

its assets, make insufficient provision for “concrete financial support or modernization of the power plants.”

Academician Velikhov called for urgent implementation of plans to develop the nuclear power industry, which requires not only investment, “but various types of government assistance, including supporting legislation.”

On March 30, the first generator of the Rostov Nuclear Plant, in southern Russia, came on line. Begun in the Soviet Union, and then delayed for years, Rostov is the first new nuclear power plant to go into operation in over a decade. For the first time in an even longer period, construction recently began on a new nuclear power plant in Russia. In January, the government announced plans to build 40 new reactors by 2020.

### Rail and Rivers

On March 30, a key link in the biggest infrastructure project to be prioritized so far—first, by the Yevgeni Primakov government in 1998, and now under Putin—was completed. The company BAMtonnelstroy completed construction of the longest tunnel in the former U.S.S.R., the 15.4 kilometer Severomuysk Tunnel of the Baikal-Amur Mainline (BAM). Begun in 1977, the tunnel languished with 2 km to go, from 1991 until Primakov’s decision to finish it. Replacing a 52 km circumvention railroad that crossed a dangerous, 50-meter-high bridge and required extra locomotives for climbing mountains, the Severomuysk Tunnel cheapens BAM travel by a factor of four. Railway Ministry specialists plan for BAM to be a main freight line from Russia’s Far East to Europe, leaving the more southerly Trans-Siberian Railroad for passenger traffic and containerized freight.

It may also be, that in the course of carrying out President Putin’s policy commitment to upgrade economic cooperation within the Eurasian Economic Community (Russian, Belarus, and three Central Asian Republics), one of the great infrastructure blueprints of the Soviet period will come off the shelf. The Moscow daily *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* reported on March 22 from Tashkent, that Uzbekistan’s President Islam Karimov will ask Putin to revive the scheme of turning part of the flow of Siberia’s great rivers southwards, for purposes of developing Central Asia. Karimov comes to Moscow in April.

The Siberian rivers project was shelved by Mikhail Gorbachov’s Soviet regime. It was advocated in January 1994 by then-Chairman of the Russian State Committee on Water Resources, Mikheyev, during discussions about the drying up of the Aral Sea. Today Mikheyev’s committee no longer exists, but the initiative is coming from Uzbekistan—a nation stricken with drought, as is all Central Asia. *Nezavisimaya* reports on the desperate situation of agriculture in Uzbekistan, where the Amu-Darya River (historically the Oxus, flowing into the Aral Sea) has been depleted, and where the drought weather patterns are continuing.

---

## Report from Macedonia

---

# ‘LaRouche: A Story of Knowledge And Courage’

by Umberto Pascali

A small pamphlet carrying this title is circulating these days in Skopje, Macedonia. Copies have been passed from hand to hand and, according to sources, “digested” cover-to-cover by many readers, especially young people. In early April, in the middle of the Macedonian mobilization against the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) armed aggression, when it seemed to many that Macedonia was going to be split apart, the “story of knowledge and courage” surfaced again, becoming for example, the focus of a debate broadcast by Macedonian Radio.

Macedonia having been one of the main casualties of “balkanization” since before such expression entered the political dictionary, and having been treated by the big oligarchic powers as disposable, Macedonians have become painfully aware of the need to “understand the world.” Recently a Macedonian observer told *EIR* that “more and more people here, also in the elite, are beginning to understand that if we want to save our countries from the disaster, we have to do the impossible. We have to contribute in some way, to change the international strategic geometry. Thus the interest in LaRouche—someone who challenged the oligarchic establishment using both his intellectual power and his courage.”

The pamphlet includes such chapters as, “LaRouche: Who Is This Guy?” and “British Geopoliticians Lead the World to a New Barbarism”; “The IMF Destruction of Eastern Europe”; and, “Britain Is Exploding the Middle East.”

### Igniting the Balkans Hot Spots

Although Macedonia succeeded in escaping the first destabilizing assault, and did not become the trigger point for the “Clash of Civilizations,” the present relative calm is only momentary. The operation unchained against the small Balkan country in February/March was not an isolated one. In addition to attempts to activate super-radical groups within the ethnic Albanian communities in Montenegro and northern Greece, the KLA also got a green light for a simultaneous military assault against Serbia.

Also, provocative ultimata were delivered to Croatia, Yugoslavia, and Bosnia to give up the indicted individuals to the War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague, often while ignoring the country’s laws. The Tribunal’s prosecutor Carla del Ponte of

Switzerland, publicly labelled Yugoslavia President Vojislav Kostunica as “a man of the past, while Yugoslavia needs men of the future.”

