

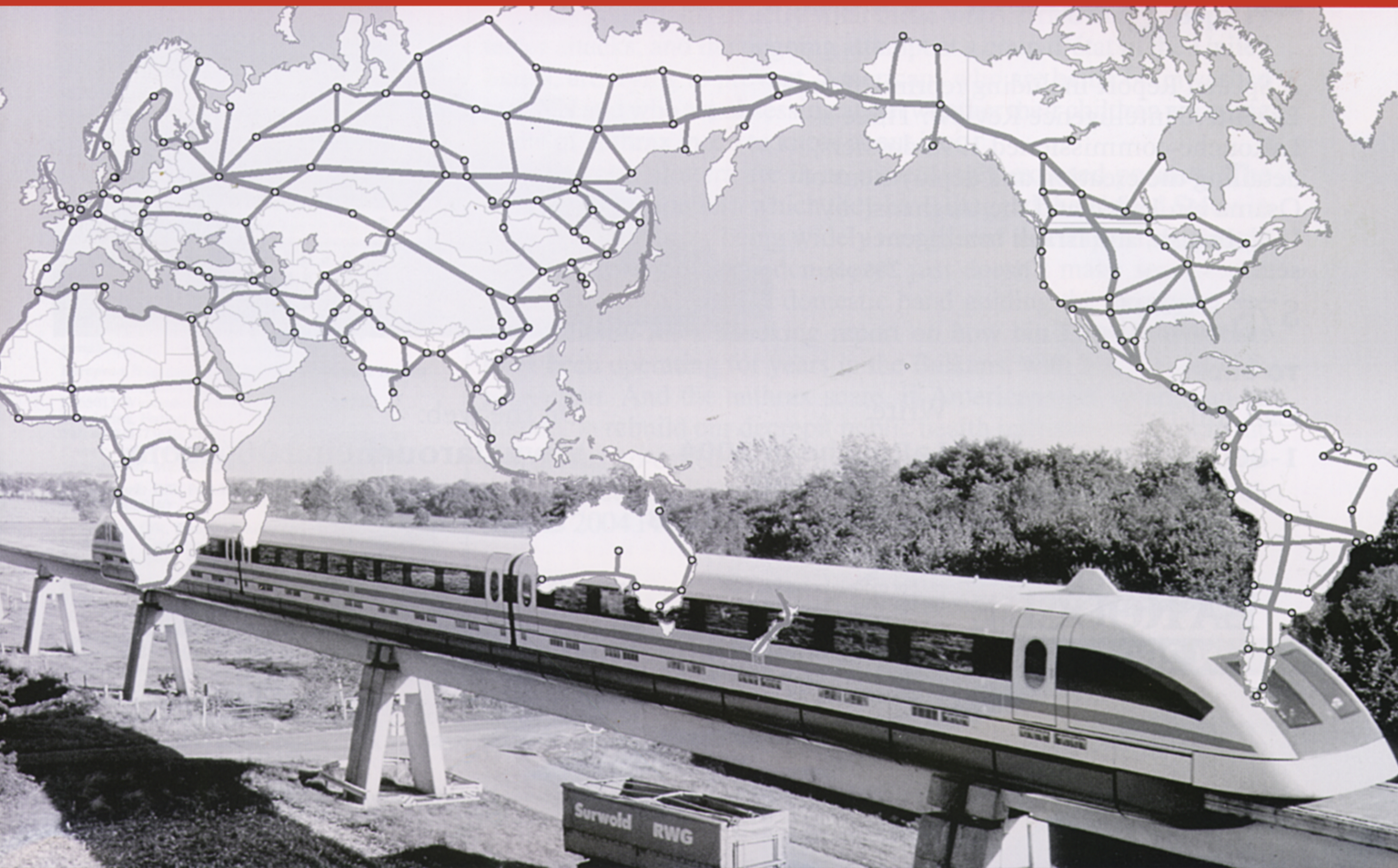
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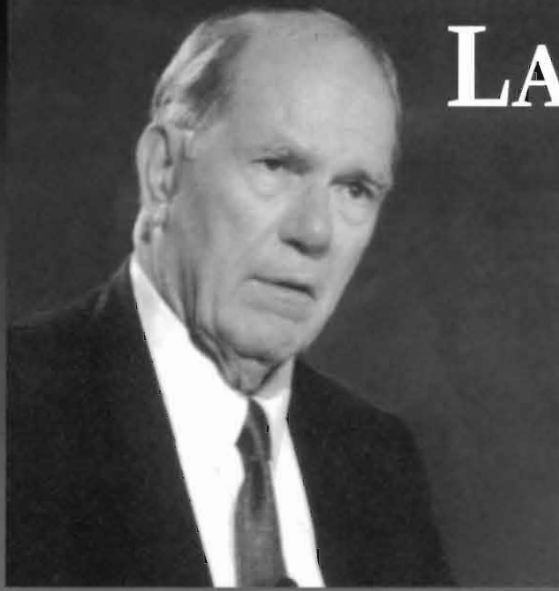
Executive Intelligence Review

November 2, 2001 Vol. 28 No. 42 www.larouchepub.com \$10.00

Putin Asserts Economic Reality At APEC Summit
Did Israeli Military Kill 'General Gandhi'?
Public Health Being Cut Despite Anthrax Scare

Eurasian Land-Bridge: Build Our Way Out Of The Depression





LA ROUCHE for President

'You Have Nothing To Fear As Much As Denial Itself'
Have courage. Stop looking for retribution against those who have proven guilty of no crime. Face up to what you have lacked the courage to face up to now. Then, together, we shall build this nation out of this horrible nightmare.

—Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., Sept. 15, 2001

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*EIR (ISSN 0273-6314) is published weekly (50 issues)
except for the second week of July and the last week of
December, by EIR News Service Inc., 317 Pennsylvania
Ave., S.E., 3rd Floor, Washington, DC 20003. (202)
544-7010. For subscriptions: (703) 777-9451, or toll-
free, 888-EIR-3258.*

*World Wide Web site: <http://www.larouchepub.com>
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0963, 55-46-2597, 55-46-0931, 55-46-0933 y 55-46-2400.

Japan subscription sales: O.T.O. Research Corporation,
Takeuchi Bldg., 1-34-12 Takatanobaba, Shinjuku-Ku, Tokyo
160. Tel: (03) 3208-7821.

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prohibited. Periodicals postage paid at Washington D.C.,
and at an additional mailing offices.
Domestic subscriptions: 3 months—\$125, 6 months—\$225,
1 year—\$396, Single issue—\$10

Postmaster: Send all address changes to *EIR*, P.O. Box
17390, Washington, D.C. 20041-0390.

From the Associate Editor

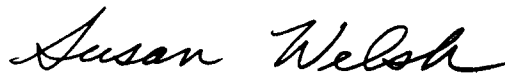
In this troubled world, we are happy to present a *Feature* story of unbridled optimism: Jonathan Tennenbaum's report on the significant progress being made on the construction of the Eurasian Land-Bridge, the great project of the 21st Century.

This cooperative venture among nations was inaugurated by Lyndon LaRouche, in an October 1988 speech in West Berlin; it developed in public and private diplomacy, achieving a breakthrough in May 1996, when the Chinese government sponsored an "International Symposium On Economic Development Of The Regions Along The New Euro-Asia Continental Bridge," with Helga Zepp-LaRouche as a featured speaker. The following year, *EIR* released a Special Report, *The Eurasian Land-Bridge*, which is still circulating far and wide, and has become a kind of "user's manual" for governments committed to realizing this grand vision.

Now we have another breakthrough to report: Russian President Vladimir Putin's speech to the APEC summit on Oct. 19, demonstrates that he is fully on board with the Land-Bridge plan, and has grasped its strategic significance: to revive the world's moribund economies and to prevent the catastrophic "clash of civilizations" to which Anglo-American geopolitical strategists are committed.

This potential is exactly what those who carried out the Sept. 11 terror attacks, and the ongoing attempt at a coup d'état in the United States, are trying to prevent. Americans who are being brainwashed by CNN and who are obsessing about whether their children are going to die of anthrax, need to know about it.

The coup plotters are in an increasingly exposed position. The military operation into which they have dragged the United States in Afghanistan, is now being widely recognized as a trap. Many people suspect that the "bin Laden story" just doesn't make sense—that there had to have been a domestic hand guiding the terrorism. See *International* for a shocking report on how bin Laden's networks have been operating for years in the Balkans, with NATO and U.S. protection. And the anthrax scare, if Americans get smart, can be judoed, to rebuild our decrepit public health infrastructure, scrap the murderous so-called health maintenance organization (HMO) system, and return government to the job of upholding the general welfare, as 2004 Presidential pre-candidate LaRouche is demanding.



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Putin Asserts Economic Reality At APEC Summit

by Michael O. Billington

On Oct. 19, Russian President Vladimir Putin presented an historic speech to 20 heads of state meeting in Shanghai, at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit. Intervening in a process prearranged to be limited to discussions of terrorism and free trade, President Putin instead issued a call for the transformation of the collapsing world economy through vast infrastructure development projects across the Asia-Pacific region. The speech unmistakably reflected the extensive and growing influence of U.S. statesman Lyndon LaRouche in Russian institutions, public and private, over the past decade.

The final communiqué of the APEC Summit, on the other hand, reflected none of the issues raised by President Putin, but rather repeated the now-discredited litany of free trade, open markets, and globalization which have brought the world to a state of global economic collapse and strategic catastrophe. Only in the bilateral meetings and private discussions on the sidelines of the summit were the real issues facing the world today occasionally discussed—and the world can only hope that President George Bush was listening.

President Putin's speech, titled "The Role And Tasks Of Russia In The Asia-Pacific Region In The 21st Century" (major excerpts follow this report), presented an integrated infrastructure development program for Eurasia, centered on energy development and transportation corridors across the continent—an idea widely identified with LaRouche's promotion of the "Eurasian Land-Bridge" as the necessary framework for reviving the moribund world economy, and as the basis for establishing a new monetary system based on real economic development.

Perhaps most important, President Putin directly identified this grand project as a global, not a regional, concept, as the "creation of an additional dimension of strength for the world economy." He concluded the speech: "Russia is con-

scious of itself as an inseparable part of the world economic system, and desires to work together with our partners, to ensure that that system will be more stable, firm, and secure." Reflected here is the point made repeatedly by LaRouche over the past year—that outside of the United States and Great Britain, only Russia among the world's nations has the historic and cultural capacity to assert international leadership, to pose prospective global solutions for the global crisis at hand.

President Putin's speech at APEC is another in a series of strategic interventions into current history by the Russian President over the past month. On Sept. 25, he spoke before the German Bundestag—the first time in history for a Russian President to do so. There Putin "judoed" the war plan being promoted by leading forces in Britain and the United States, to use the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon as justification for a global religious war, sparked by a new war in the Middle East. He told the Germans that he fully supported the effort to crush terrorism, but asserted that Russia will act to prevent the emergence of any "Clash of Civilizations," by insisting on the creation of "a whole complex of political, educational, and economic measures" on a global scale, to alleviate the conditions of economic and social decay. Putin linked this to a declaration of a united Europe, and the end of the Cold War—an unstated but unmistakeable assertion that Russia would not again be played off against the United States by geopolitical gamemasters.

The Program

President Putin's "judo" continued in his speech in Shanghai, with a series of formulations of the type: "Yes, but . . ." Globalization, he said, has benefits, but it must be "guided," so that it does not "become the source of new dangers . . . and new upheavals." We must improve the international trade system, he said, but countries must not be "held hostage to

obligations assumed under outside pressure.” Liberalization of economic regimes is fine, he went on, “but, we are categorically against the extinction of entire national economic sectors in the developing countries and so-called emerging markets.”

Putin outlined the extensive Eurasian intra-regional oil and gas development projects now under way or in the planning stage, and talked about an “Energy Bridge from Russia to Japan, Korea, and China,” including nuclear power projects.

He reiterated Russia’s commitment to be involved in constructing “development corridors” across Eurasia, including rail and road routes from Europe, not only through Northeast Asia, but also through Southeast Asia—an idea that will be well received by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) leaders. Even more dramatic was President Putin’s call for linking the West Coast of the United States with the Northeast provinces of China, through sea and rail routes passing through Russia’s Pacific ports.

On The Sidelines

APEC was built up in the early 1990s by the United States and the Commonwealth countries of Canada, Australia, and New Zealand; it is counter to the effort spearheaded by Malaysia’s Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, to create an Asian-only association, for the discussion of economic and related matters. The formation of the ASEAN-Plus-3 last year—which includes the ten ASEAN nations and China, South Korea, and Japan—finally established such an Asian association, without an Anglo-American presence. The APEC conferences are therefore generally viewed in Asia, as a forum for American and Commonwealth dictates, and the Asians consider the conferences successful only if they prevent any disasters from being foisted upon them.

This conference was no different in regard to the official communiqués, although it is particularly tragic that, with the economy careening out of control, President Bush did not take the opportunity to rise above the psychotic babbling about prosperity, “New Economy,” globalization, sound fundamentals, and so forth, which still dominates leading circles in the West. The strong relationship which has developed between Bush and Putin could have been the basis for the U.S. President to embrace the economic ideas presented in Putin’s speech—a process that would have further highlighted the truth of LaRouche’s forecasts and programs within the United States.

Nonetheless, Putin did hold fruitful bilateral meetings with most of the APEC leadership, where these ideas were discussed. The meeting with Chinese President Jiang Zemin, in particular, further consolidated the strong relationship between those two nations. Both leaders reiterated the importance of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), formed last June in Shanghai, by Russia, China, and four Central Asian Republics. Ironically, the primary focus of the SCO, long before Sept. 11, was to clear the region of the



Russian President Vladimir Putin presented an integrated infrastructure development program for Eurasia, at the APEC summit in Shanghai, China. Here, Putin talks with U.S. President George W. Bush, both in Chinese ceremonial garb, at the summit on Oct. 21. Is Bush listening?

terrorist menace emanating from Afghanistan, which was destabilizing the region and frustrating the kind of regional development programs necessary to end the cycle of poverty and instability.

President Jiang’s official speech at APEC echoed, although in a more restrained tone, the criticisms of globalization contained in President Putin’s speech. He pointed at the two roads which the globalization process could take, and said that the extreme disparities in the current route must be corrected.

The speech of Malaysia’s Dr. Mahathir was less restrained, warning that the world faced a “massive truth deficit” in regard to the issues of globalization. “There is simply too little fact and too much self-serving fiction,” he said. “There are too many who are prepared to tell lies and to bend the truth to push through their sacred cause.” He called for renewing the effort to establish an Asian Monetary Fund, and insisted that the world must “cast off the traditional mindframe of beggar thy neighbor, and put securely in its place the ethic of prosper thy neighbor.”

