli*. At this point, the situation is considered out of control. But who pushed the new KLA to set into motion this deadly scenario? Who allowed the KLA to propel the situation “out of control,” and bring the Balkans to the brink of a wider war? These are the questions we will try to answer here.

The Brzezinski gang

The chief ideologue for the oligarchical grouping behind the war is Zbigniew Brzezinski, formerly Jimmy Carter’s U.S. National Security Adviser, and its most rabid spokesman is Brzezinski’s protégé Madeleine Albright. She, along with her alter ego, General Clark, pushed hardest for the war in Kosovo, one year ago. It was Albright who “invented” the young chieftain of the Kosovo Liberation Army, Hashim Thaci, whom she imposed as unelected leader of Kosovo,

against the will of the large majority of Kosovo Albanians. It was Albright who supported Thaci’s march to power, a path littered with intimidation and threats—even suspected elimination—directed against any competing leader, and covered up the stench of organized crime and drug trafficking that characterizes his career.

Tony Blair and his fellow British geopoliticians—for whom globalization is the means to reestablish a worldwide empire—are rightly seen as the prime movers of the war in Kosovo and the establishment of a “NATO protectorate” as a model. But, it is equally true that the British military apparatus could never have undertaken its adventure without the willing participation of the diplomatic, military, intelligence, and political machine of the United States of America. As *EIR* has documented, Al Gore, Albright, and other members of the Principals’ Committee took advantage of the weakening of President Clinton by his impeachment, to seize the initiative in this and other crucial domains of foreign policy.

The United States deployed most of the planes used in the bombing, and it was the determination of the United States that prevented the creation of a broad coalition, including most of the European NATO countries, Russia, China, and most of the Third World, that would have choked off Blair’s war drive. But, in the period leading to the beginning of the bombing on March 24, 1999, and, especially in the purposely failed Rambouillet “negotiations” earlier that month, U.S. policy was voiced through Albright and Clark; and the war was the result. Albright and Clark protected and cultivated the KLA, as much as, if not more, than the British. It was they who engaged in intimidation and diatribes not only against Russia and China, but against U.S. allies who considered the war provocations dangerous and insane.

War according to Wesley Clark

Apparently, the “Brzezinski gang” is angry that not everyone in the leadership of the NATO countries agrees with their policy. General Clark, while working for the buildup toward a new war, has gone repeatedly on record claiming that he was victimized by the “politicians,” after he “won the war” last year. Clark says he is incensed that his NATO job, whose term expires in June, was not automatically renewed. In an interview with the April issue of *Talk* magazine, Clark complained that in 1999, he wanted an immediate, all-out war



Gen. Wesley Clark, NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe. Clark is blaming the “politicians” for the current disastrous situation in Kosovo, saying that they should have given him free rein in last year’s Yugoslav war. He wants to unleash a new war now, to consolidate the “new NATO” strategic lunacy.

against Yugoslavia, despite the fact that no elected institutions of the NATO member countries had approved the intervention; that such intervention was against NATO’s founding principles; and that the Russians had made clear that they viewed such a war as a threat to them and a grave provocation.

Clark’s version of last year’s events throws light on how the new war is being set up in Kosovo. Reflections by him and others of the “Brzezinski gang,” on “why we were not tougher in Kosovo,” acquire the ominous meaning of “what we are going to do now.”

Clark insisted that ground forces should have been deployed, and allowed to use any means at their disposal. “I wanted a ground option decided on early, and preparation to begin early, that’s what the struggle was all about,” he told *Talk*. “I always believed that we should win 21 to nothing. But there are some who preferred to score 7-6.”

The new war preparations coincided with the March 12 BBC broadcast of the documentary “Moral Combat: NATO at War.” An underlying theme here is that the allies may have been involved in espionage against NATO. The BBC’s promotional for its war propaganda “documentary” stressed that “General Clark was convinced that there was a spy inside the [NATO] organization,” and reported that the program’s producer knew of a classified Pentagon report on a “mole” at NATO headquarters. While not making public the name of the source, BBC carried an attributed interview with Clark, bemoaning the so-called lack of determination in last year’s NATO bombings: “Once you begin to use force, you should use it as decisively as possible, as rapidly as possible.”

