

# 'Balkan Wars Precede World Wars,' LaRouche Tells Macedonians

by Umberto Pascali

In Macedonia at the beginning of August, sections of *EIR*'s transcript of Lyndon LaRouche's July 24 international webcast on the global economic crash, were being closely read and circulated among high officials and common people alike. The webcast occurred while the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) had been unleashed in the most violent assault to date against the area of Tetovo, immediately northwest of the Macedonian capital, Skopje.

Particular attention was directed to the exchange between LaRouche and the Macedonian-American leader, Nestor Oginar. "It gave us a concrete idea that besides the U.S. of [George W.] Bush and [National Security Adviser] Condoleezza Rice, there is a real America: an America that is ready to defend the principle of national sovereignty, not to help destroy it," was how one Macedonian explained the interest raised in the Balkan nation by the LaRouche initiative.

On July 18, Macedonians denounced the "negotiations" held under the direction of U.S. and European Union envoys, James Pardew and Francois Leotard. "What we have on the table is a document tailored to break up Macedonia," Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski stated. "[It is] a blatant violation of Macedonia's internal affairs." The negotiations between the Macedonian and ethnic Albanian parties (the latter thoroughly intimidated by the guerrilla army of the KLA) were taking place during an official NATO-mediated cease-fire.

But that cease-fire was not respected by the KLA, which continued—undisturbed by NATO—its terrorist actions, and realized a significant territorial gain, using the nearby NATO-controlled Kosovo as its base of operation. The Macedonian Army, on the contrary, had to respect the truce under the—sometimes provocative—pressures of the international envoys. "Terrorist actions are performed with logistical support from so-called Western democracies," Prime Minister Georgievski charged.

## **KLA Obtains NATO Pictures of Targets**

As "reprisal" for the July 18 Macedonian protests, the KLA was unleashed beyond any previous level of ferocity

starting on July 21. The pace of assault reached its most furious point on July 24: The whole area around the main road from Kosovo to the city of Tetovo, was taken over. Macedonia police posts were attacked and substituted with KLA roadblocks. Several towns around Tetovo were simply conquered, the only defense being improvised groups of civilians who defended their villages. Then the frontal attack against Tetovo began. The KLA gangs had the advantage of better and more modern armament and military equipment and, above all, precise intelligence on the targets they intended to hit.

How the KLA has received such information is a "scandal within the scandal" of the general aggression. On June 25, some 400 KLA guerrillas of the 113th UCK Brigade, who had taken over a Skopje suburb and threatened to bomb the capital, had been rescued from the Macedonian Army siege by a U.S. NATO airborne battalion. They had been taken into air-conditioned buses supplied by Vice President Richard Cheney's Halliburton Corporation, and brought, with their weapons and documentation, into an area north of Skopje, to continue their assault against the country. Three days later the German *Hamburger Abendblatt* revealed that there were 17 U.S. "advisers" among that KLA brigade as trainers. "Macedonian Security forces," according to the paper, "claim that 70% of the equipment taken away by the guerrillas had been U.S.-made, to include even the most modern third-generation night vision devices."

According to U.S. military expert David H. Hackworth, "the 17 instructors were members of the high-ticket Rent-a-Soldier outfit called MPRI—Military Professional Resources, Inc.—that operates in the shadow of the Pentagon, and has been hired for operations in former Yugoslavia. The company, headed up by former U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Carl E. Vuono, is filled with former U.S. Army personnel, from generals to senior sergeants. . . . Had General Vuono or another of his [MPRI] compadres such as General Crosbie Saint, picked up the phone and suggested that the 502nd [airborne battalion] be sent to the rescue, that suggestion would have been taken as a virtual command. . . . While Ollie North's Contra boys might not have been

so businesslike—or so blatant—they did establish an unfortunate tradition of hired guns sticking our nation into one minefield after another. Dozens of ex-Army pals are presently working for the ever-expanding MPRI. There are laws on the books that prevent American citizens from serving foreign governments. It's about time Congress did its duty." Hackworth's analysis is shared by a growing number of other sources in the United States and internationally,

On July 31, the German magazine *Der Spiegel* added more shocking details to the picture. "When [the KLA] arrived in Arachinovo, they were in direct satellite connection with the Pentagon." One police official in Skopje told the magazine: "We confiscated weapons whose serial numbers were unequivocally pointing to NATO sources." What's more, the KLA "had also videocassettes of Macedonian military installations which the same police source said could have come only from [NATO] KFOR helicopters."