In the meeting between Putin and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, an arrangement was reached to have government experts consider new methods for solving their territorial dispute, in order finally to sign a World War II peace treaty. Speaking in Shanghai, Koizumi said that with regard to ownership of four Russian-held islands off Japan’s Hokkaido, “There are differences in our positions, but we share the goal of resolving the ownership of the islands and

concluding a peace treaty.” Such an agreement would open the way for Japanese investment in the development of eastern Russia, where Russian resources would more than pay for Japanese technological inputs.

The Terrorism Issue

Unlike most APEC summits, economic issues took second place to the discussions of the U.S. “war against terrorism.” While the preoccupation with terrorism served to divert attention from the issues raised by President Putin, the attempt by those promoting a global religious war, to rally support behind the useless and dangerous escapade in Afghanistan, was not successful. The discussion between President Bush and Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir, as covered by the Malaysian *New Straits Times*, was quite revealing on this issue, and in regard to the intense fight within the U.S. administration over the looming disaster of an Israeli war in the Middle East.

Dr. Mahathir explained to Bush why Malaysia is unable to support the operations against Afghanistan, and insisted on the need to remove the root causes of terrorism, singling out the Palestinian problem as the primary issue. Bush said he understood Malaysia’s disagreement on Afghanistan, and told Dr. Mahathir that, in the Middle East, he has been urging them to settle the conflict on the basis that there should be a

Palestinian state and a Jewish state. “Bush also explained that each time he tries to get them together,” Dr. Mahathir told *New Straits Times*, “someone goes in and spikes the whole thing by assassinating or killing someone, . . . or exploding a bomb or something like that.”

Bush also asked for Dr. Mahathir’s advice in regard to Indonesia, where President Megawati Sukarnoputri, in mid-October, declared against the actions now being taken by the United States in Afghanistan. Her stand, coming after initial silence on the Afghanistan issue, reflected mounting anger in the world’s largest Islamic nation against the bombing attack, among mainstream as well as the more radical Islamists. President Megawati was immediately threatened by members of the U.S. Congress, including a spokesman for Sen. Joseph Biden (D-Del.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, that if she failed to toe the line on Afghanistan, other aspects of the relationship would suffer. Countering such belligerence, Dr. Mahathir responded to President Bush by telling him that “Indonesia needs a strong and credible government which the people should recognize and support.” As with President Putin’s historic speech, it is to be hoped that President Bush is listening.

The special APEC communiqué on terrorism expressed universal support for rooting out terrorism internationally, but said nothing about Afghanistan.

What Depression?

Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. issued this statement on Oct. 24.

Let it be said, on my behalf, that out of compassion for the many precariously balanced minds wandering at large in the U.S.A. and other nations: Stop worrying! There is no recession in progress!

Be at peace. What is in progress, is merely a world-wide economic depression which, much thanks to Alan-the-genius Greenspan, has a disarming resemblance to the German economy of July-November 1923.

As the cartoon on page six of today’s *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* reminds us, the German economy, for one, is coming up in the world. See that cartoon; it tells you all that you need to share with your neighbors.



Chancellor Gerhard Schröder: “Soon we’ll be over the hill, Hans!” Behind him comes Finance Minister Hans Eichel, carrying a sack labelled “Austerity Program.” The newspaper’s headline, accompanying the cartoon, reads, “Schröder: Germany Is Not Facing A Recession.”

Putin At Shanghai: Russia's Eurasian Mission

Russian President Vladimir Putin addressed the Shanghai APEC Forum on Oct. 19, on the topic of "The Role And Tasks Of Russia In The Asia-Pacific Region In The 21st Century." Russian media coverage of the intervention drew out Putin's message about Russia's role in the world, as not only a European, but a Eurasian power. Mikhail Titarenko, Director of the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of the Far East, told the Internet news agency, Strana.ru, on Oct. 16, that Russia's economic strategy should be seen as "developing in parallel, relations with the European Union and APEC."

The excerpts here were translated from the Russian text, posted on President Putin's website. Subheads have been added.

... Of course, we have assembled here to talk about economic problems. But, of course, we have no right to pretend that we are not interested in events in the political domain, the fight against terrorism, and what is happening in the planet's hot spots, including Afghanistan. All of this directly affects the economic situation in the world and the situation in those nations, represented in APEC today. . . .

The 20th Century sharply accelerated the development of technology and information, leading to fundamental changes in the way of life of all mankind. But, despite the improvement of the overall situation in the world during the past ten years, new threats are replacing the old, familiar ones. Hand in hand with international terrorism, come drug trafficking, illegal migration, and illegal trade in weapons. . . .

Stable, sustained development requires that the system of international relations be improved. This system is based on the reliable foundation of international law and its institutions — above all the United Nations, its Security Council, and other international and regional organizations.

The Terms Of Globalization

The fight against terrorism and other new threats should be integrated, and long-term. In this context, we advocate the further liberalization of the world economy, and make what contribution we can to that cause.

Here, it is also time for us all to think about the following, as well: to guide the processes of globalization in such a direction, that the unequal distribution of its benefits and its costs — and we know, that there are not only benefits involved, but also problems — not become the source of new dangers . . .

and new upheavals.

We are for improving the multilateral trade system. But, we are against any countries being held hostage to obligations, assumed under outside pressure.

We are for serious measures to eliminate "the digital divide." But, we are no less concerned about another divide — the one between the real economy and the "virtual" economy, which also is fraught with the danger of new upheavals.

We are for the liberalization of economic regimens. But, we are categorically against the extinction of entire national economic sectors in the developing countries and so-called "emerging markets," leading to the increase of socio-economic and political tensions not only in individual countries, but in areas of the world.

The financing and consulting services, which countries with a so-called "transitional" economy, or countries with so-called "unstable" regimes, receive as assistance, have come at a visible cost, and continue to be costly. We often discuss this with the leadership of various international financial organizations, and with the leadership of some industrially developed countries. There are many reasons for it, not least among which are the formal system of criteria for performance monitoring, used when assistance is extended, and also the striving to gain monopoly control over resources. . . .



The Russian President's speech at Shanghai stood out for its concentration on economic reconstruction in the face of a global crisis, and its specific outlines of the Eurasian Land-Bridge "Great Projects" in which Russia is participating, and is ready to participate. See Figure 2 of our Feature this week, for mapping of the projects on which Putin focussed.

I am convinced that it is here, in the Asia-Pacific Region (APR), where the migration of peoples and races has been observed on a large scale for many years, that there is a huge potential for the creation of an additional dimension of strength for the world economy.

It is here that reserve financial, banking, information, and technological capabilities have already been created; they may not yet have been finalized in the juridical and international context, but they are actually functioning. And therefore, precisely here there are possibilities for creating yet another level of world economic security.

I am convinced that it is here, in the Asia-Pacific Region (APR), where the migration of peoples and races has been observed on a large scale for many years, that there is a huge potential for the creation of an additional dimension of strength for the world economy.

I am absolutely certain that the new century will place on the agenda the question of building a new configuration of the APR—a configuration in energy, in transport, and in technology and information.

The Russian Economy

Together with the other major, and rapidly moving countries of the region, today's Russia, by the very fact and the vector of its development, is opening up to the world, and is opening its enormous business space for productive cooperation. This, in turn, helps to foster the growth of the economic, financial, technological, and information independence of the APR, where almost 40% of the world's population lives, and which provides half the volume of world trade. . . .

Moreover, the Russian economy's rate of development and its unique tax climate will very soon make Russia—or at least ought to make Russia, and we are counting on this—one of the most dynamic strategic resources for the development of the entire APR. . . .

We are actively engaged in restructuring the so-called natural monopolies . . . the largest Russian monopolies. A concept for the restructuring of RAO United Energy Systems, Russia's largest energy company, has been approved. A single rates agency has been created, which will determine the price parameters for the natural monopolies' services.

Last year, Russia's GDP increased by 8.3%, and industrial output by 11.9%. This year, we anticipated 4% GDP growth, but it will actually be in the 5.5-5.8% range.

We have a budget surplus. As you know, we are making payments on our foreign debt regularly, on time, and in full, without any external refinancing. Our country's gold and foreign currency reserves are growing. We have a record grain harvest—such a harvest, I should say, as Russia has not seen for very many years, so that for the first time in several decades, Russia has a real possibility to export.

Projects Under APEC Stress Energy

We expect that the expansion of trade and economic cooperation with foreign partners will also promote the further growth of our economy. In the near future, we intend to become a full-fledged member of the World Trade Organization. We hope that APEC member countries will support us in this.

We see today's APEC forum as a locomotive for our regional cooperation, and we are already carrying out a number of projects in the APEC framework. Next year, we are organizing an investment symposium and a fair in Vladivostok. We shall hold a scientific conference, comparing integration processes in the Asia-Pacific Region and Europe. . . .

The APR's share in world energy consumption is forecast to be 45% by 2020. I believe this is the most conservative estimate. The gap between the region's own fuel reserves and its requirements, will increase. Considering the high growth rate of the economies—look, for example, at the development rate of our hosts, of China, on which we of course congratulate the Chinese leadership and the Chinese people—the region's energy resource requirements will increase. And Russia is prepared to work together with you, ladies and gentlemen, on the problem of providing energy security.

Russia is prepared to promote stability on the energy resources market, for the long term. Our reserves of oil and gas today, in the eastern regions of Russia, allow us not only to satisfy domestic demand, but to export on a large scale.

A month ago, the agreement was signed to construct the 2,400 km “Russia-China” oil pipeline, by the year 2005. It will deliver 20 million tons of Russian oil per year to our neighbor, rising to 30 million tons. Gazprom, our largest natural gas company, will take part in the tender for the “east-west” gas pipeline in China. A project is being drafted for piping natural gas from Irkutsk Province to China and Korea. Sakhalin Island shelf oil and gas projects are being implemented under production-sharing agreements. In the framework of these projects, our Western partners plan to build the world's largest LNG plant, of which virtually all the APEC countries could become consumers. . . .

Energy bridges from Russia to Japan, Korea, and China, could be components of the new energy configuration of the region. In this area, we are also studying joint projects for nuclear reactors based on new technologies, and the naturally secure nuclear fuel cycle, as well as projects for the wider use of alternative energy sources.

Many of these projects I have mentioned, require substan-

tial, if not to say enormous, financial resources for their implementation. Here, it would be desirable to count on interaction not only with the familiar financial centers in Europe and the U.S.A., but also with the Asian banking community. I think that projects in the energy sector, for the next hundred years, at minimum, will suffice for all of us.

The Eurasian Land-Bridge

Another promising area of activity, in which Russia as a Eurasian country could play a special role in APEC, is transport.

The link-up of the Trans-Siberian and Trans-Korean Railroads will make possible a qualitative step forward in the development of the APR's transport system.

Transpolar air routes also have a great future. We intend to modernize the ground-based infrastructure to provide security for flights on these new routes. In connection with the well-known crisis in this sector, what I am saying could be of significant interest for reviving this area.

Russia is also interested in the project to create a transportation corridor, linking the West Coast of the U.S.A. with the northeast provinces of China, through Russia's Far East ports. We are ready to think about taking part in transport projects, for building rail and automobile roads from Northeast and Southeast Asia, to Europe.

The development of the transport system opens up broad access to the very rich natural resources of the Russian Far East and Siberia. We are already taking measures to create the necessary infrastructure for possible joint projects in this area.

Russia intends actively to exploit the capabilities we have in the area of space development. Work in the framework of the International Space Station will continue. During the next four years, we intend to launch ten modern communications satellites with a 12- to 15-year service life, which will not only provide for our domestic requirements for satellite communications, but could be used by foreign customers, including APR countries. In 1999-2000 alone, there were over 30 launches, using Russian rockets, including satellite launches for APEC members Indonesia and Malaysia. With our Australian partners, we are actively working on building a space station on Christmas Island, and the space center "Aurora."

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that we are prepared to develop cooperation with the APR countries along all of the above-mentioned lines, as well as on other projects of mutual interest. We are also prepared to take an active part in formulating new approaches, and a new configuration of the work of APEC as a whole, which would be adequate to the requirements of the world economy. . . .

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U.S. Physical Economy Is In A Free Fall

by Richard Freeman

On Oct. 16, the Federal Reserve Board of Governors reported that its industrial production index fell 1% in September, the 12th consecutive monthly decline. Not since the period of November 1944 to October 1945, had the index declined for 12 straight months. The latest released figures show that the rate of fall was further accelerating through late September and October.

An analysis of the past 12 months shows a deep erosion of the U.S. physical economy, which is far worse than even the Fed's industrial production index would indicate, because its methodology has several fraudulent elements. In parallel, the level of layoffs and unemployment, particularly in the manufacturing sector, is mushrooming, and the volume of U.S. foreign trade is sharply contracting.

Since Jan. 3 of this year, Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan has pumped a flood of funds into the financial system, and has cut the Federal Funds and discount rates nine times, so that the discount rate (at which the Fed lends funds directly to the commercial banks) now stands at 2%, its lowest level since 1958. Never since World War II have interest rates been cut six times in one year.

Greenspan's policy aims to hold up the global speculative financial bubble, which is sucking the physical economy dry. The policy is hyperinflationary and does nothing to address the fundamental problems of the economy. Greenspan's policy mixes incompetence and criminal insanity, under which the financial bubble continues to crater, and the U.S. physical economy is in a free fall. Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche stated on Oct. 24, that thanks to "genius" Greenspan, "what is in progress, is merely a world-wide economic depression, which . . . has a disarming resemblance to the Germany economy of July-November 1923."

Industrial Production Plunges

During the 12-month interval since September 2000, the Fed's industrial production index has fallen by 5.8%. The index is supposed to measure the output of America's factories, mines, and utilities. But within the industrial production index, there is a sharp differentiation: During the 12-month period, the manufacturing production index, which makes up 87.4% of the industrial production (IP) index, fell by a large 6.7%; the mining production index, which makes up 6.7% of the IP index, rose by 1.8%; and the utilities production index, which makes up 5.9% of the IP index, fell by 2.1%. Thus, it is

America's manufacturing base that is primarily coming apart.

However, the performance of the manufacturing sector is far from uniform. There are still portions of manufacturing, exemplified by those connected to the housing industry (which is teetering, but has held up, relatively speaking), whose output has either risen or is essentially flat. These portions of manufacturing which have risen are also still propped up by streams of credit, such as consumer credit.