Similarly, the U.S. Air Force’s Gen. Michael Short, who led the NATO bombings, said explicitly in an interview

shown on the BBC documentary what the NATO commander kept implicit, pointing his finger at those who prevented the bombings from being tough enough, the “Europeans” and the “civilian leadership.” According to a BBC account of his statement: “European politicians prevented him [Short] conducting a classic ‘air campaign’ in which pilots could attack major targets such as bridges, and ministry buildings, during the first stage of the conflict. ‘I don’t think most of our civilian leadership understands air power and how it should be employed.’” Short had previously denounced the French role in NATO, for limiting the targets to be hit during the first 11 days.

Globalization, at any cost

Before analyzing the details of the “war blueprint,” let us point out the “why” for this rush to war in the Balkans, as well as similar war provocations elsewhere. The reason has little to do with the Balkans as such—which has been true for any major war in that martyred area of the world throughout the last century. The rush to war is triggered by the financial oligarchy’s fear of collapse of their already-bankrupt world financial system. And it is now known, even to significant parts of the general public, that the financial system based on the speculative orgies of Wall Street and the City of London, is about to end.

While this realization is leading many countries and institutions to consider dumping the whole system of the International Monetary Fund’s shock therapy, speculative usury, and globalization, the top oligarchical circles are being pushed into a desperate flight forward, with two objectives, which define the character of the “new NATO”:

First: to smash the “enemy,” defined as any force still outside the boundaries of globalization. This means the potential “strategic triangle,” or “survivors’ club,” of China, Russia, and India, and the various “rogue countries” (a neologism created by the Brzezinski gang).

Second (and more crucial): to break any actual or potential resistance emerging from countries and institutions *within* the boundaries of the globalized world. For example, this means to “put on the line” any NATO country that threatens to break ranks.

A two-tier NATO: our allies as our enemies

Evidence of the latter point is widespread. Last year, for example, at the moment of the Kosovo war, Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini dared to use the prerogatives of a leader of a sovereign country, to launch a diplomatic initiative to stop the war, negotiating with other European countries and with Russia. Brzezinski responded immediately, pontificating, in an interview with the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera* published on April 10, 1999, when asked about the Italian diplomatic initiatives, that “some countries are behaving in a despicable way.” He continued: “One who wants to be considered serious, demonstrates that he is so. The Atlantic Alliance will survive without the weak members, while I don’t believe at all that these weak members can survive without the Alliance. . . . If, in moments of crisis, like the present one, these countries do not demonstrate their determination, they cannot expect to be treated as leaders or as important.” He even labeled those NATO political leaders who wanted to find a negotiated solution as characterized by “moral guilt and political cowardice.” So, Foreign Minister Dini wants to negotiate with Belgrade? “Milosevic has lost any rights to Kosovo. His bluff is inspired by the mistakes of the West,” Brzezinski snapped. “Some countries failed the test miserably, . . . other have confirmed their trustworthiness.”

Brzezinski insisted on the concept of a two-tier NATO. Only countries that can be trusted will have access to all the information and decisions; the others will be left as second-class members, that must obey, but will not enjoy the decision-making rights of the “trustworthy countries.” The “trustworthy” category included the United States and Britain, and perhaps Belgium and the Netherlands.

What the Brzezinskiites and their masters find particularly disturbing, is that their nightmarish globalized empire can be not only stopped, but successfully reversed. Lyndon LaRouche’s mobilization for a New Bretton Woods is such a unifying power for peace and development that it hangs over their heads like a Damocles’ sword. If they lose control of their allies and subjects, the whole edifice of their power can collapse in an instant. Therefore, Like the Roman Empire, today’s financial oligarchy deploys war to keep its “allies” in check, and preserve the momentum toward globalization. This is all the more necessary, at the moment when many in Europe are losing their faith in the magic of Wall

Street. Military adventurism and speculative gambling are two sides of the same coin.

The Brzezinskiites are playing for time. They intend to use—and in a sense must use—their military instrument, this strange brand of “privatized” new NATO, as often and as brutally as they can. A new conflict in Kosovo, far from being caused by local factors, is becoming one of the tests that will decide in which direction the world will go.