This pressure reached an explosive point with the U.S. ultimatum by to Yugoslavia, to arrest Slobodan Milosevic by March 31 or lose \$100 million in aid. Even the staunchest enemies of Milosevic found this financial blackmail unacceptable. It almost led to a generalized violent confrontation within Serbia.

Finally, the most volatile hot spot: the withdrawal of a majority of Bosnian Croats from the Bosnian federal institutions. At this point a majority of the ethnic Croat military have abandoned the Bosnia-Herzegovina barracks. A similar process has taken place within the police. Physical confrontations took place when the “International Representative,” Wolfgang Petritsch, ordered the takeover of the Bank of Herzegovina, the financial center for the HDZ party whose representatives have been expelled from federal institutions by Petritsch. At this point, the self-rule Croats in Bosnia have a parallel political, institutional, and military structure to the Bosnian government, with evident implications for revived armed confrontation.

### Lord Owen’s ‘Virus of Ethnic Purity’

The simultaneous emergence of all the Balkans’ potential hot spots, though affected by indigenous factors, was not caused by them. “There is a virus in the Balkans,” said Macedonian Foreign Minister Srgjan Kerim, on April 11. (This was the day before the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell to Skopje for talks with the Macedonian leadership and for a meeting with the foreign ministers of the region.) “A virus which tries to draw borders along ethnic lines and which harbors organized crime.” The reference, above all, was to a widely-publicized “map plan” of Lord Owen, Britain’s former Balkans plenipotentiary.

Where does the malignant virus come from? Macedonia’s President Boris Trajkovski answered the question in a speech at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva on April 10. “The threat that Macedonia faced was coming from outside, imported from [NATO/UN-run] Kosovo. Unfortunately, it expressed the inability of the international community to oppose decisively the malignant concept of establishing ethnically pure territories. Our country faces the most radical type of racism—military racism.”

No informed person had any doubts on who was the target of these rhetorical barbs. All over Southeast Europe, from Bulgaria to Croatia, polemics are raging over the March 13 call by Lord David Owen: “To Secure Balkan Peace: Redraw the Map.” This call, published by the *Wall Street Journal* demanded redrawing the Balkan national borders along ethnic lines. The spokesman of the British oligarchy argued that Kosovo must be left to the “ethnic Albanians,” i.e., at this point the KLA. National sovereignty must be

ignored. That would be the first step for an ethnically pure Greater Albania (which has taken, within British geopolitical engineering, the place of Milosevic’s Greater Serbia), by carving out parts of Macedonia, Montenegro, Greece, Serbia, etc.

### Worst Possible Precedent

Is there an historical precedent? Palestine, says Lord Owen: “I am reminded of the mandate the British had in Palestine and how the 1946 bombing of the British Army headquarters in the King David Hotel in Jerusalem led inexorably to independence for the Jewish people in Palestine. . . . The serious fighting on the Yugoslav and Macedonia borders surrounding Kosovo should be a warning to Washington. It is a demonstration that the Kosovo Albanians are not prepared to acquiesce. What we need today is a Balkans-wide solution, through a present-day equivalent of the 1878 Congress of Berlin, with pre-agreed boundary changes endorsed by the major powers.”

So Kosovo will be taken away from Serbia and then there must be “compensating changes elsewhere.” like the “redrawing of the boundaries of Bosnia-Herzegovina,” to be split into three parts. A “Pandora’s box”? Owen claims “this fear is greatly exaggerated.” It is, of course, almost unbelievable that Lord Owen is advocating that the Balkans adopt what the British did to Palestine as representing a “stable solution” for the Middle East. The *Journal* received immediate and irate responses from its readers. “It was the British penchant for redrawing maps of other peoples’ territories that created the conditions for the most violent century in European history (and elsewhere),” wrote one reader. “One would hope that other examples of lasting peace and prosperity, resulting from British crayon-wielding in Africa, India-Pakistan, Palestine, Bosnia and Kosovo itself, should be enough to give His Lordship cause for a little introspection, before promoting another utterly irresponsible drawing party.”

### The LaRouche Exit Strategy

It was Lord Owen’s wild “redrawing parties” that gave an unmistakable signal to many forces in the Balkans (such as Bosnian Croat leaders, with their actual grievances, and the KLA terrorists) that the moment had come to go for the “stability” of “ethnically pure borders.” Lord Owen’s “Pandora’s box” has in fact been opened, as by the same London circles many times before. The message coming from a U.S. Army War College meeting in February, concerning the need to go for “strong” ethnic borders in the Balkans, wasn’t missed either.