But within manufacturing, there is a widespread devastation among many of the most critical portions, which shows the true trajectory of the U.S. manufacturing base.

Table 1 shows that the U.S. production plunge is spread out across the board, from capital goods like industrial machinery; to intermediate goods like primary metals (steel, copper, etc.); to consumer goods, like clothing. Most revealing is that during the third quarter of this year, relative to the performance of the second quarter, the tempo of several industries' collapse intensified: Comparing third to second quarter, the production of semiconductors fell by 24.8%; the production of industrial machinery fell by 15.9%; that of textile mill products fell by 16.6%.

But overarching all of this, is the fact that the methodology that the Federal Reserve employs to construct the industrial production index is fraudulent. One such element, is the ludicrous Quality Adjustment Method (QAM), which calculates imputed production increases based on alleged "quality improvements" (see *EIR*, Oct. 27, 2000). Without the Fed's frauds, such as the QAM, the overall fall of the manufacturing production index is likely closer to 9-10% (the fall in the manufacturing sub-indices depicted in the table, would be much bigger). Were the rate of infrastructure collapse factored in, as it should be, then the combined manufacturing and infrastructure collapse would be much larger still.

TABLE 1
U.S. Manufacturing Sectors' Indices Plunge
(% Change, September 2000-September 2001)

Industrial production	-5.8%
Manufacturing production	-6.7
Business equipment	-9.5
Communications equipment	-9.0
Semiconductors and related components	-14.5
Fabricated metals	-8.2
Industrial machinery and equipment	-11.3
Electrical machinery	-10.7
Primary metals	-12.4
Motor vehicles and parts	-10.3
Textile mill products	-13.2
Clothing	-11.6
Furniture and fixtures	-7.5
Home electronics	-19.1

Source: Federal Reserve Board of Governors.



Half a million Americans every week are now filling out unemployment forms, a rate continuing for over a month and still rising as of late October. This is far above the level statistically designated as “recession.”

Unemployment Increases

The more production has collapsed, the more unemployment has grown.

During September, the official number of unemployed reached 7.01 million—the first time it has been risen above 7 million since March 1997, the U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported.

As *EIR* has shown, however, the BLS vastly understates the real level of unemployment.

Within the overall unemployment level, manufacturing unemployment accounts for the lion’s share. Since July 2000, based on employment payrolls, the U.S. manufacturing workforce has lost a staggering 1.105 million jobs. But within manufacturing employment, there are two types of workers: white collar workers (engineers, sales people, clerks, etc.), who work at or for manufacturing facilities; and those workers who are strictly (non-supervisory) *manufacturing production workers*, who alter nature and manufacture goods. Since July 2000, based on employment payrolls, the production manufacturing workforce has lost 986,000 workers. In perspective, production manufacturing company employment has fallen to *the level it reached in 1950!*

Simultaneously, U.S. trade is collapsing.

The U.S. status as “importer of last resort”—taking in the imports from around the world, and at the same time, depending on those imports for its existence—is unravelling.

In August, U.S. physical goods exports, at \$59.46 billion, were 11.8% below their levels in August 2000; and U.S. physical goods imports, at \$93.27 billion, were 10.3% below their levels of August 2000.

The time has come, for the dangerously incompetent policies that have produced the crisis to be scrapped.

Greenspan’s Insanity

But Alan Greenspan, who has steered U.S. credit policy at the Fed for the Anglo-American financier oligarchy since August 1987, would attempt to steer people away from his discredited policy, and blame scapegoats. In this case, it is the Sept. 11 covert strategic attack. In testimony before the Joint Economic Committee of the U.S. Congress, Greenspan stated on Oct. 17:

“Aggregate measures of production, employment, and business spending continued to be weak in August. Consumer spending, however, moved higher that month and appeared to be reasonably well maintained in the first part of September. Industry analysts suggest that motor vehicle sales were running close to August levels, and chain stores sales were only modestly lower. New orders for non-defense capital goods stabilized in August. Moreover, the dramatic rate of decline in profits was slowing. To be sure, these signs were tentative, but on the whole, encouraging.”

But, he claims, “In the days following the attack, the level of activity declined significantly.”

According to Greenspan’s reasoning, Osama bin Laden caused the economy’s downfall.

But consider our earlier comparison of the third to the second quarter, U.S. semiconductor production, which fell by 24.8%, and U.S. machinery production, which fell by 15.9%. These two manufacturing areas, along with many others, were already collapsing by a huge rate prior to Sept 11. From Sept. 11 to the end of September, comprises only one-sixth of the third quarter. Consider further, that U.S. industrial production has fallen for 12 straight months. By a retroactive process, could the events of Sept. 11, 2001, cause U.S. industrial production to begin falling, in October, November, December 2000?

Business Briefs

Transportation

Fairbanks Meet Promotes Alaska-Canada Rail Line

An international conference in Fairbanks, Alaska on Oct. 10-11, supported the construction of an Alaska-Canada rail line, through to the lower 48 U.S. states. The proposed route would run from Fairbanks to Fort Nelson, British Columbia, whence it would connect with rail systems to points south and east.

Conference sponsors included the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce and the Fairbanks Industrial Corp., and it was organized by Rep. Jeannette James, Majority Leader of the Alaska House of Representatives. Among the 50 participants were representatives of mining companies, rail experts, and legislators from Alaska and from Canada's Yukon Territory — who were especially gung-ho. Larry Bagnell, MP of the Yukon Parliament, told the *Fairbanks News-Miner*, "It's a great long-term project. It'll change the face of the world."

Transportation consultant Hal Cooper (see interview, *EIR*, Oct. 19, 2001) addressed the conference on the larger need for rail-based development corridors, and presented a 50-page paper, with detailed maps of new corridor projects under discussion for eastern Asia and North and South America.

Space

Asian Nations Step Up Plans For Cooperation

The China National Space Administration (CNSA) said on Oct. 19 that Asian-Pacific nations are making progress in plans for cooperation in use of space technology for social and economic development, *China Daily* reported. China, Pakistan, Thailand, and South Korea have taken steps to increase space cooperation, increase exchanges, and train and educate people from nations which need assistance in this field.

The Sixth Asia-Pacific Conference on Multilateral Cooperation in Space Technology and Application was held in Beijing in September. Proposals include establishing a

neutral Asia-Pacific astronautics society, a neutral Space Cooperation Consulting Committee, and eventually setting up an Education and Training Center of Asia-Pacific Space Science and Technology, to benefit nations which need space aid, announced Luo Ge, the CNSA official in charge of international cooperation. This would create the Asian counterpart of the European Space Agency.

Health

WHO Warns Of Imminent Tuberculosis Epidemic

The World Health Organization is warning of a sharp increase in new cases of tuberculosis, largely as the result of increasing poverty, shortages of medicine, and the overall breakdown of public health systems, particularly in parts of Asia, the Oct. 20 *Washington Post* reported. The head of the WHO Tuberculosis Strategy, Mario Raviglione, warns that 56% of those newly infected with TB will die from the disease.

In particular, TB in Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan is bad, and threatens to worsen and become a "mass incubator," the Oct. 21 *New York Times* reported. The rate of TB infection was already high in recent years in Pakistan and Afghanistan, with 350,000 people contracting the disease annually. Worldwide, an estimated 8.7 million people developed the disease and 2 million died of it last year.

Singapore

Nation Works To Break Its 'IT' Addiction

Singapore has formed a team headed by Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong to help diversify the economy and reduce the city-state's dependence on information technology and electronics industries, Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said on Oct. 15. Singapore is facing its most severe challenge since independence in 1965, Goh told labor union leaders.

The team will help develop policies to encourage local firms and innovation, as the country shifts from its traditional reliance on foreign investment. "It is a very long-term strategy," said Gene Frieda, head of research at Forecast consulting company. "But the notion of encouraging creativity is a very difficult proposition, which goes beyond just doing everything through money."

Singapore's economy continued to collapse for the seventh straight month in September, recording a 30.7% decline in non-oil domestic exports. Exports to the United States fell 44.5% compared to last year; exports to the European Union, 27.4%, and to Japan, 30.1%. Electronics exports fell 38.9% compared to last year. Exports of integrated circuits posted the biggest fall of 61.1%, followed by personal computers, at 52.2%. An economist at ING Barings commented, "We haven't a clue on how long the recession in the U.S. will be."

The number of Singaporeans visiting psychiatrists has doubled. Dr. Brian Yeo told the Oct. 22 issue of *Singapore Straits Times* that, instead of bonuses, this year "they are wondering when they are going to get the chop." The Institute of Mental Health (IMH) reported the number of its patients had almost doubled since April, while psychiatrists said they had been seeing 20% more people for depression in the last two months. Men, especially 30- to 49-year-olds, i.e., bread-winners, are having the worst time, because "their self-esteem hinges on whether they are employed," said IMH chief executive Kua Ee Heok, who sees two to three new patients a day. The Manpower Ministry said that the number of laid off workers may reach 25,000 this year, higher than the earlier forecast of 20,000. The economy is expected to contract at least 3% this year, compared to a rate of 9.9% growth in 2000.

Energy

Philippines Opens Natural Gas Field

Philippines President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo took part in the launch of the \$4.8 billion Malampaya deep-water, natural gas facility on Oct. 16, the single largest foreign invest-

UN DIRECTOR of Development Analysis Ian Kinniburgh warned of a “devastating impact on the world’s poorer nations” from the global economic collapse. “The first and most fundamental point is that the world economy was already in a state of slowdown” before Sept. 11, he said. Gross World Product is now expected to grow at 1.4% compared to 2.4% before Sept. 11, with international trade to hit zero growth.

THE AIDS EPIDEMIC in South Africa has reached “shattering dimensions,” asserts a report released in October by the South African Medical Research Council. The report warns that 5-7 million South Africans will die of AIDS by 2010, and that already, 40% of all deaths in South Africa are due to AIDS.

BETHLEHEM STEEL Corp., the U.S. third-largest steelmaker, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on Oct. 15, and received a \$450 million loan from General Electric’s GE Capital unit to continue operations while it restructures or until it finds a merger partner or buyer. Bethlehem is the 28th U.S. steel company to seek bankruptcy protection since 1998, including LTV Corp. and Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corp., which have yet to find a merger partner.

SUREBEAM CORP. opened a food irradiation facility in Chicago on Oct. 18, which uses both electron beams and X-rays to process fresh and frozen meats, spices, and other products. The plant will have a capacity of more than 250 million pounds annually. It will use both types of beams simultaneously, thus accommodating products of different size and shape.

METALS DEMAND is having its worst year since the early 1980s. Copper prices are down 25% this year, zinc is down 26%, aluminum is down 18%, and nickel is down 33% over the last 12 months. “Many people still don’t appreciate the severity of the downturn,” said Macquarie Bank analyst Jim Lennon.

ment project ever in the Philippines, the *Philippines Inquirer* reported on Oct. 17. Malampaya is a joint venture between Royal Dutch Shell and the Philippine National Oil Co.

Arroyo described the project as “of historic proportions” in contributing to the country. Arroyo said the project would reduce the country’s annual oil import bill by \$700 million annually, from the current \$3 billion, and that the country would earn \$13 billion in royalties over 20 years. Overall national self-sufficiency in energy supply would rise to 52%. Three power plants in Batangas province—the 500 MW San Lorenzo plant, the 1,200 MW Ilijan plant, and the 1,000 MW Santa Rita plant—started using the gas in early October. The three power plants represent one-quarter of the country’s total power needs.

Arroyo also outlined a number of future projects for the natural gas sector: construction of an onshore pipeline to bring gas from Batangas to Manila, and eventually to Bataan; conversion of certain existing National Power Corp. plants into gas-fired ones; use of compressed natural gas for all public transport in the next two years; and development for non-power uses of small gas fields, which have already been discovered and proven (and are laden with recoverable reserves).

However, the President said the conversion of some power plants could only happen if the Malampaya consortium agreed to lower the price of gas compared to the price stated in the existing sales contract.

Consumer Credit

Overdue Payments Rise Sharply in United States

Nationwide, the percentage of credit-card holders whose bills are 30 days or more overdue, hit 3.93% in the second quarter, up sharply from 2.99% in the first quarter, the highest level since the American Bankers Association began tracking the numbers 21 years ago, the Oct. 22 *Wall Street Journal* reported.

Charge-off rates, where banks write off uncollectible loans, are rising: Capital One saw a charge-off rate of 3.9% in the third

quarter, up from 3.8% a year earlier; MBNA’s rate rose to 4.9% from 3.9% over the same period. Providian’s charge-off rate was 10.33% in the third quarter and is expected to top 12% in the fourth quarter. While many credit-card holders can move their balances from one card to another, Providian specialized in the high-risk borrowers who would have trouble getting credit elsewhere. But, “if they can’t go elsewhere, they’ll default,” said Joel Houck, a credit-card sector analyst for A.G. Edwards brokerage.

The financial sector has been struggling with corporate loan problems for well over a year, but “Providian’s travails underscore fears that consumer credit markets could soon face serious trouble,” the *Journal* said.

Asia

Dramatic Reversal Of Fortune Predicted In Asia

Hong Kong-based Political and Economic Risk Consultancy (PERC) has conducted surveys of expatriate business leaders, both before and after the Sept. 11 attacks, which underscore the prospect for seismic changes in the region. Agence France Presse reported on Oct. 22. The PERC surveys indicated that several of the countries that scored the highest rating for political and social stability before the Sept. 11 attacks, are now perceived as among those most at risk, with Singapore emerging as a key barometer. As PERC put it, the sense of security in these countries “has vaporized.”

The pre-Sept. 11 survey listed the safest countries as Australia, the United States, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. But in the post-Sept. 11 survey, Singapore came in second only to Indonesia as among those most at risk, followed by the Philippines and Malaysia. The demotion of Singapore is largely attributed to the “spill-over effect” of tensions in Indonesia and Malaysia, and the potential for tensions within the city-state between its Chinese and Malay populations.

Ironically, the second poll suggested that the two countries that would be least affected by security concerns are Vietnam and China, relative newcomers to free-trade lunacy.

Eurasian Land-Bridge: Build Our Way Out Of The World Depression

The world is not in recession, but in a deepening economic depression—but an alternative is taking shape, in the form of the building of the “Eurasian Land-Bridge.” Actually a conception of several rail-corridor land-bridges across Eurasia, this idea is giving rise to a large number of “Great Projects” of power, communications, and water management as well. Its guiding idea came ten years ago from Lyndon LaRouche, when the fall of communism opened up the potential for an economic reconstruction drive “from the Atlantic to the Urals,” and at the same time west from China, Southeast Asia, and India. It projects the development of the vast undeveloped and underpopulated areas of central Eurasia—the “inner space of the planet”—as the economic locomotive of recovery from depression for the world as a whole.