Clashes among the ‘allies’

Conflicts among the NATO allies are also playing out “on the ground” in Kosovo. One of the worst episodes of violence took place in the mixed Albanian/Serbian town of Kosovska Mitrovica, just inside Kosovo, on March 7. Forty people, including 16 French KFOR personnel (KFOR are the NATO forces deployed in Kosovo), were injured, when elements believed to be close to the KLA launched an attack with guns and grenades. Most astonishing, in an armed face-off, French KFOR troops refused entry to a contingent of British police investigators operating on behalf of the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). On March 8, Deputy Regional Commander for the UN police John Adams exploded: “The French prevented us gaining access to the crime scene until after dark. . . . It is frustrating. . . . KFOR headquarters ordered the French to let my men through their cordon. . . . The order was not complied with for reasons I can only imagine.” France’s Lt. Col. Patrick Chanliau dismissed this fuming, telling reporters: “I don’t know anything about this issue, but if it happened, perhaps there was a good reason.”

On March 9, Adams was brought before Gen. Pierre de Saquis de Sannes, the French KFOR commander in Mitrovica, who demanded a retraction. Adams refused and walked away, according to the report that he gave to the *Times* of London. Within hours, Adams was transferred to the Kosovo capital, Pristina. A spokesman for UNMIK said that Adams “broke the trust of the relationship that was being established between KFOR and UNMIK. One does not bring up one’s problems in such a sensitive situation.”

The Mitrovica confrontation between French and British officers is indicative of far more than a clash of personalities. More and more, both KFOR and UN troops in Kosovo tend to take orders from the military leadership of their own country, rather than from the UN or NATO.

“The dismissal of a British police commander for criticizing French troops’ conduct,” wrote an indignant *Times*, “has exposed widening cracks in the UN Mission in Kosovo.” But, reveals the *Times*, Adams is a member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. The RUC is the British-controlled police force in Northern Ireland, which has been accused of committing brutalities against Irish Catholics, as well as being involved in various political, psychological warfare, and provocateur activities—the kind of “divide and conquer” operations that guarantee London’s control over its colonies. But, the *Times* demurs, Adams “had been sent to Mitrovica because of his experience in policing divided

communities in cooperation with the military.”

The perfidious role of the British goes farther. It is probably one of the most sensitive secrets in Kosovo, that the British have been involved in supporting the KLA-controlled strategy aimed at “cleansing” Kosovo of its non-Albanian population. By contrast, so far, the Kosovo Serbs have perceived the French as a potential defense against the KLA mob attacks. When the Mitrovica attack was launched on March 7, several Serbian civilians took refuge behind a French armored vehicle. Observers familiar with the situation said that this would never have happened with British or American troops.

Mitrovica has been the center of so much violence for one main reason: The town still has a considerable Serb population. In almost every other part of Kosovo, there are only isolated pockets of Serbs, normally around Orthodox monasteries. Reportedly, a very high percentage of Serbs left Kosovo, as many as 300-350,000, after NATO took over in June 1999. Hence, Mitrovica is where the KLA is staging most of its provocations, both in order to complete its ethnic cleansing, and to create an excuse for a second NATO military intervention against Serbia. The Serb civilians are concentrated in the northern part of town, and have established a “walkie-talkie patrol” across the bridge that connects the two parts of Mitrovica.

Until March 15, when the French troops forced their way through this patrol using tear gas, they had effectively accepted what the Serbs consider a rudimentary form of self-defense. By contrast, the British and American position is based on the principle that Kosovo Albanians who want to return to their homes in the northern part of town have the right to do so, and that right must be enforced by KFOR and UNMIK. However, this “principled” position is nowhere in sight when it comes to the Kosovo Serbian civilians, who have been subjected to an unrelenting terror campaign. Furthermore, the NATO- and UN-sponsored Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC)—the “civil protection agency” comprised of ostensibly demobilized KLA troops—wields power in a large part of the province. So, far from being a matter of “principle,” the policy creates continuous, escalating provocations. These provocations, in turn, make for colorful propaganda on the evening television news back home, all the better to justify a new war against the Serbs.

Another incident of “national independence” against the new war drive within NATO was the case of the UNMIK administrator in Mitrovica, Mario Morcone of Italy. A former police chief, Morcone broke with the widespread protection for the KLA that is so strong within the British and American KFOR leadership. On Feb. 23, as violence in Mitrovica was crescendoing, Morcone said in an interview with the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera*: “It is the KLA that is fanning the flames of conflict. . . . Until last Christmas, here, everything was [relatively fine]; the representatives of the two ethnic groups, former Serbian policeman Oliver Ivanovic and Albanian surgeon Bjam Rexhepi, had established a good relationship. We had made agreements on the administration of jus-

tice. . . . We were preparing transportation for Albanian students, who live in the north, to attend school in the south. However, when, in mid-February, a rocket hit a van, killing two Serbs, the crisis was precipitated.”