Just before the publication of *Der Spiegel's* article, the Macedonian government had presented an official protest to NATO against the violation of its air space by U.S., British, and German NATO helicopters. On two separate occasions, helicopters had flown over the residences of the Macedonian Prime Minister and the President "throwing flares in the air," lighting up the whole area as if for better observation and photography.

Many Macedonian leaders reached the conclusion that the country was being set up for a "Serbia treatment," i.e., a NATO attack. Commenting on the State Department order to U.S. "non-essential personnel" to leave Macedonia immediately, the Russian pravda.ru wrote on July 25, "similar measures were taken by Washington on the eve of the NATO military operation against Yugoslavia. On July 25, the Prime Minister's spokesman stated in his behalf: 'It is clear that some Western democrac[ies] that are members of NATO are giving direct and obvious support to the [KLA] aggressor. . . .' The activities of the international community representatives and the paramilitary terrorist formations are well coordinated. We are witnessing a bloody crisis directly controlled by some of the so-called Western democratic countries."

### **In the Meantime, in Tetovo**

This was the situation in Macedonia at the moment of the LaRouche July 24 webcast. Professor Oginar, one of the leaders of the Macedonian diaspora, asked LaRouche, "What can we do, to prevent the Brzezinskis of the world, the Kissingers of the world, the Lord Owens of the world, to play their favorite games of divide-and-rule?"

What Oginar did not know is that a few hours after his exchange with LaRouche, his house would be hit by a swarm of large-caliber shells after midnight, local time, in Tetovo. His elderly sister was woken up by the shots. She crawled on her hands and knees to the basement where she spent a

horrifying night. During the same period a similar attack targetted the house of Oginar's niece in Tetovo. The next morning, Oginar's sister was shocked to find no fewer than 70 shell holes in the house wall where her bedroom lies. The many other houses around lacked any shell damage. Though she had vowed to remain in her house and her town, on July 25, Mrs. Oginar became one of the 40-50,000 refugees that in a few days were "ethnically cleansed" out of the Tetovo area by the KLA. Any adequate intervention by the Macedonian government to defend the population, is frustrated by NATO.

The KLA had made its threats effective in the U.S. as well. Last May 12, Professor Oginar had been the main speaker at a Macedonian rally in Lafayette Square, in Washington, in front of the White House. He invited the Macedonian Americans to join forces with LaRouche and his movement, and asked people to "become bigger," if Macedonia were to be saved. Saving Macedonia, he argued, means to fight for a reform of the financial system worldwide. "Technically [such an alternative is] perfectly applicable," Oginar had told the crowd, "but politically unacceptable for the like of Lord Owen: a reform of the financial system, a New Bretton Woods system as proposed by the economist Lyndon LaRouche. . . . I can tell you that there is an interesting situation shaping up in Europe, whose reverberation can be seen here. A convergence of interests in preventing a new war—in establishing a new and just world order—is pushing together former enemies like Western Europe and Russia, for example. Macedonia is one of the key tests. If we resist and we fight for our sovereignty, if by defending our sovereignty we defend a universal principle, then we can win."

After this speech, the managers of a major Macedonian radio station in Chicago, where Oginar has spoken frequently, were approached by elements connected to the KLA, who made precise threats against the manager and his family's lives, if "Oginar speaks again on your radio." The Professor has not been invited on the air in Chicago since.

### **NATO Cracks**

The present situation in Macedonia could appear desperate. But as Professor Oginar said at the White House rally, the resistance presented by Macedonians is contributing to change the situation. NATO members in Europe are realizing more and more the suicidal potential of the NATO war and provocation strategy. As LaRouche replied to Professor Oginar's question on July 24, "NATO is *not* an alliance among European nations. That ended with the collapse of the Soviet Union. NATO became a tool of an Anglo-American imperium, a bunch of bankers, in New York, and London, and elsewhere, who are trying to run the world, through globalization, looting and destroying; managing by great power politics, the same way the Balkan wars were managed in the past."