Helga Zepp-LaRouche told the Labor Day, 2001 Schiller Institute conference, “It is no longer just a program, but the Eurasian Land-Bridge . . . is shaping up at a very rapid speed.” Land-Bridge construction is already creating infrastructure corridors, and can create “development corridors,” across Eurasia from the Atlantic to the Pacific and Indian Ocean coasts, and potentially over the Bering Strait into North America.

EIR presents here an up-to-date review, written by Jonathan Tennenbaum with maps prepared by John Sigerson, of the Eurasian Land-Bridge as a work in progress. Tennenbaum’s review updates *EIR*’s 1997 Special Report on the Land-Bridge.

Corridors Of Economic Development

Addressing a conference in Germany on May 5, LaRouche explained: “There is a great potential market under the proper conditions in Asia: in China, in India, other countries, which represent the largest portion of the human population. In a great area of particularly Central and North Asia, which is one of the great frontiers of growth of all humanity, an area of tundras and deserts and general underdevelopment. Through the mediation of Russia, which has the peculiarity, historically, of being a Eurasian nation per se, as a result of the aftermath of the Mongol occupation—through that mediation, it is possible for Europe to unite with Russia and nations in Asia to set up a long-term system under which, instead of consumer



Magnetically levitated train lines (inset) best meet the requirements of rail-centered “development corridors.” Shanghai will soon have a maglev rail connection, with technology developed in Germany, to the Shanghai airport, and then to other Chinese cities.

goods markets and investments for these countries, you set up long-term development of the productive powers of labor in these nations.

“So, you’re talking about a generation or more. That means a system of long-term credit issued by those nations which are producing the greater part of the technology, to the nations which need that supplement in order to get out of the mess they’re in. This means a system of long-term credit, interest rates of the order of 1% per annum, simple interest, no compound interest, long-term agreements under which the great markets in South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia, now come into a partnership with Europe, with Russia, with Japan, in order to create a great economic boom with some of the same features used to rebuild Western Europe in the immediate postwar period, through the Marshall Plan and other plans.

“A program for a generation of recovery, a generation of progress, a generation of development. In order to make this work, as has been understood for more than a century, almost a century and a half, the only way this could work, was to develop a system of infrastructural development which would effectively link the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean across Eurasia. This is not railroads, this is not Silk Roads, these are corridors of development, which run a range of, let’s say, up to 100 kilometers in width, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, going in various directions. Along these routes, as we did in the United States with the transcontinental railroad, the area on either side of the transportation axis becomes immediately, in and of itself, a sustainable area of economic development. By that means, you can branch out from the main corridors into subsidiary corridors of development and capture the area.

If we can make that kind of link, one interesting kind of change occurs immediately. . . .

“Take transportation alone. People who don’t think, think that ocean freight is the cheapest way to move freight. That is not true. The cheapest way is across land, but not by truck; trucks running up and down the highway tell you that the economy is being dismantled. It costs too much, it’s intrinsically bad. Railways are much better. Integrated transport systems, featuring railways, especially magnetic levitation systems, are excellent. Magnetic levitation systems move passengers more rapidly, but those same systems for moving freight, that is really a wonder. That’s where the payoff comes. If you can move freight from Rotterdam to Tokyo at an average rate of 300 kilometers per hour, without much stopping along the way, and if for every 100 km of motion across that route, you are generating the creation of wealth through production as a result of the existence of that corridor, then the cost of moving freight from Rotterdam to Tokyo is less than zero. What ocean freight can do that? Did you ever see a large supercargo ship producing wealth while travelling across the ocean? And at what speed?

“Therefore, we have come to a turning point in technology, where the development of the internal land-mass of the world and the great typical frontier is Central and North Asia. That is the greatest single opportunity before all mankind for development. This requires some revolutionary changes in the way we think about things. This means that we would be engaged in the greatest change in the environment in the history of mankind. . . .

“The object would be to bring the United States in to cooperate with that great venture.”

The New Eurasian Land-Bridge Infrastructure Takes Shape

by Jonathan Tennenbaum

The concept of the Eurasian infrastructure corridor, which Lyndon LaRouche has developed, and which has been circulated worldwide in *EIR*'s 1997 Special Report on the Eurasian Land-Bridge,¹ has become more and more a leading topic of international relations. Indicative are the proceedings of the Euro-Asian Transport Conference in St. Petersburg, Russia of Sept. 12-13, 2000, where five main corridors were discussed (Figure 1):

1. The northern corridor, from Europe via the Trans-Siberian Railroad to China, North and South Korea, and Japan.
2. The TRACECA corridor, from Eastern Europe via the Black and Caspian Seas to Central Asia.
3. The central corridor, from southern Europe, via Turkey, Iran, and Central Asia to China.
4. The southern corridor, which runs from southern Europe to Iran, as above, but reaches China via Pakistan, India and Southeast Asia.
5. A new north-south rail-ship corridor, which goes from northern Europe to Russia, crosses the Caspian Sea to Iran, and via Iran's southern ports across the Arabian Sea to India.

The totality of the corridors, with their numerous branches, forms a unified network, providing the foundation for the development of a gigantic economic area of about 4 billion human beings. Over the last three years, in the area of these five main corridors, numerous large-scale transport, energy, and water projects have been launched; numerous additional ones are planned. The infrastructural development of Eurasia is like a gigantic locomotive picking up steam: It moved slowly at the beginning, but has accumulated such momentum, that nothing could stop it — short of the outbreak of large-scale socio-political chaos and war. Unfortunately, the latter is exactly what Anglo-American geopoliticians such as Zbigniew Brzezinski intend to accomplish, by targetting Eurasia for massive destabilization at its most vulnerable points, including South-Central Asia (Afghanistan), the Near East, the Caucasus, the Balkans, etc.

In order to acquire an overview of the development projects of the Eurasian corridors, let us make a tour: From Europe via the Trans-Siberian Railroad into the Far East of the Rus-

sian Federation, to Sakhalin, Korea, and Japan, and then to China. There, after we have looked at some "Projects of the 21st Century," we continue via two corridors to Southeast, South, and Central Asia. The tour then leads back, through Iran and Turkey, to Europe.

Of course, we can present here only a sampling of some of the most important and most interesting projects.

Putin's Trans-Siberian Railroad Policy

A positive turning point in the realization of the Eurasian development corridors occurred in Autumn 2000, when Russia's President Vladimir Putin placed the Trans-Siberian Railroad at the center of his Asian diplomacy. Characteristic of that is a speech that Putin delivered before a group of leading Japanese businessmen. Putin said, among other things:

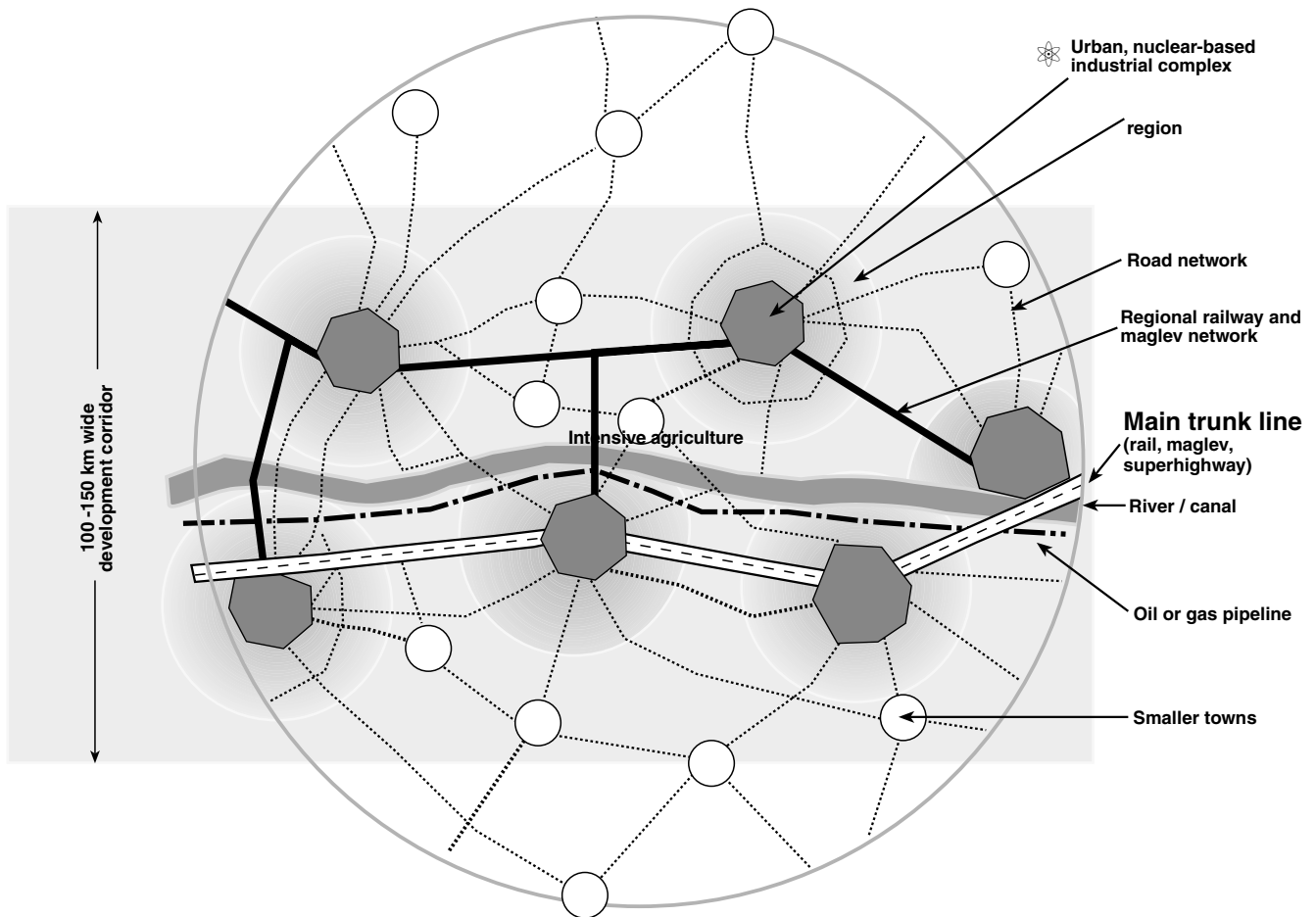
"We can specify more than one reason, that people in the Asia-Pacific area should choose transportation routes over Russia. These routes are shorter, and not a little safer than the roundabout way by sea, as, for example, from Yokohama to Rotterdam. You can transport containers with the Trans-Siberian Railroad to Europe, and they arrive in less than half the time. . . . Perhaps a journey across Siberia would remind many people of the mind-boggling natural wealth of Russia. Siberia has unimaginable natural resources, and Russia has only just begun to really make use of them. We invite our friends from the Asia-Pacific region, to actively participate with us in this undertaking. Just now Russian firms are thinking about new markets for their products, while mining companies are seeking new methods for exploiting the mineral resources more effectively. One proof of this is the elaboration of extensive projects, such as, for example, the creation of an energy bridge between Russia and Japan via Sakhalin, and the construction of natural gas pipelines from the Tomsk Region to West China, and from Irkutsk to East China, and beyond, to North and South Korea."

New Life for the Baikal-Amur Mainline

The Far East of Russia plays a key role for the northern Land-Bridge and Russia's East Asia policy. This territory of about 7 million square kilometers (equivalent to 40% of the surface of Russia, or about two-thirds of the surface of the U.S.A.), has a population of only 8 million people, but possesses vast energy and raw materials resources. Crucial for

1. *The Eurasian Land-Bridge: The "New Silk Road" — Locomotive For Worldwide Economic Development* (Washington, D.C.: EIR News Service, Inc., January 1997).

A Land-Bridge Corridor Of Development



Land-Bridge development, as understood by planners from China to Egypt, envisions more than railroad corridors: “development corridors” will arise, along the lines shown here in EIR’s 1997 Special Report, “The Eurasian Land-Bridge: The ‘New Silk Road’ – Locomotive For Worldwide Economic Development.”

the near future of the Far East of Russia is the fact, that this extraordinarily resource-rich, but extremely population-poor region, lies in geographical proximity to the extraordinarily population-rich and economically rapidly growing, but relatively resource-poor nations of East and Southeast Asia. The Trans-Siberian Railroad and the Baikal-Amur Mainline (BAM) running parallel to it, thus constitute not only the backbone of the northern transportation corridor from East Asia to Europe, but at the same time provide the foundation for opening up the Far East as a resource base for the economic development of China. The Far East of Russia also possesses very considerable scientific-technological capacities, inherited particularly from the military-industrial complex of the Soviet Union.

Precisely the Northern and Far Eastern territories of Russia have, however, been stricken the hardest by the Russian

economic crises of the 1990s. Huge industrial and mining complexes have been virtually abandoned; vital infrastructure facilities, including municipal heating systems in areas of severe cold in Winter, are breaking down; large parts of the population have emigrated or have died out. It is only in the most recent period that the region has begun to experience positive impetus, coming from the overall development of Eurasia, including not least of all the economic boom in China. It is no accident that Viktor Ishayev, the governor of the Far Eastern region of Khabarovsk on the border with China, was at the same time the organizer of the famous “Ishayev Program” of the Russian Federation State Council, for the revival of the Russian economy.² Ishayev has shown

2. “The Ishayev Report: An Economic Mobilization Plan for Russia,” *EIR*, March 2, 2001.

LaRouche On 'The Future Of Brazil's Agriculture'

by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

October 11, 2001

The following report was prepared for an international conference on the subject of "Brazil And The Free Trade Agreement Of The Americas," scheduled to occur in Brazil at the end of October. Mr. LaRouche had been invited to participate in that conference as a commentator on agriculture, but is unable to attend due to security problems related to the planned visit.

The author is an economist and pre-candidate for 2004 election to become President of the U.S.A.

There are four sets of facts which must be introduced first, before any competent statement or proposal could be stated, or adopted, concerning the prospects for agriculture in any part of today's world. These facts define the presently ongoing collapse of the present monetary-financial structures to be of a systemic character.

Fact One: During the second and third quarters of 2001, the world as a whole entered the terminal phase of a general collapse of the world's present, 1971-2001 floating-exchange-rate monetary and financial system.

This collapse is not cyclical; it is systemic. It is not an aberration within a system. There will be no rebound as long as the present system is continued.