Morcone continued: “It is the KLA which remains a real military structure, despite the agreements [to dismantle it]. And the head of the Kosovo Protection Corps, which will replace the KLA, goes around Mitrovica with two bodyguards.” Morcone added that KLA leaders supervise drug trafficking and prostitution in the Albanian part of Mitrovica.

Frictions over alleged ‘mole’

The Brzezinski gang responded to the rebellious mood among its allies by deploying its KLA pawns, and having their “plausible denials” at the ready for every provocation. At the same time, they re-launched the debate on the “two-tier NATO,” using the revelations about a “spy.” On March 8, the British media launched a campaign, mostly citing NATO Commander Clark, on the need to defend NATO from Serbian and Russian espionage. The theory was that NATO bombings did not force Belgrade to surrender immediately, because a traitor was passing Milosevic NATO’s military secrets. Clark had requested that the number of personnel who were routinely informed of the bombing plans, be shrunk from 400 to 100. Another allegation had it that the Serbs were able to shoot down an F-117A Stealth fighter over Kosovo, because they had received information about its flight through the Russians.

Official NATO spokesmen denied these allegations, but that doesn’t stop the media. BBC recently insisted: “NATO officials are already asking, why did the Serbs not make use of this information [from the “mole”] to set traps for NATO aircraft. One answer is that they did not want to reveal their knowledge. . . . No conclusive evidence has yet been provided about the existence of the mole. . . . Whatever the truth . . . this is inevitably going to strain U.S.-European relations. Transatlantic ties are not especially warm at present within NATO, with many Americans, both in the Defense Department or on Capitol Hill, deeply skeptical about Europe’s plans to develop a more independent defense capability alongside NATO.”

BBC’s conclusion? “What this spy story will do is to accentuate an already existing view, widely held in Washington, that its European allies are divided into a small number of reliable friends, and some countries who are at best reluctant partners and who, in one case at least [France], may not be wholly trustworthy.”

The new KLA and the war blueprint

Let’s see now how the tactical scenario for the new war has been set up, and how the plan is proceeding.

As noted above, the latest incarnation of the KLA calls itself the “Army for the Liberation of Presevo, Medveda and Bujanovac” (UCPMB), referring to a 480-square-mile area in the southwest corner of Serbia, including the Presevo val-

ley. The area is criss-crossed by a large number of paths, roads, and other kinds of entry-points, putting it outside the control of peacekeeping forces. Since June 1999, when NATO and the KLA took over neighboring Kosovo, about 100,000 ethnic Albanians have lived in the area.

Since November 1999, the KLA (which, remember, Albright and NATO assured us, had been disarmed and dissolved) has more and more frequently crossed the Kosovo border officially controlled by KFOR, into Serbia, to stage bombings, intimidate civilians, assassinate Albanians who are considered too moderate, and launch attacks against the Serbian police. Beginning in 1998, the KLA used precisely this tactic inside Kosovo, provoking retaliations from Serbian police and thus setting the stage for a worldwide campaign calling for NATO bombings against Serbia. Since January-February of this year, there has been an exodus of ethnic Albanians from southwest Serbia into Kosovo and Macedonia, terrorized by the activities of the UCPMB and fearful of a violent reaction by the Serbian police.

Meantime, inside Kosovo, the KLA's UN-sanctioned reincarnation as the Kosovo Protection Corps civilian defense body, supposedly unarmed, but keeping its old structure largely intact, had escalated a campaign of terror against both non-Albanians and any Albanians who were not radical enough. According to rough estimates, about 300-350,000 ethnic Serbs have left Kosovo since NATO took over—an astonishing number, considering the small population of the province.

Protection rackets, prostitution, and drugs

In an as-yet-unpublished UN report presented on Feb. 29 to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, the Kosovo Protection Corps is accused of creating a reign of terror in Kosovo, including alleged “criminal activities, killing, ill-treatment/torture, illegal policing, abuse of authority, intimidation, breaches of political neutrality, and hate speech.”

The 5,000-strong KPC is funded entirely by the United Nations and has been operating under the supervision of UN Special Representative Bernard Kouchner.