The surprising resistance of Macedonia, and the parallel creation of an informal agreement between the Russian leadership around President Vladimir Putin and several European countries to prevent the immediate tragedy, did cool things

out. The KLA withdrew to their camps in Kosovo, under the nose of NATO. And suddenly, as a Macedonian source told *EIR*, “We got so many friends, everybody says they want to help us—but we know the danger is not over.” On April 9 in Luxemburg, Macedonia and the European Union (EU) signed the Stabilization and Association Agreement, a first step toward EU membership, seen by Macedonia as the ticket toward economic development. Among the clauses of the agreement there is also a special mechanism for “asymmetric” economic exchange, in the sense that Macedonia has great freedom in exporting to Europe (at least during the first years), while maintaining a minimal protectionist ability concerning imports from Europe.

Also interesting is the fact that a new regional peacekeeping force has announced it has ended its training period and could be available to be deployed in Macedonia. The point, many observers noticed, is that this military force is not NATO. Various known as the Multinational Peace Force South-Eastern Europe (MPFSEE), or South Eastern Europe Brigades (SEEBRIG), the force includes contingents from both NATO and non-NATO countries: Greece, Turkey, Albania, Italy, Bulgaria, Romania, and Macedonia. The mandate of the Southern Brigades does not come from NATO, but from the United Nations.

### **And the ‘Putin Plan?’**

Would such a force be consistent with the so-called Putin Plan of strengthening direct relations among the Southeast European countries, without supranational “Big Brothers”? “It is too early for the final verdict,” says a Macedonian source. “However, it could really be a step in the right direction. An agreement among Balkan countries based on the respect of the principle of national sovereignty and inviolability of borders, needs military and economic teeth to be credible.”

At the moment of this writing, the six-nation “Contact Group” on the Balkans has taken a few decisions in Paris, suggesting that the United States has agreed with the European countries and Russia on not letting the situation explode. “But this is not the solution,” says the Macedonian source. “First of all, the KLA is still training, and we expect soon another attack from Kosovo, and maybe from Albania. According to reliable information, they are training teenagers—15-year-old boys. So . . . NATO-controlled Kosovo continues to make armed attacks against our sovereignty. . . . What kind of pressures will be applied on us to accept a partition—to create ethnically pure entities?”

“The solution remains, as far-fetched as it may look, that we, small Macedonia, contribute to help a change in the strategic situation. Starting, in fact, with a new financial system, a New Bretton Woods. We cannot go for anything less than a ‘LaRouche solution.’ We should make sure that more and more people here in Macedonia understand it.”

# Middle East War Is On Fast Forward

by Dean Andromidas

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon’s Middle East war drive has been on fast forward ever since President George W. Bush gave him the green light during their meeting in Washington on March 20. As long as Washington backs Sharon, the very dangerous consensus among the dominant factions in Israel to back Sharon’s war policies, will not be broken. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who had been the architect of the “New Middle East,” has been reduced to a wilting fig leaf for Sharon’s policies.

Since returning from Washington in triumph in March, Sharon has demanded Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat surrender and accept his demands that the Palestinians be satisfied with living in dozens of tiny bantustans, on no more than 40% of the West Bank. It is a position that neither the Palestinians nor the Arab world will accept, and therefore, it is a program for war.

On April 2, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak arrived in Washington with a Jordanian-Egyptian initiative to restart Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. The initiative has received the endorsement of the Palestinians as well as the recently concluded Arab Summit. Sharon flatly rejected it. U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell’s “partial” support reflects no lessening of support for Sharon, but Powell’s desire to win Arab support for increasing pressure on both Iraq and Iran.

### **‘Gesture’ Turned Deadly**

As a “gesture” to the Arabs, Powell ordered the meetings of April 4: one, in Athens, where Foreign Minister Peres and Palestinian Authority Planning Minister Nabil Shaath held talks; the second, in Israel, between the top Palestinian and Israeli security chiefs. But Sharon had his soldiers fire at the convoys carrying the Palestinian security officials back from the meeting of security chiefs! Israeli press acknowledged the Israelis did not stop firing until Arafat personally telephoned King Abdullah of Jordan, who in turn telephoned Powell, who in turn telephoned Sharon. Mohammed Dahlan, the Chief of Preventive Security in Gaza and one of the targets of the shooting, charged that the Israelis fired 72 rounds at his car, in what was clearly an assassination attempt, and which seriously wounded one bodyguard.

The very next day, the Israeli Housing Ministry announced the issuance of 700 tenders for new housing units to be built in the West Bank. This was followed within