This collapse is the inevitable result of the stubbornness with which governments, and other authorities, imposed bad policies upon the world's dominant monetary, financial, and economic systems. Although these trends could be reversed, that would require putting the entire monetary and financial system through government-directed bankruptcy-reorganization, with an accompanying return to the original, highly protectionist Bretton Woods system of the 1945-1965 interval. However, unless such a fundamental change in the system is

made, the presently ongoing, virtually world-wide collapse, will soon reach a point at which it appears to be bottomless. That is the situation we face during the relatively short term ahead.

At the beginning of this year, in an international webcast, I forecast that the remaining quarters of this year would be a disaster. The second and third quarters have been a disaster; without a sudden and sweeping reversal of current policies, the situation by the close of the fourth quarter will be worse. Once those qualifying considerations are taken into account, it is fair to report that we are, at this moment, sliding toward the nearby brink of a global precipice.

As we are about to enter the perilous fourth quarter of this year, we must recognize the recent multi-trillions-U.S. dollars collapse of that John Law-style financial bubble, called the "New Economy." We must see that collapse as merely the most conspicuous feature, until now, of a presently accelerating general collapse of the present global monetary and financial system as a whole.

There can be no competent formulation of policy in agriculture, or any other topical area, which does not acknowledge, and proceed from that primary fact of the world situation as a whole. As the end of the year approaches, the world as a whole, including its agricultural systems, is at the verge of a precipice of change, either a radical change for the better, or the worst.

Fact Two: In describing the current condition of the physical economy of the Americas and Europe, we must recognize the significance of what should have been an obvious, and also crucial difference, between the situation during the last great world-wide depression, in 1929-1933, and that we are experiencing today.

A dozen years after the end of the 1914-1917 war in Europe, a large part of the agricultural and industrial potential



LaRouche was asked to advise Brazil on how to solve its agricultural problems. But, he warns, "any competent discussion of agricultural policy must be based on the presumption, that the 1971-2001 monetary-financial system will be placed under bankruptcy reorganization." Shown here: sugar cane harvesters in Brazil.

of those nations still existed, as either active levels of per-capita physical output, or as potential which could be mobilized during a few years, under the kinds of policy introduced by U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt. Today, more than a generation, more than thirty years, instead of twelve, have passed under the ruinous measures set first set into motion, chiefly by London and the U.S.A., during the 1966-1971 interval. Failure to reverse recent decades' trends in monetary and financial policies, would result in a widespread demographic and related collapse of nations. In that case, what we would experience, would not be an economic depression, but, rather, a dark age. Entire nations and large sections of their populations would disappear, in a pattern similar to Europe's mid-Fourteenth-Century "new dark age."

Therefore, every plan for a recovery from the presently inevitable slide into depression will fail catastrophically, unless it recognizes that the present global catastrophe is not only systemic, but also potentially terminal, unless existing policies are radically reversed now.

Fact Three: During this period, especially since the savagely destructive economic policies of the 1977-1981 U.S. Carter Administration, the agriculture of Europe and the Americas has suffered extremely foolish, and destructive structural changes. Now, the price of survival which nations must pay, is a radical and sudden reversal of the so-called "structural reforms" in composition of investment, regulation, and employment, over more than three decades to date.

Any discussion of agricultural policy, whether bearing on patterns in international trade, or in the Americas, would be

a futile play with words, unless we are prepared to reverse the three sets of catastrophic trends in international and national economic policy which I have just listed. These are admittedly hard words; but, statements which must be accepted, if any fruitful actions are to be discussed and adopted.

Therefore, any competent discussion of agricultural policy must be based on the presumption, that the 1971-2001 monetary-financial system will be placed under bankruptcy reorganization. This reorganization must occur under the supervision of a combination of governments of sovereign nation-states. That new system must be consistent with the relatively successful, post-war monetary and trade system of the pre-1966 period. That is the model to be used for the new global and national monetary and economic systems to be created out of the remains of the hopelessly bankrupt present system. Under

those conditions, certain feasible objectives for reformed agricultural policies become clear.

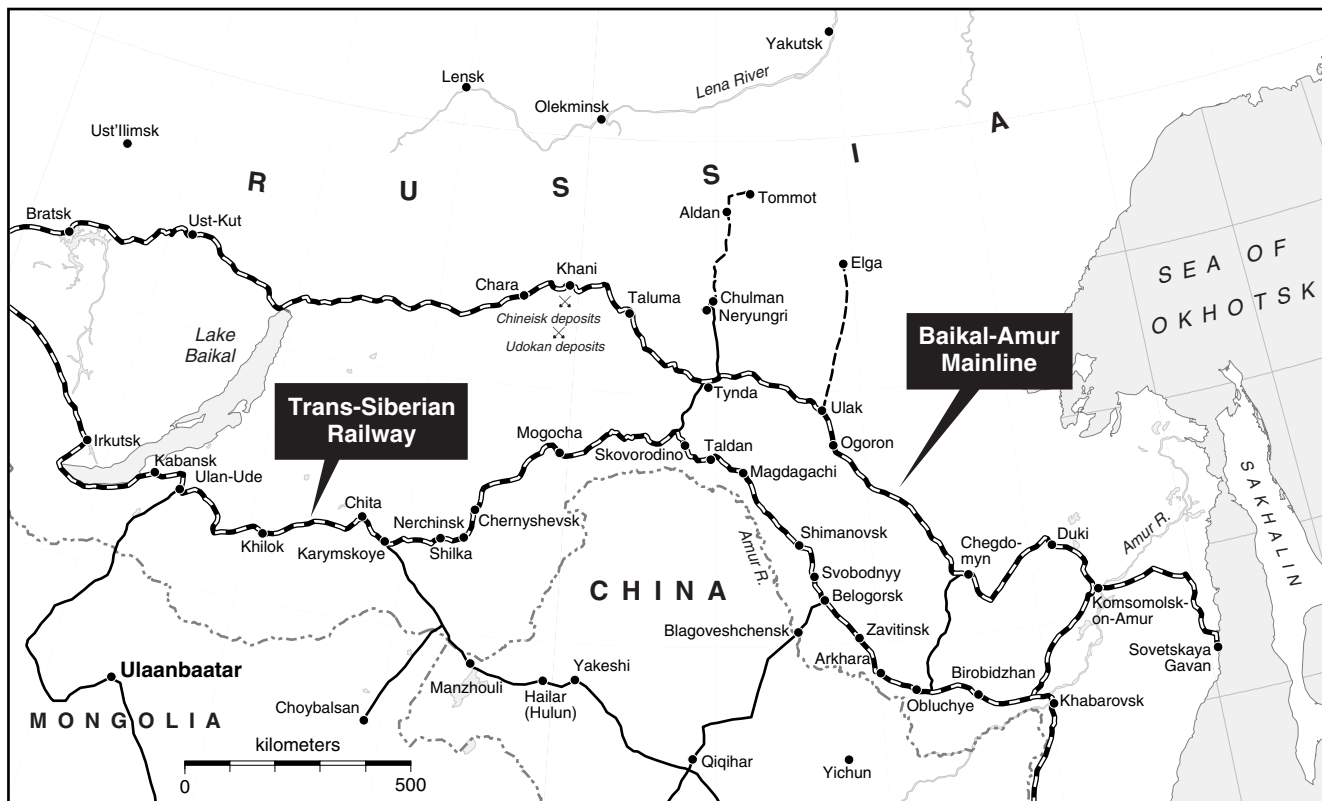
Admittedly, such reforms incur political risk. Since the events of 1789-1815 in Europe, wars and brutal dictatorships, such as that of Napoleon Bonaparte, Napoleon III, Mussolini, and Hitler, have been the hysterical response from ruling oligarchies which would rather destroy the planet, than accept a change in what those oligarchs regard as "our way of life." The lack of the political courage to choose the pathway of reason, rather than abandon a troubled society to such tyrannical reactions from Olympus, has been the chief reason for every catastrophe suffered by the nations of globally extended European civilization.

Fact Four: It must be recognized that most of the widely quoted, actual or merely reputed experts in related matters of finance and economics, have made their careers as propagandists for precisely those policies which have been the principal continuing cause of this crisis.

This crisis is the result of a change, from the successful monetary and economic policies of the 1945-1963 period, to the increasingly disastrous changes which have dominated the world's monetary and economic systems during the 1971-2001 years to date. With some commendable exceptions, most of those presumed experts have lately devoted their energies to defending a continuation of those policies and practices which have caused that disastrous change. The advice given by these experts is an integral, essential part of the axiomatic assumptions which have made the present catastrophe a systemic one. In that sense, they are not the doctor, but the disease.

FIGURE 2

The Baikal-Amur Mainline (BAM)



himself an untiring organizer of Eurasian development. Together with political leaders and industrial managers from Siberia and the Russian Far East, Ishayev has made the regular meeting of the so-called Baikal Forum in Irkutsk, into an important international event. There, one finds representatives from Russia, Japan, China, Europe, and even the United States coming together, to discuss economic cooperation in this huge region.

One can see an interesting — and, for Russia, strategically important — sign of the new development, in the recent report on the revitalization of the famous Baikal-Amur Mainline (Figure 2), which was published in the Russian periodical *Utro*:

“At the beginning of September, the first freight-transport trains with iron, titanium, and vanadium ores from the Chinese deposits left the Chara station of the BAM, bound for the Kuznetsk Metallurgical Combine, there to be worked into high-strength rails for the Ministry of Transport. . . . In July, Transport Minister Aksyonenko had put before Putin some possibilities for the revival of the BAM, whereby, at the same time, the population level [of the adjoining regions] could be stabilized. The Ministry will undertake the building of rail lines extending from the BAM, out to a series of neighboring

raw-materials concentrations (for example, the Chinese titanium and vanadium deposits and the Udokan copper deposits). Thereby the transport volumes of the BAM will increase several times over.”

The report reminds us that the Baikal-Amur Mainline, which unlocks a region of almost unimaginable mineral riches, was originally a project of the Stalin period, and was carried out with forced labor. With Stalin’s death, the work was at first broken off; only much later, under Leonid Brezhnev, was it taken up again as a prestige project for the entire country. The BAM was then completed in the record time of ten years. But shortly after it was ready, came the Soviet and Russian economic crisis. The population of the regions along the railroad fell nearly by half, from 1 million at the beginning of the 1990s to only some 600,000 today.

“It was a great error, simply to forget about this unique stretch of railroad,” continues the report. “But lately, President Putin has personally taken an interest in the fate of the BAM, and characterized it as extremely important for the future of the country.” The article points to a series of new projects which have now been launched along this same rail corridor, that only a few years ago seemed condemned to economic death.

Among others, a new branch line is supposed to be built from the BAM in the direction of Yakutsk, at least as far as Tommot. Especially important is the construction, already begun, of a 320 kilometer-long stretch to the Elga coal deposit. This project must overcome severe climatic conditions (with a median annual temperature of -12°C) and the problems of construction on permafrost, but will make an important contribution to the energy supply of Siberia. This gigantic coal deposit would last for 100 years of intensive use. The Rail Ministry also plans a branch to the Neryungri coal deposit.

The *Utro* report also notes, that the Northeast of Russia possesses roughly one-third of the known gold reserves of the world.

The ‘Iron Silk Road’ And Korean Unification

The historic breakthrough in the year 2000, in the relations between North and South Korea, has opened up a new perspective for Northeast Asia, including the Russian Far East. On the one side, progress toward a future re-unification of Korea has the potential to defuse one of the most dangerous focal points of conflict in Eurasia, and render superfluous the greatest existing concentration of American forces and weapons on the mainland of Eurasia. On the other hand, a decisive, “missing corner” could be added to the Eurasian Land-Bridge network.

It is well known that rebuilding the railway connections between North and South Korea was among the first items of negotiation between the two Koreas. This was justifiably seen as a very real, but at the same time highly symbolic step in the direction of future re-unification. With that step, the way has been cleared for South Korea, a major industrial power which had been turned into “island” by the division of Korea half a century ago, to link up once more directly to the Asian mainland.

Significantly, the leaders of the Koreas and Russia have been talking about the creation of an “Iron Silk Road,” which should result from joining the new Trans-Korea Railroad (TKR) from South Korea to North Korea, to the Trans-Siberian Railroad (TSR), and thereby creating a continuous connection to Europe.

Originally, there were two primary railway connections from the south of the Korean peninsula, across northern Korea, with connections to the Trans-Siberian Railroad, and via the TSR, to Europe (see **Figure 3**): the Kyongwon Line, which went from Seoul on the west coast to Wonsan on the east coast, and northward from there; and the Kyongi Line, which runs along the west coast and connects Seoul to Sinuiju on the northern border of North Korea.

Until World War II, it was not unusual to travel the entire stretch from Seoul to Western Europe. Both trans-Korean lines were completely cut by the 1950-53 Korean War. With the economic misery of North Korea and the political tension between North Korea and China—particularly since the reforms in China and China’s establishment of diplomatic rela-

FIGURE 3
North-South Korea Rail Connections



John Sigerson / EIRNS 2001

tions with South Korea—the railway traffic over the border to China greatly diminished. It is reported that much of the North Korean railway system is today in very bad repair.

Within the framework of the historic, June 2000 reconciliation between the leaders of North and South Korea, it was decided by both sides, to finally rehabilitate the old Kyongi railway line. To that end, a 20 km stretch of railway must be built from Munsan in South Korea, through the demilitarized zone to Pondong-ni in North Korea (the South Koreans have already completely rebuilt the line from Seoul to Munsan), and the connecting lines are to be modernized on the North Korean side. At the same time, Russia wants to work together with North Korea, to restore the long interrupted Kyongwon line which, via Vladivostok, makes the connection with the Trans-Siberian Railway.

Unfortunately, although the South Koreans have completed their side of the most crucial line, the project still seems not to have moved forward on the North Korean side—a circumstance probably linked to the increased tension induced by actions of the Bush Administration in Washington. The Russians, however, continue to push hard for the link-up, using their influence in North Korea; and they appear confident that the project will finally go ahead.

According to the full plans for this project, no fewer than three railway corridors from South Korea to Europe would be created:

1. The TKR-TSR (Trans-Korea/Trans-Siberian Railway): Seoul-(along the Kyongwon line)-Wonsan-Chongjin-Vladivostok-(along the TSR)-Moscow-Berlin. This connection goes directly across the North Korean-Russian border

on the Pacific coast, without having to go through Chinese territory. An alternative branch runs from Chongjin northward over the Chinese border at Tumen, and reaches the Trans-Siberian Railway through Manchuria (length, about 13,050 km overall).