The UN report lists a series of criminal incidents starting on Jan. 21, when the KPC was officially established. An entry dated Feb. 11 reads: “Dragash: two members of the KPC and three others were arrested by UN police in connection with the murder of an ethnic Gorani.” Also documented are reports of a political vendetta, such as the case of a man in the town of Pec who had been attacked in print by a KLA leader, and soon thereafter was forcibly taken to KPC headquarters and tortured; or the case of a Muslim considered too close to the Serbs, who was kidnapped and tortured by a KPC team.

The KPC, according to the report, are running protection rackets across Kosovo—in Pristina, Suva Reka, Dragash, Istock, Prizen—demanding contributions from shopkeepers, businessmen, and contractors. One ethnic minority in Vucitrn was subjected to bombings and kidnappings, and after a period of such terror, was finally offered “protection”—for a

Germany's Ruehl rejects 'new NATO' doctrines

Former German Assistant Defense Minister Lothar Ruehl, in a commentary published in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* on March 21, called for reexamination of NATO's “new strategic concepts,” which purport to address a threat posed by “rogue states” and terrorism.

He writes: “The relation among international terrorism, missiles, ABC weapons, and rogue states so far only exists in American strategy laboratories, which are designing hypotheses with their surveys, for the practical use of which they have not presented any logical solutions, to date. Neither the CIA nor the Pentagon has been able to formulate anything going beyond theories.”

No meaningful criteria have been submitted to define a state as a “rogue state,” nor has any light been shed on what is going on in Kosovo, Chechnya, southern Lebanon, or Afghanistan, he continues. There is no coherent enemy image presented; therefore, there can be no coherent strategy of defense, no basis for a meaningful “anti-terrorism doctrine.”

fee. Wherever it can, KPC has enforced the use of their own worthless coupons as payment at gas stations. In the few cases in which NATO has arrested KPC men, KLA-organized teams surround the police stations, and, in some cases, have threatened to kill civilian personnel. In one incident, two KPC members were arrested, only to be released a few day later, after a barrage of death threats and intimidation. UN policemen and international judges have been threatened to the point that two judges decided to abandon their office in Mitrovica.

The KPC is also reportedly running prostitution rings. On Feb. 14, a detailed report accused a high-ranking KPC officer of supervising a forced prostitution racket in a locality close to the KPC training camp in Srbica.

Law enforcement agencies and investigators are now sounding the alarm: Kosovo has become a “drug smuggler's paradise,” supplying up to 40% of the heroin sold in Europe and North America. When NATO took over Kosovo, the drug traffickers based in the province, who have run the “Balkan route” at least since the 1980s, gained complete freedom. An official at NATO headquarters in Brussels told the London *Guardian* of March 13, “Generals do not want to turn their troops into cops . . . they do not want their troops to get shot pursuing black marketeers.” Responsibility for fighting the drug traffic is a “gray area,” said the official.

In a statement to the same newspaper, Marko Nikosic,

the vice-president of the New York International Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association, and, until 1996, the head of the Yugoslav narcotics force, said that Kosovo has become the “Colombia of Europe.” He estimates that the Kosovo mafia is dealing in up to five tons of heroin a month, and the volume is growing exponentially. When NATO took over, the local traffickers were handling only two tons a month. “It’s coming through easier and cheaper. . . . The price is going down and [there could soon be] a heroin boom in western Europe, as there was in the early ’80s.” Danish authorities believe that currently up to 80% of the heroin smuggled into their country comes through Kosovo.

The United States has become entangled with such “freedom fighters” many times before, always under the cynical geopolitical ideology typified by Brzezinski’s “Arc of Crisis.” Such were George Bush’s and Margaret Thatcher’s Nicaraguan Contras and Afghan mujahideen. Backing such narcoterrorist “freedom fighters” as a means of conducting foreign policy has often been sold to Congress, the military, and the public as an “economical” alternative to deploying U.S. forces directly: Let the “local fighters” fight for us, like independent mercenaries. We train them, help supply them with weapons, but then they are on their own, we are not responsible for them—so goes the doctrine of “plausible deniability.”

