

# Bush-British Loonies Plot New Confrontations

by Our Special Correspondent

Extremist elements within the British-American-Commonwealth transatlantic policy structure, closely linked to the George W. Bush Presidential campaign in the United States and to the highest levels of the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office establishment, have set in motion several new strategic confrontations with Russia, and perhaps with other countries as well. This occurred during the April 28-30 annual gathering of the Washington-based New Atlantic Initiative (NAI), in Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia.

In our April 28 issue, *EIR* published a preview of the Bratislava meeting, documenting the NAI's role, since its establishment in May 1996 in Prague, as an instrument of strategists and politicians associated with former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, to counter the new strategic and economic arrangements promised by development of the Eurasian Land-Bridge. The NAI is, in effect, coordinated out of the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) think-tank in Washington, where the NAI's Executive Director, Jeffrey Gedmin, is stationed. AEI's personnel are, in most cases, close to the Bush-for-President camp, and many of AEI's policies — ultra-“free market,” “free trade,” unrestrained speculation, “expansion of NATO,” and so on — are those of the Bush crowd.

We warned that the NAI meeting “could be a detonator, for very unpleasant things to come,” as it was taking place in the midst of an already-fraught situation in central and eastern Europe. In view of what transpired in Bratislava, this warning should be taken very seriously.

## A NATO ‘Big Bang’

According to an individual tied to the U.S. State Department and to the British Foreign Office who was at the NAI meeting, “A top priority of the conference, was to get Slovakia into NATO. The NAI organizers themselves were quite open about this. After the Slovakian Prime Minister [Mikulas Dzurinda] made his speech receiving us, the formal NAI reply, as was obviously pre-planned, was that we have to make sure, that Slovakia is put on the ‘fast track’ for NATO entry.”

Our source noted that a former senior Foreign Office figure, Dame Pauline Neville-Jones, said that “NATO should be enlarged by a ‘big bang’ approach. That is, instead of stretching out the matter of NATO entry, country by country, and over considerable periods of time, all the relevant countries in Europe should all be brought in, at once, and all together —

including the Baltic states.”

Neville-Jones represents the highest levels of the Foreign Office, and of the Thatcher foreign policy advisory machine. During the mid-1990s, she was Foreign Office Political Director and Deputy Undersecretary of State, and served, during 1993-94, in the government of Thatcher's successor, John Major, as chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee of the Cabinet Office, an extremely important position that coordinates intelligence operations and other official matters. She had had her first big rise during Thatcher's rule, when she was appointed head of the Foreign Office Planning Staff, a post she occupied until 1987. Today, she has a senior position with London's National Westminster Bank; also at a senior level at NatWest, is former Thatcher-Major-era Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd.

Her “big bang” NATO-expansion policy, while not supported by all attendees, was seconded by the NAI organizers, such as John O'Sullivan, NAI founder and Thatcher protégé, who has most recently been with William F. Buckley's *National Review* magazine in Washington. It was also supported by Richard Perle, Reagan-Bush-era Assistant Secretary of Defense and presently an AEI Resident Fellow.

Neville-Jones and her supporters acknowledged that the “big bang” strategy would “enrage the Russians.” But, even though there is “a lot of unease” about Russia, they insisted that, in the end, there is nothing much the Russians could do to counter NATO expansion, since the Russians are, these days, very much “off-balance,” and heavily dependent on “world trade and finance.”

A Russian military strategist warned *EIR* that “this kind of talk is all very dangerous. Russia might be off-balance, but it is militarily a nuclear power, and there is nothing more dangerous, than an off-balance nuclear power. East-West relations are becoming very dangerous, even without direct Western provocations, given the mood of nationalistic resurgence and other factors in Russia. But when these Western provocations of the New Atlantic Initiative crowd are added in, it becomes a really bad thing.”

Neville-Jones et al.'s push for the Baltic nations to be brought into NATO is especially provocative. Russia's relations with the Baltic countries, particularly with Latvia, are rapidly deteriorating. Inside the Clinton Administration, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is known to support the Baltic nations' rapid entry into NATO. Albright's mentor is former U.S. National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, whose son Ian, a senior U.S. Senate staffer, spoke on “The New NATO” at the NAI meet.

As is their usual mode, the British are playing a diplomatic double game. In Bratislava, senior Foreign Office figure Robert Cooper, who is now Prime Minister Tony Blair's foreign policy adviser, was cautious toward Russia, backing off from advising confrontationist policies, and defending Blair's current policy of cultivating relations with Russian President Vladimir Putin.