2. The TKR-TCR-TMGR-TSR: Pusan line-(over the Kyongi line)-Pyongyang-Sinuiju-Shenyang-Datong-Erenhot-(over the Trans-Mongolian Railway, TMGR)-Ulaanbaatar-Ulan-Ude (over TSR)-Moscow-Berlin (length, about 11,230 km)

3. The TKR-TCR (Trans-Korea/Trans-China): Pusan line-(over the Kyongi line)-Pyongyang-Sinuiju-Shenyang-Beijing-(over the Second Eurasian Land-Bridge)-Ürümqi-Aktogay-Moscow-Berlin (length, about 11,610 km).

Seen as simply transportation connections, Lines 1, 2, and 3 are in competition with one another; but if they are thought of as *development corridors*, then each one contributes in its own fashion to the growth of the entire area. This point is practically self-evident in Korea itself, since concentrated investment into the corridors along the railroad, presents one of the most efficient means for modernizing the North Korean economy, and laying the economic basis for future re-unification.

At the present time, the construction of the first, TKR-TSR corridor is being driven ahead with great eagerness by Russia, including by President Putin personally. Recall that last Summer, North Korean leader Kim Jong-il, at the invitation of Putin, travelled on a special train the entire length of the Trans-Siberian Railway to Moscow, and back again—a very special sort of state visit! Significant also, was a visit by a delegation of 53 Russians to South Korea in February 2001, headed up by the Deputy Minister of Railways Alexander Tselko. They took part in a conference with the theme, “The Trans-Siberian Land-Bridge In The 21st Century: Perspectives For The Development Of Russian-Korean Relations In The Area Of Railway Transport.” On this occasion, Tselko declared that North Korea had accepted the Russian offer, to train 1,500 North Korean railway engineers in Russia.

Russia also promised to modernize the Wonsan-Rajin-Tumen River line to the North Korean-Russian border, shouldering a significant portion of the estimated \$1 billion cost. There are two kinds of track along this stretch: one with European standard-gauge track, and the other in Russian-gauge track for through-trains.

Restoring the connection between South Korea and Western Europe, via the Trans-Siberian Railway, will drastically increase the economic significance of the Trans-Siberian Corridor. The resulting continuous land route from South Korea to Western Europe will become extremely attractive, relative to the slow, circuitous sea route, for freight transport.

Today’s exports of South Korea to Europe amount to about \$32 billion per year. Of the surface transport volume, amounting to about 800,000 TEUs (standard containers) annually, 30-35% is carried by the Trans-Siberian Railroad, after being shipped from Seoul or Pusan to the TSR terminal

at Vladivostok; whereas practically the entire remaining tonnage is carried the long way around by ship, all the way to Europe.

From the South Korean port of Pusan, to the port of Hamburg (a sea route of 19,200 km), the average delivery time is about 26 days, and costs about \$1,400 per TEU. Compare that with what might be the case once the planned Trans-Korea Railroad is connected to the Trans-Siberian Railway: The transportation time could be shortened to only 8-9 days, and the cost reduced to \$600 per TEU. Moreover, the railway will only be 13,600 km long, or 5,600 km shorter than the sea route. Finally, the vast region along the railroad would be opened up as a market and production area for trade and economic cooperation with Korea.

The Sakhalin Connection To Japan

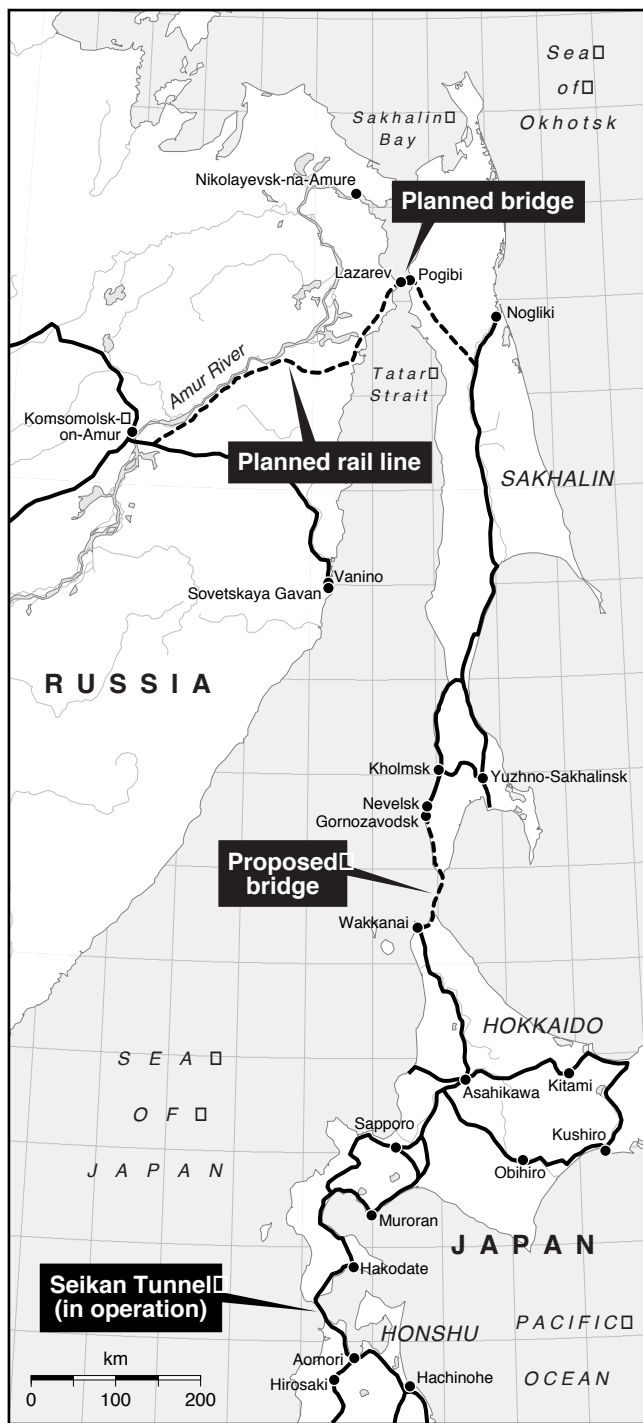
The current large-scale oil and natural gas projects on the island of Sakhalin in the Russian Far East, have awakened new interest in the old plan of connecting Sakhalin by a tunnel or a bridge to the mainland (**Figure 4**). In 1950, under Stalin, work began on making a direct rail connection between Komsomolsk-on-Amur and Sakhalin. The link from the mainland across to the island was to consist of an 8 km tunnel under the Tatar Strait. When Stalin died in 1953, work on both the railway and the tunnel was stopped. Later, in 1973, when Sakhalin had grown into an irreplaceable source of wood, paper, cardboard, fish products, oil, and coal for the entire Far East of the Soviet Union, the sea link from the mainland port of Vanino/Sovetskaya Gavan to Kholmsk on Sakhalin Island, was strengthened by means of large, specially built train-carrying ferries.

But after the discovery of giant offshore gas reserves at Sakhalin, and the imminent large-scale investment into the infrastructure required for oil and gas extraction on the island, the issue of a direct connection to the mainland came up again. A major increase of the transport volume across the Tatar Strait would be difficult to achieve using ferries. Add to that the severe weather conditions and the lengthy periods when the sea is frozen over. With a short land connection in the north, the dependency on awkward and weather-dependent ferry transport would be obviated. Moreover, in the future, Sakhalin will cease to be a mere source of raw materials, and will grow into a significant industrial center in its own right.

After long back and forth, on Sept. 20, 2001, Russia’s Deputy Minister of Railways, Alexander Misharin, announced that his ministry had decided to tackle the project of connecting Sakhalin to the mainland. According to reports, preliminary work will begin already by Winter 2001, on an 8 km bridge between Cape Lazarev on the mainland, and Cape Pogibi on Sakhalin. In conjunction with that, a 450 km rail connection will be built from Cape Lazarev to the city of Komsomolsk. The project will cost a total of about 100 billion rubles (\$3.4 billion). On the Sakhalin side, an additional 130 km of railway line will be built.

FIGURE 4□

Sakhalin Island, Future Bridge□ Between Japan and Eurasia



Misharin remarked that the building of the Sakhalin bridge, would create the preconditions for a much more ambitious project: a 40 km bridge between Sakhalin and the Japa-

nese island of Hokkaido. That would make the main islands of Japan accessible via tunnels and bridges from the Eurasian mainland.

The project of connecting the mainland to Japan via Sakhalin has become a topic of serious discussion between Japan and Russia since Putin’s visit to Japan in September 2001. Japanese interest in this is twofold: first, Sakhalin is an important and nearby source of natural gas and oil, which may serve as a significant alternative to the distant and insecure Near East. Second, Sakhalin constitutes a geographic bridge between the mainland and Japan. The Japanese island of Hokkaido lies, as we said, only about 40 km distant from the southern tip of Sakhalin—a distance which, with today’s technologies, presents no principled obstacle to the construction of a multi-span bridge or a tunnel. Hokkaido is already connected with Honshu, the largest island of Japan, by the 54 km Seikan tunnel, the longest underwater tunnel in the world. According to Russian sources, the Japanese are carrying out technical studies of a future connection from Hokkaido to Sakhalin, which would consist of a combined railway and highway bridge consisting of twenty 2 km spans. A lobbying organization for this project already exists in Japan, made up of engineers, businessmen, and bankers.

A direct connection of Japan, the second-largest economy in the world, to the network of Euro-Asiatic corridors, would be an event of enormous economic and strategic consequence. For the first time, Japan would cease to be an island—perhaps a unique turning point in its cultural history. Moreover, this link-up would greatly enhance Japan’s role in the development of Siberia and Russia’s Far East, as well as East, South, and Central Asia. With the difficult financial and economic crisis of the United States and Japan itself, and the collapse of the “New Economy,” Japan has practically no other choice, but to massively strengthen its economic ties to the Eurasian mainland. That will also bring with it a change in the structure of Japan’s trade: away from the last 20 years’ increasingly one-sided stress on “information technologies” and the outsourcing of Japanese industries to low-wage countries; toward concentrating more on the export of high-technology industrial machinery and equipment, for the in-depth development of the Asian mainland.

On May 29-30 in Moscow, the first “Russian-Japanese Forum” took place, with the participation of 240 Japanese top managers and industrial experts of the famous Keidanren. The Keidanren is the powerful umbrella organization of the Japanese industrial associations. At the end of the forum, the participants split into various groups that travelled throughout Russia, in order to identify new projects for Japanese investment.

This was the first visit of such a Keidanren delegation to Russia in 18 years, and the first time in 25 years, that such a delegation was headed up by the president of the organization. The delegation had been granted unusual plenipotentiary powers by the Japanese Foreign Ministry, to make agree-

ments with the Russians. According to reports, one of the main themes was the further development of Eurasian transport and energy corridors. The Japanese visit goes back to an invitation extended by Putin in September 2000, during his visit to Japan. During a speech to a group of Japanese businessmen, he had said: "I will change Russia. Come and visit us; you will see with your own eyes how Russia is changing."

The First Railway In Tibet

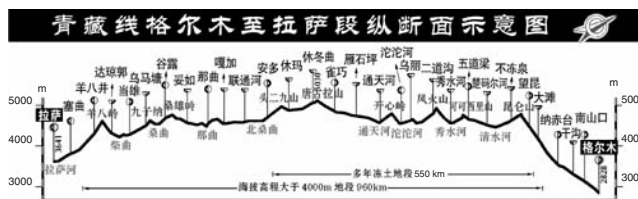
On Feb. 9, 2001, the top national leaders of China, President Jiang Zemin and Prime Minister Zhu Rongji, gave the green light for building the so-called Qinghai-Tibet Railway, which will connect the capital of Tibet, Lhasa, through Xinjiang province, to China's cross-country northwest railway corridor (the latter being part of the Eurasian Land-Bridge). It is hard to overestimate the strategic significance of this project. The gigantic region of Tibet, which for the first time will now be made accessible to modern mass transportation by railway, has been known from time immemorial as the "roof of the world." Here are the watersheds of the main rivers of East and South Asia. Here lies the geographic, ecological, and strategic fulcrum point between East, Southeast, South, and Central Asia.

This explains why the British Empire gave such extraordinary weight to Tibet. Today the Anglo-American oligarchy is continuing the game. Whoever believes that the great support in the West for the Dalai Lama, allegedly because of the "oppression" of Tibet by the Chinese, is a question of "benevolence," is blind to the true history of the "Great Game" for Tibet. That game has as its axiom, that Tibet must remain for all eternity in bitter poverty, underdeveloped, and practically completely isolated from the rest of the world.

The decision to build the rail connection to Tibet, means a devastating blow to that old British policy. Thereby, human civilization will overcome one of the last great natural barriers to its development. The 1,118 km stretch, which is to be finished in six years, will be an engineering wonder of the world. In some respects one might even liken it to America's first Moon landing in 1969. Some 960 km, or 85% of the total length of track, lies at altitudes higher than 4,000 meters, in some places even above 5,000 meters (see **Figure 5a**). The passenger trains will consist of special cars, providing pressurized and/or oxygen-enriched atmospheres for the well-being of the travellers.

The building of this stretch will make very high demands upon the workforce and equipment. About half of the stretch must be built upon permafrost ground, i.e., on ground that is frozen year round. This, in turn, demands special construction techniques and materials. The decision of the Chinese government to build the Tibet Railway within a ten-year plan, in spite of the enormous demands that this will pose, is based upon comprehensive and decades-long investigation which demonstrated its feasibility in unequivocal fashion. Among other things, extensive studies were carried out by Chinese

FIGURE 5a
Elevations of Tibet Railway Across The 'Roof Of The World'



scientists and technicians, starting already in the 1960s, in a special experimental area including a stretch of test track at 4,750 meters altitude.

The new stretch begins in the city of Golmud—a quite isolated place, which was built up in connection with the effort to exploit the petroleum resources in Qinghai (**Figure 5b**). Golmud is the present terminal station of an 816 km-long railway line, which runs from Xining, the capital of Qinghai province, and connects from there to the Second Eurasian Land-Bridge (China's Northwest Railway) at Lanzhou. In 1974, when the work on the Xining-Golmud stretch began, the intention was to build all the way to Tibet. But owing to enormous technical-economic problems and severe weather conditions, the work was stopped in 1984, with Golmud as the farthest point.

Today, 17 years later, China is able to invest much more significant financial and technical resources into the project. By October 2001, the definitive surveying work along the projected line, involving 1,600 surveying engineers, is scheduled to be finished. The first section to be built, 140 km, will go from Golmud to Wangkun. The entire stretch to Lhasa will be financed directly by the Chinese central government, with a total cost of about \$2.4 billion. Later, the plan is to extend the Tibet Railway to Rigze and Linzhi, and from there all the way to Yunnan Province in the south of China.