Once Albright and Blair had allowed the KLA to undermine and destroy the elected leadership of the Kosovo Albanians, that is, the party and the governmental institutions of Ibrahim Rugova, and once they allowed the KLA to impose mafia rule in Kosovo, the course of events was clearly foreseeable. After the devastating 78 days of NATO bombing ended in June 1999, any serious reconstruction effort was forcefully rejected for Kosovo—not to mention for Serbia, Montenegro, or the rest of the Balkan nations; rather, the KLA was given unchecked rein. It is not surprising that the Kosovo Albanians were condemned to a nightmare of fear and rage, whipped up by the fantasies of revenge and a “Greater Albania”—the latter being officially part of KLA doctrine, not much different from Milosevic’s “Greater Serbia.”

Economic devastation

While the drug trade flourishes, the Kosovo economy, under KFOR and UNMIK, no longer exists. There are not even data available on how many people presently live in Kosovo. However many there are, it is known that among the Albanian population, unemployment is between 50 and 75%. For the Serb and Roma population, the percentage increases sharply.

According to the report “UNMIK at Nine Months”: “Infrastructure in the region has suffered heavy damage: Over 120,000 home were seriously damaged [by the NATO bombing], resulting in 400,000 people requiring alternative accommodation. Only 50,000 of the houses damaged were repaired and UNMIK . . . has implemented the largest emergency shelter program in recent history. . . . Most of the people who lost their homes are living with host families.” After admitting



A scene in Pizren, Kosovo after the arrival of international peacekeeping forces in June 1999.

that such an unprecedented effort only meant housing those internally displaced by the war with friends and relatives, rather than a reconstruction effort, the report explains that “significant difficulties were experienced during the extreme winter in the public utilities sector, particularly lengthy power cuts that resulted in lack of water and heating.”

These are the horrible conditions in which the fantasy of the KLA’s “Greater Albania” can flourish. Greater Albania is supposed to include Kosovo, part of Montenegro, Albania proper, at least half of Macedonia, northern Greece, and eastern Serbia. Instead of an economy, a future, the Brzezinski gang gave the people of Kosovo this poisonous illusion. It would mean the certain destabilization of the whole Balkans, engulfing countries into a maelstrom of war, from the Black Sea to Central Europe to Russia.

Countdown to war

By March 15, the situation had reached the point that NATO reversed—at least in public—its previous policy, and launched an emergency operation to set up three additional checkpoints to stop KLA infiltration into Serbia. But the border between Kosovo and Serbia includes six major roads and at least 200 trails. On March 15, in an interview with *USA Today*, Tomas Valasek of the Washington Center for Defense Information, said: “It’s a pretty substantial stretch of land. I don’t think you can close it tight.”

One U.S. news wire stressed: “Reining in Kosovar hardliners may be beyond the capability of a NATO-led military force.” On March 15, *USA Today* headlined an article “U.S. Lacks Manpower to Seal Kosovo Borders,” explaining that “as many as 500 KLA operatives clustered in eight to ten groups are operating [inside Serbia]. They have clashed repeatedly with the Serb police, forcing thousands of ethnic

Albanians to flee to safety in Kosovo. . . . The [KLA] want to provoke the Serbs to violence in the hope that NATO will send troops in.”

Also on March 15, Pentagon officials warned that KFOR could be forced into a military face-off against their old ally, the KLA. U.S. NATO sources also announced that a series of raids had been launched against UCPMB bases on the Serbian border, capturing a large amount of weapons, ammunition, and several hundred uniforms.

Finally, Madeleine Albright had her say, warning sternly that Kosovo Albanians “are in danger of losing our support” if cross-border operations continue. To all appearances, it was a dramatic reversal for Albright, who only a few days earlier had been defending the KLA. But, Albright had just received a report from two officials whom she had sent to Kosovo to talk to KLA leaders: State Department spokesman James Rubin (a “groupie” of the KLA’s Hashim Thaci) and Ambassador Christopher Hill. In 1999, Rubin had represented Albright at the second phase of the Rambouillet talks, whose pre-arranged breakdown paved the way for the NATO bombings to begin in late March.

Looking at the official aim of their mission, it was a total failure. Thaci responded to requests to call off the armed raids inside Serbia, with patronizing sarcasm: Rubin is “a friend of Kosovo,” he said, and “we accept his statements as advice from a friend.” But he refused to renounce the armed attacks. Nonetheless, Rubin declared that the KLA “does not want a confrontation. They are very careful on this.” He incongruously emphasized: “We are troubled by the lack of responsibility that leaders have taken for what’s going on here. . . . None of the leaders that we all call the leaders of Kosovo, have done enough to change this mind-set and stop these actions. . . . This is a society that has a sense of honor and we tell them what we feel; our commitment has not been fully repaid yet. We hope that will sink in.” Ever clueless, Rubin concluded: “There were very warm and emotional moments. It is very touching when elderly men kiss your hand.”