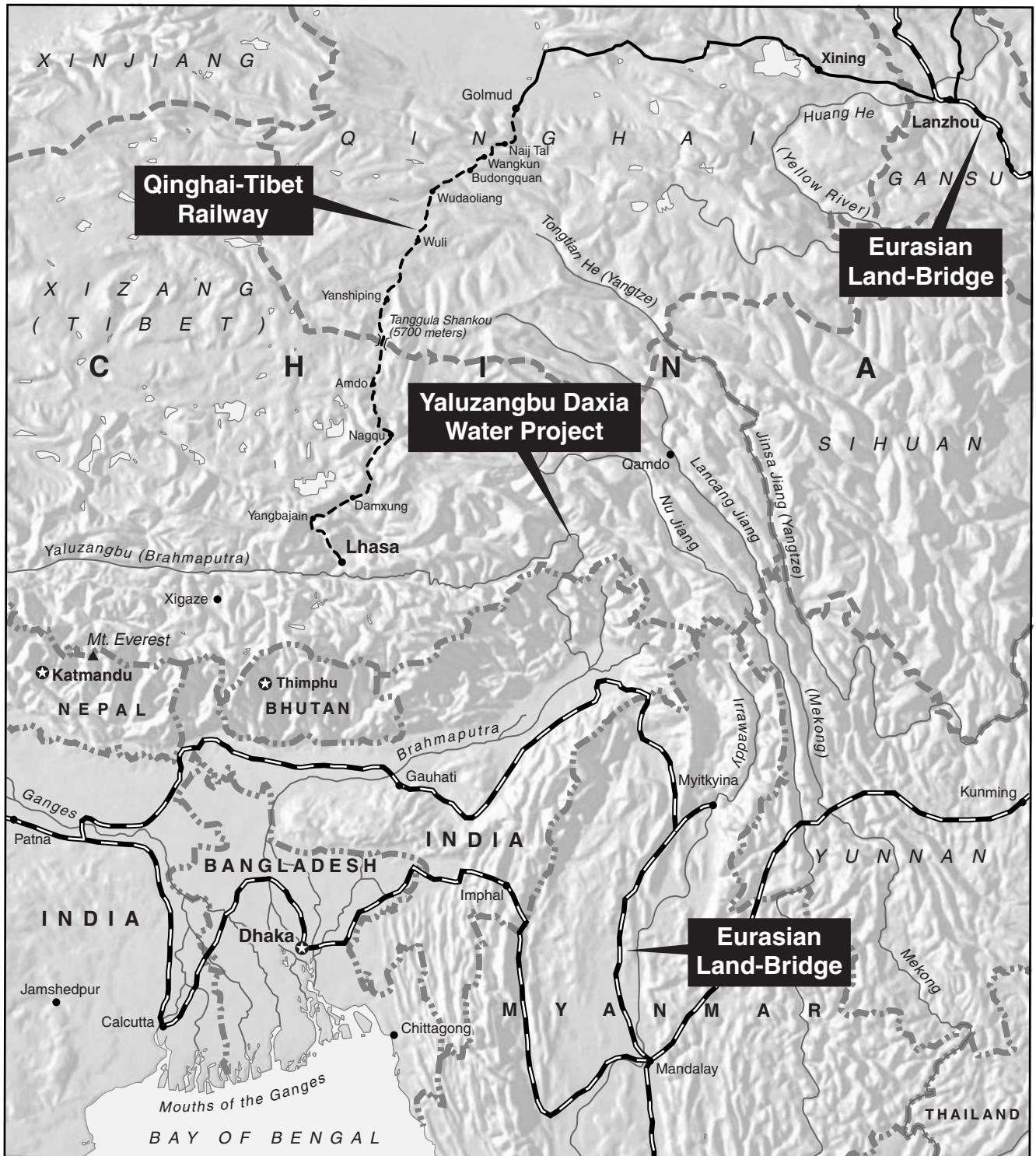
Water Projects On The 'Roof Of The World'

Besides the just-launched Tibet Railway project, a second "Project of the Century" is on the table, which could bring significant benefits not only to China, but also for its neighbors, India, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.

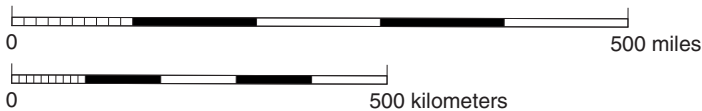
We have already mentioned, that the watersheds of the main rivers of South and East Asia lie close together, in Tibet. That includes the Yellow River and the Yangtze, both of which flow toward East China; the Brahmaputra, which flows south toward Bangladesh; the Mekong, which flows from the Chinese region of Langcang, through Cambodia, Vietnam, and Thailand; and the Irrawaddy, which flows through Myanmar. Of these rivers, the northernmost one, the Yellow River or Huang He, often suffers from insufficient water vol-

FIGURE 5b

Rail and Water Projects In Tibet



John Sigerson / EIRNS 2001



ume; while the other four frequently carry an excess of water, leading occasionally to catastrophic floods.

The obvious thing to do, is to use the geographical proximity of the watersheds, to create a balance between the rivers, by regulating and redistributing the volume of water between them. At the same time, there is a huge untapped potential for production of hydroelectric energy.

One such project has already been researched in detail by China, and could be realized within the framework of international cooperation with neighboring countries. Flowing downward through the mountains of Tibet toward the plains of Bangladesh, the head river of the Brahmaputra, known as the Yaluzangbu River in Tibet, passes through a spectacular Great Canyon, the Yaluzangbu Daxia. At one point, the river makes an abrupt bend while descending a total of over 2 km in altitude. By drilling an approximately 16 km-long tunnel through the mountain separating the upper and lower parts of the “loop,” an estimated 38 gigawatts of hydroelectric power could be generated! This would be the equivalent of more than double the production of the giant Three Gorges Dam, now under construction, and about equal to one-third of the total installed capacity of all electric power plants in Germany. The power so generated, could be shared among the countries of the region. Furthermore, depending on the time of year, some of the surplus water of the Yaluzangbu could be pumped over the mountains to the watershed of the Yellow River. This could be a decisive contribution to solving the water shortage of northern China.

It should be noted, on the latter account, that the Chinese government has already decided to go ahead with the “South-North Water Transfer Project,” to transfer water from the Yangtze River to the Yellow River via one or more of three alternative routes. All of these, however, lie considerably to the east of the Tibet watershed area, in more easily accessible areas. Transferring excess water from the Yaluzangbu to the Yellow River watershed, while in many respects a more ambitious undertaking, could provide a very significant additional amount of water to the water-starved inland area of northern China.

The difficult part of the Yaluzangbu Daxia project does not lie in building the tunnel or the hydroelectric plant at the outlet, but rather in the extreme difficulty of accessing the construction site. It will be necessary to create infrastructure for the transport of construction equipment and building materials to the site. Even though the creation of this infrastructure would involve significant costs, it would subsequently be available for the further development of the region, after the hydroelectric project were completed.

All of this is doubtless a consideration in the construction of the Tibet Railway project, and its extension to Yunnan province mentioned above. Having the Tibet Railway is a crucial precondition for opening up the whole watershed region for large-scale infrastructure projects.

According to reports, the Chinese government is consid-

ering taking on the Yaluzangbu Daxia project after the Three Gorges Dam project is finished in 2009. The realization of great water projects “on the roof of the world,” could become a major subject of future partnership with India and other countries of the region.

The Paris-Shanghai Rail Line

In May 1999, in the western Chinese province of Xinjiang, a new 1,451 km-long railroad was completed from Tulofan (Turpan) on the mainline of the Second Eurasian Land-Bridge, along the northern edge of the Taklimakan desert to the legendary “Silk Road” outpost of Kashi (Kashgar). Kashi, the westernmost major city of China, is at the same time the endpoint of the famous Karakoram Highway, which leads over the Khunjerab Pass to Islamabad, with connection further southward to Karachi, Pakistan’s biggest port on the Indian Ocean.

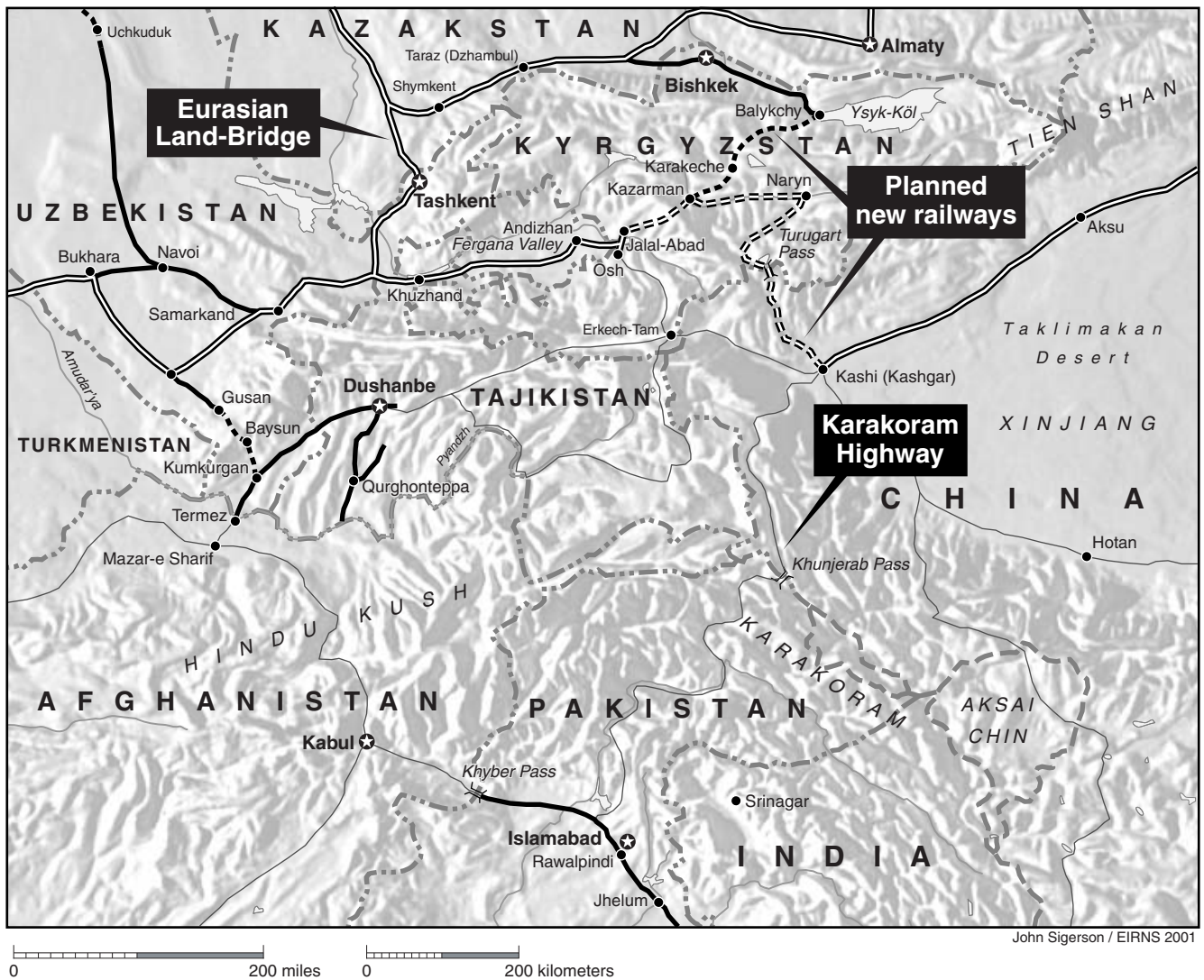
With the strategically important connection of Kashi to the Chinese railroad network, completed in the record time of two-and-one-half years, the creation of a new Eurasian corridor is now projected, which follows the main course of the old Silk Road: from the East Coast of China via Xi’an to Kashi, and then — by a still-to-be-constructed rail link through the mountains of Kyrgyzstan — to the Fergana Valley in Central Asia, and from there to Europe. This future corridor is sometimes referred to in China as the Paris-Shanghai Railroad (**Figure 6**).

There exist three primary routes from the Fergana Valley on to Europe: 1) a northern route through Kazakhstan and Russia; 2) a southern rail connector through Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, using the connections built in 1995 between Tedzhen (Tajan) and the Iranian city of Mashhad, and from there via existing Iranian lines to Europe; and 3) various railroad/truck/ferry connections via the Caspian Sea and the Caucasus, which will be developed in the framework of the European Union-promoted Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA) program.

An important prerequisite to the building of the most difficult, mountain-crossing stretch of the Paris-Shanghai Line, was created in 1998 with the opening of a Kashi-Erkechtam-Osh-Andizhan-Tashkent highway. In the course of the summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Shanghai in June 2001, representatives of the People’s Republic of China, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan signed a memorandum for building a railroad from Kashi through the Turugart Pass into Central Asia, connecting to the northeast with Balykchy and Bishkek, and southwestward to Jalal-Abad, Osh/Andizhan, and over existing rail lines on toward Europe. The Kashi-Turugart-Jalal-Abad-Balykchy rail line will cost about \$1 billion and be built in three-and-one-half years. The technologically demanding section goes over the Tien Shan Mountains, and will permit the tapping of the gigantic coal deposits in the region of Karakeche, roughly 190 km from the railroad terminal in Balykchi.

FIGURE 6

Central Asia, Fulcrum of the 'Paris-Shanghai Railroad'



John Sigerson / EIRNS 2001

At the same time, numerous other new transport links are being constructed in the Central Asian Republics, including the new rail lines Navoi-Uchkuduk-Sultanuisdag-Nukus (342 km) and Guzar-Baysun-Kumkurgan (220 km) in Uzbekistan, and the Andijan-Sarakhs-Mashhad Highway over the border from Turkmenistan to Iran. Transport development will be increasingly coordinated among the republics. Already on May 13, 1996, the heads of state of Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkmenistan signed a railroad cooperation agreement. Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan have subsequently joined in.