In the meantime, the KLA is continuing its campaign as scheduled.

UCPMB attacks as NATO watches

Despite the belated shift of Albright’s State Department, the fact remains that the UN, NATO, and the State Department have long been well informed of the escalating KLA violence, and no one lifted a finger to stop it. Rather, Clark, and Albright were engaged in an active campaign denouncing Serbia and the Serbians in Kosovo. On March 5, only few days before meeting his “American friend,” Thaci delivered a violent speech to 20,000 people in Prekaz, while Kosovo Protection Corps personnel were shooting into the air. In what sounded like something close to a call for the final ethnic cleansing, Thaci thundered: “Mitrovica, like all other parts of Kosovo, will be liberated. Kosovo will be ruled by Kosovars.” Meanwhile, the UCPMB was escalating its assaults all over

southwest Serbia, freely crossing the border, often under NATO’s eyes.

The speech at Prekaz marked the second anniversary of an attack on the town by Serbian “anti-terror police,” who killed 50 people. The Serbian crackdown had been the brutal retaliation for a KLA ambush that had killed two Serbian policemen on Feb. 28, 1998. The KLA strategy at the time was to provoke Serbian police to retaliate for KLA actions against Albanian civilians, and then to count on the international reaction to the human rights abuses.

In Prekaz, in 1988, that is exactly what happened.

From that moment on, the KLA began to receive increasing financial support from abroad, especially from Switzerland, the United States, and Germany, to attract more and more recruits. The widespread institutional structure of the elected leader of the Kosovo Albanians, Ibrahim Rugova, was denounced by the KLA, and Rugova’s representatives were systematically intimidated. Western intelligence services received the order to intensively train and supply the KLA. KLA commander Shaban Shala, now one of the heads of the UCPMB guerrillas in Serbia, has revealed that he had established contact earlier with British, American, and Swiss agents in northern Albania, which was then the staging ground for armed attacks into Kosovo. Clearly, the KLA had been given a green light and a time schedule.

Progressively, thanks to people like Tony Blair, Madeleine Albright, and Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), the KLA, heretofore characterized by even the U.S. State Department as a “terrorist organization,” became the proxy of the West, despite an escalating campaign of violence, even against Kosovo Albanian civilians. The strategy of tension worked. The Feb. 28, 1998 KLA ambush that killed two Serbian policemen, started the countdown to the NATO intervention one year later.

In an almost identical repetition of that strategy, on Feb. 26, 2000, a KLA gang penetrated inside Serbia and attacked a Serbian police vehicle with guns and grenades. One Serbian policeman was killed and three seriously injured. One of the assailants was also killed—he was a member of the NATO-sponsored KPC. The night before, bombs were detonated in the Serbian town of Bujanovac. The UCPMB also chose the Prekaz anniversary to repeat another KLA trick from February 1998: releasing interviews to major British and U.S. media. The first one was given to the London *Guardian* from a village somewhere in western Serbia. The reporter, who had interviewed KLA cadres two years earlier, remarked on the “strange sense of *déjà vu*”: “Just like two years ago when the world became aware of the KLA itself . . . the difference was that instead of the KLA badge, they wear new badges saying UCPMB.” Speaking in Swiss French, the “UCPMB commander,” surrounded by half a dozen uniformed men carrying AK-47s, told him: “Our soldiers are from this village and region. It was part of Kosovo originally, but the borders were changed.”

He also said that the UCPMB was formed on Jan. 26, after the Serb police killed two Albanians in the village of Dobrosin. This village, which was abandoned by its Albanian population a few days later, lies on the border with Kosovo, no more than 300 yards from a U.S. Army camp. In other words, the U.S. Army can see, from one minute to the next, everything that happens in this Serbian village. When Belgrade and NATO signed the cease-fire last June, one clause imposed a three-mile "security zone" from the Kosovo border inside Serbia: The Yugoslav Army cannot enter the zone, but police with light weapons are allowed in. The buffer zone is enforced by NATO, and it is here that the UCPMB have set up most of their bases, and are trying to provoke confrontations with the Serb police. In fact, the cease-fire agreement establishes that any violation of the three-mile limit "would be subject to NATO KFOR military action," i.e., a military intervention inside Serbia. There is no definition, however, of what constitutes a "violation," a loophole which provided the KLA its golden opportunity to create a *casus belli*. It appears that some inside NATO may have considered the same possibility: "If atrocities occur in the [three-mile] area, we will go in," Maj. Michael Boehme, information officer at Camp Monteith, the U.S. NATO base at the border with Serbia, declared in late February.

Dobrosin: new KLA, old atrocities

The events surrounding the village of Dobrosin are one of the best illustrations of how the new war is being prepared. From a watchtower on the U.S. Army base, sentries look down on Dobrosin. Armored vehicles and tanks are parked, facing the Serbian border. Dobrosin has become the center for a 150-man KLA formation.

Reportedly, the "troubles" in Dobrosin began when an Albanian named Sefket Hasani returned from Switzerland and created a group around him. Soon he got into an armed confrontation with a Serb policeman, who was going to arrest him as a member of the KLA. Hasani shot the policeman. The people of the village, mostly Albanians, asked Hasani and his followers to leave—no different from what had happened in 1998, in one Kosovo village after another, when the KLA began to emerge. People knew how the provocation-counter provocation works. On Jan. 26, Hasani's gang came back, armed and wearing UCPMB uniforms. One Serbian policeman was shot. Armed attacks began to spread: bombings, attacks against the police, assassinations of ethnic Albanians considered loyal to Serbia.

The nearby town of Bujanovac was the scene of four major bomb explosions, one near the elementary school, two in gypsy neighborhoods (the KLA considers gypsies to be "collaborators"), one near a crowded movie theater. On Feb. 26, the UCPMB assaulted a police van, killing one and wounding three.

On Feb. 29, the UCPMB ambushed a UN vehicle near the Serbian village of Dobracane, inside the three-mile NATO-

enforced security zone. A UN Humanitarian Affairs official was hit by several bullets.

The mayor of Bujanovac told the *Los Angeles Times* of March 4: "The American KFOR troops can do the most to solve this problem, because they are the ones who are controlling the border through which [the KLA] crosses."

However, the problem was not solved, and, as a result, the whole population of Dobrosin has now left. The deserted village continues to be a base for the new KLA.

The townspeople of Dobrosin left hastily, in the early hours of March 4. They already lived in terror of both the KLA and the possible reaction from Serb police. Shortly after midnight, on March 4, the UCPMB fired on a group of Serb policemen; a fierce firefight ensued. Two hours later, the civilian population of Dobrosin entered Kosovo, adding to the statistics of "Albanian exodus from south Serbia."

Dynamic Response 2000

The mayor of Bujanovac expects the armed assaults to increase, especially while the NATO military maneuvers, "Dynamic Response 2000," take place, from March 19 to April 10. The mayor believes that the KLA will use them "as cover." "They are probably going to cause a major incident soon."

The maneuvers were demanded by NATO Commander Clark, and Belgrade considers them illegal. They will coincide with Yugoslav military maneuvers inside Serbia. On March 7, Russian Ambassador to the UN Sergei Lavrov called the NATO maneuvers a "crude violation" of UN Security Council Resolution 1244, which gave the mandate for the administration of Kosovo last June. The mandate granted by the resolution expires next June.

"Such measures, carried out without the agreement of the Yugoslav authorities, are an outright violation of Yugoslav's sovereignty, as stated in the UN resolution," Ambassador Lavrov said. Under these circumstances, when the situation in Kosovo is so tense, such "muscle-flexing" can "destabilize considerably not only the province, but the region as a whole. Such war games, in the light of the events in Mitrovica, will send 'a signal' not to the Yugoslavs, but to extremists in Kosovo who are now the main threat to the peace process." Lavrov also denounced the UN Kosovo administration and KFOR for their attempt to cancel the national sovereignty of Yugoslavia in Kosovo, and to illegally create alternative institutions.

In sum, the region is now more of a powder keg than ever, and a catastrophe looms, unless the policies of the "Brzezinski gang" are swiftly replaced with a program for serious Balkan reconstruction. Such a program, as LaRouche has explained, will only function if it is situated in the context of a New Bretton Woods reorganization of the bankrupt financial system; a global effort for high-technology development of the physical economy; and the political destruction of the London-steered financier oligarchy.