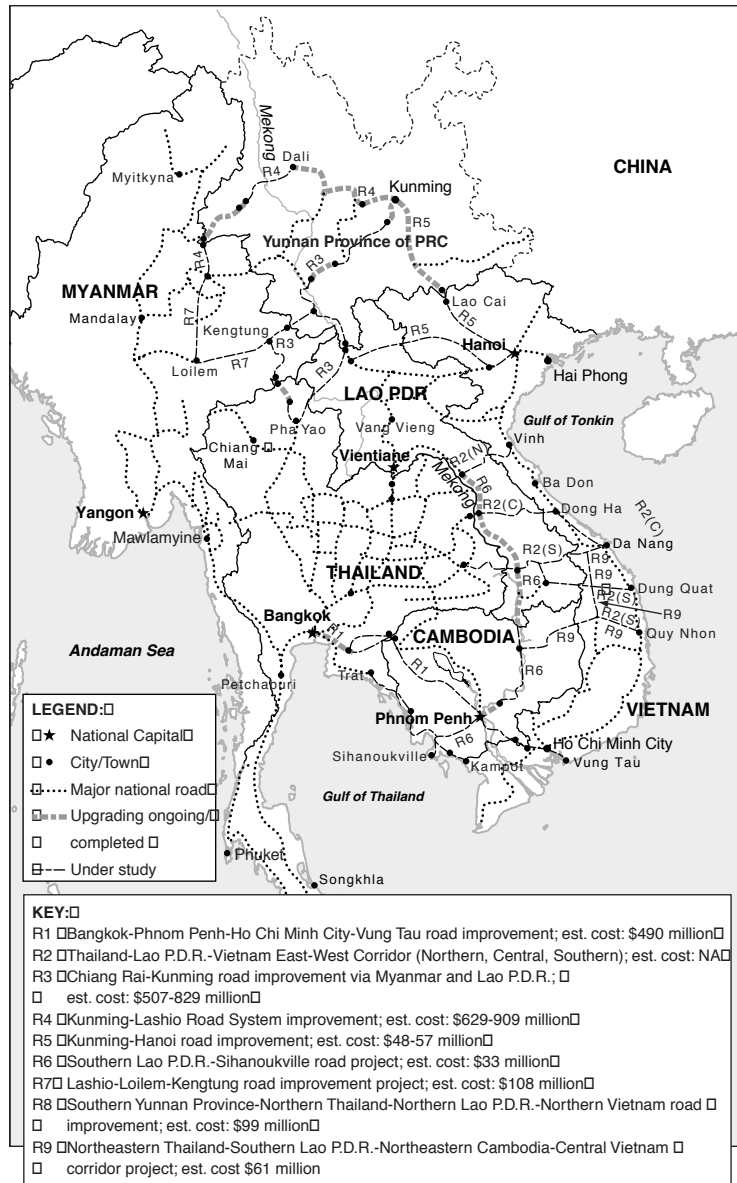
The improvement of traffic on the strategic Karakoram Highway between China and Pakistan has also become a subject of a broad cooperation. China is financing the moderniza-

tion of the Karakoram Highway — above all, to make it usable through the entire year without interruption — and the building of new approach roads. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, China, and Pakistan have agreed on a common plan for the operation of the road. In the Winter of 2000, a test convoy of trucks ran over the Karakoram from Pakistan to Almaty.

'The Great Mekong Basin Development Program'

If we follow the 4,200 km Mekong River from its source in Tibet to the south, we reach one of the major future development regions in the world: the so-called Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), which embraces six nations with over 250 million inhabitants and an area of 2.3 million square kilome-

Greater Mekong Subregion Road Projects □ (as of February 1999) □



Source: Asian Development Bank

ters. To this group of countries, which lie either entirely or partly in the Mekong Basin, belong Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar. China's southern province of Yunnan is also reckoned in the GMS.

Already today, the GMS belongs to the most productive agricultural region of the world. Among other things, Thailand and Vietnam are the world's biggest rice producers. Nevertheless, the present-day state of development in this region

lags far behind its potential. This has to do, first of all, with the direct and indirect effects of the decades-long wars in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. This tragic history has time and again reduced to nought, the deliberations and plans for the development of the region, existing since the 1950s. But now, especially since the middle of the 1990s, water, energy, and transport projects of great consequence are again the order of the day.

In 1996 the Asian Development Bank (ADB) published a list of nearly 100 priority projects, to the tune of \$40 billion in total, which have been approved by the GMS countries, and are to be realized over the next 25 years (Figures 7a and 7b). Half of the cost is supposed to be covered by long-term credits by the ADB itself.

A great part of the projects involve the Mekong River, which, on the one hand, regularly overflows, causing flood catastrophes, and on the other hand possesses a fantastic potential for the development of inland navigation and for hydroelectric power production. The ADB estimates the exploitable hydropower potential in the Mekong Basin at 250 gigawatts (this corresponds to about one-third of the installed capacity of all electrical power plants in the United States!). But of this potential, only about 1% is used today.

The U.S. Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) of the 1930s provides an important model and paradigm for the plans, existing since the 1950s, to develop the entire region of the Mekong River with the help of large-scale infrastructure projects. The TVA was a comprehensive program for the development of the Tennessee River Valley, with the help of great projects of flood control, water power, electrification, transport, modernization of agriculture, and construction of industry. In the case of the Mekong River, comprehensive plans have existed for years, worked out in part in the framework of the Mekong River Commission. In the center stands the construction of numerous dams, to regulate the mighty flow of the Mekong, and enhance its exploitation for the purposes of irrigation, hydroelectric power, and inland navigation.

Unfortunately, many of the most important dam projects on the Mekong River have become targets of the international "environmentalist lobby," which in turn is used as an instrument by the Anglo-American-centered financial oligarchy to keep the developing nations in a condition of perpetual neo-colonial backwardness. While China, relying on itself as an independent and sovereign nation, pushes forward its programs of domestic infrastructure development with astonishing speed and enthusiasm, the most vital projects in the Southeast Asian countries are either cancelled,

Greater Mekong Subregion Rail Projects (as of February 1999) □



Source: Asian Development Bank.

or in the best case, bogged down in the bureaucratic procedures of foreign organizations, which exploit these countries' financial dependency to demand a "right of second opinion" over development projects. Thus, "controversial" dam projects were simply omitted from the above-mentioned plans of the Asian Development Bank.

The fact that, in spite of this, development cannot be held

back forever, is exemplified by the decision of the Vietnamese government in June 2001, to begin construction of the Son La Dam and Hydropower Project, which had been under discussion for 20 years. This, until now the largest infrastructure project in the history of Vietnam, will produce roughly 4 gigawatts of hydroelectric power, thereby increasing the total capacity of Vietnam's power plants by 80%, or nearly double. Investments of \$1.6 billion have been set in motion. Still more hydroelectric power and dam projects are planned in Vietnam. The Chinese have proceeded in developing their part of the Mekong—called the Lancang in China. A 30-story dam will be completed in Dachaoshan, Yunnan Province, in December, the second of eight dams planned along the Chinese half of the river. The first, at Marwan, was finished in 1993, and the next in line is a \$4 billion, 100-story project in Xiaowan, which will be the world's tallest dam.

At the same time, the efforts to develop the Mekong River as a great waterway for inland shipping, are bearing significant fruit. For the first time since before World War II, the countries of the region have agreed to open up the Mekong for cross-border shipping, allowing ships from the participating nations to use the entire length of the river. This was declared, with great celebration, at a joint meeting in the Chinese port city of Jinghong in June 2001. With financial help from China, a 331 km stretch of the Mekong in Southeast Asia will be dredged, while a navigable channel is blasted out through the rapids. Thus by 2007, transport on the Mekong will be increased from 4 million to 10 million tons per year.

The Kunming-Singapore Rail Corridor

The Southeast Asian countries have clearly recognized that the lack of an efficient and comprehensive regional rail network presents a principal obstacle to their economic development (Figure 8). On the one hand, many of the existing lines are relics of the colonial period, and must be modernized. On the other, there are *no rail connections at all* among Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. A single line connects Malaysia with Thailand and Singapore, and southern China with Vietnam. In the eastern direction, the railroads in Myanmar stop several hundred kilometers away from its borders with Bangladesh and India.

As the first priority in the coming years, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries will fill the following gaps in the regional rail network: 48 km from Aryanprathat to the Thai-Cambodia border at Sisophon (the existing line was destroyed by the Khmer Rouge); 263 km linking Thailand to Myanmar; and 585 km linking Laos to Vietnam.

FIGURE 8

Gaps To Be Filled In Southeast Asia Rail Grid



In addition, there is the key project of creating a continuous connection from Singapore to southern China: the much-discussed Singapore-Myanmar-Kunming Railroad (SMKR). By decision of the ASEAN heads of state and government, a feasibility study is being carried out. This was to be presented to the ASEAN governments in mid-2001, and a decision in favor

of the projects is expected. The probable route: Singapore-Kuala Lumpur-Bangkok-Three Pagodas Pass-Ye-Yangon-Lashio-Ruili-Kunming.

The Longest Bridge In South Asia

Almost unnoticed by the Western press, the longest bridge ever constructed in Southern Asia, was opened in Bangladesh on July 23, 1998. The 4.8 km combined road and railroad bridge traverses the great Jamuna River—the lower reach of the Brahmaputra River within Bangladesh, which practically divides the country in two. The bridge also carries high-voltage cables, a natural gas pipeline, and fiber-optic cables for communications and data transmission.

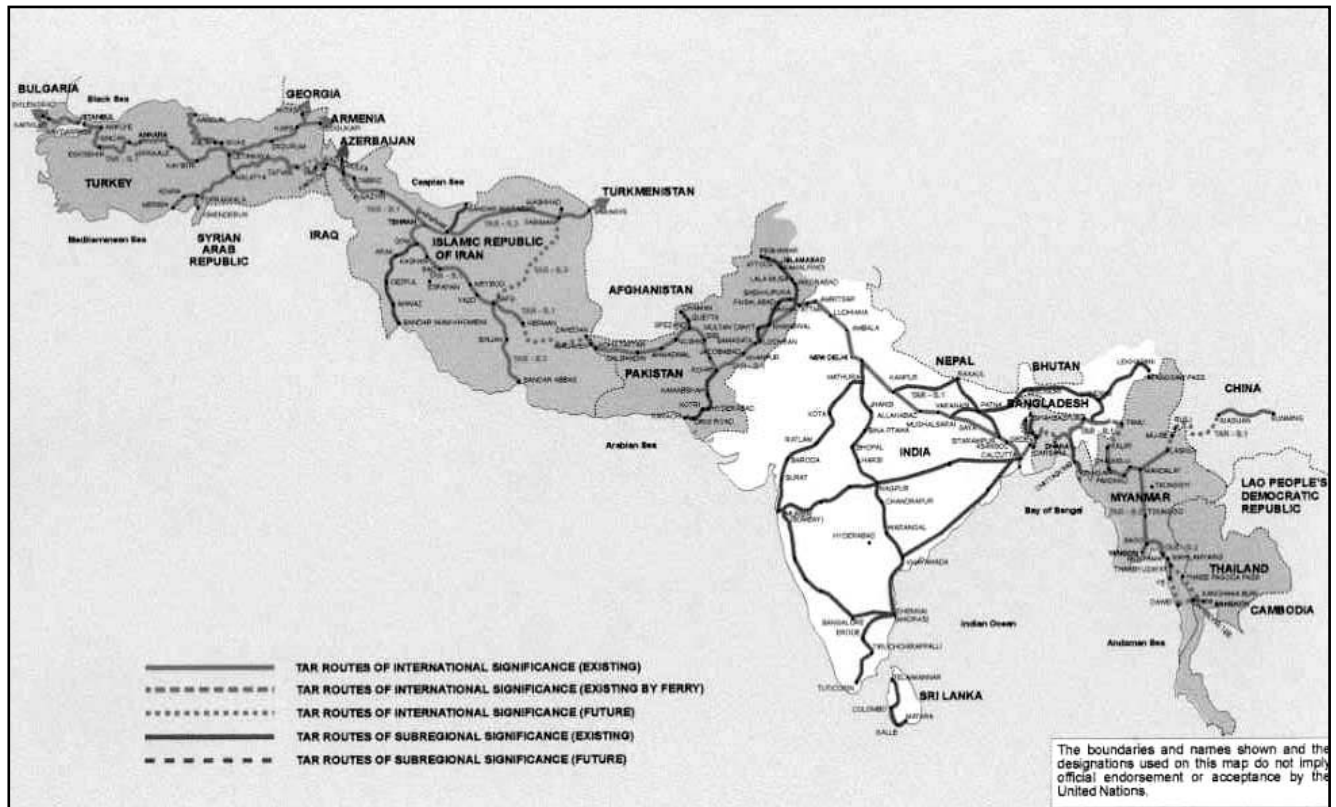
Since the opening of the Jamuna Bridge, numerous improvements have been made in the transport network of Bangladesh, contributing to the development of a southern corridor from Myanmar via Pakistan and Iran to Europe (Figures 9 and 10). In 2001, a new 134 km railroad connection from the Jamuna Bridge to the capital, Dhaka, will be completed. Important additional lines will be added to the already-existing east-west connections in Bangladesh, to make the stretch accessible to both of the main track-gauges used in the region. These are the 1,676 millimeter gauge predominant in India, and the 1,000 mm gauge used in Myanmar, Thailand, and Malaysia.

A further, not insignificant breakthrough occurred in July 2001, when, for the first time in 36 years, passenger rail traffic was resumed between India and Bangladesh. Railroad traffic had been broken off in 1965 for political reasons. First, in 2000, freight traffic on the route Calcutta (India)-Bangabandhu (Bangladesh), began; and now follows passenger service with the Maitry Express (*Maitry* means “friendship”).

Now, there are two options for making India accessible by rail from South Asia: either to fill in the missing link between Bangladesh and Myanmar, or to build a direct connection in the north, from India’s eastern state of Assam to Myanmar.

FIGURE 9

Southern Corridor of UN-Sponsored 'Trans-Asian Railway' Plan



Source: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

The New North-South Corridor Russia-Iran-India

On Sept. 12, 2000, the transportation ministers of Russia, Iran, and India signed an historic agreement for the development of a highly efficient north-south transportation corridor, which will raise economic cooperation to these three nations to a new level. The agreement establishes a combined land-sea corridor (Figure 11). Freight from India to Russia, for example, will, first of all, be transported from the western ports of India by ship to the Iranian port of Bandar-e Abbas, and thereafter via the railroad lines completed in 1995 to Bandar-e Anzali on the Caspian Sea. From Bandar-e Anzali, the ship route goes to the great Russian port of Astrakhan, and then by railroad or truck to destination points in Russia, or further on to Europe.

This corridor is, not least of all, interesting for transport between northern Europe and India, as an alternative to the usual sea route; thereby, the long detour through the Suez Canal is eliminated, shortening transportation times considerably. Transport costs could be reduced by 20-25%, or more. Here, again, the inherent economic advantage of land-corridor transport, relative to pure maritime transportation routes,

can be exploited: namely, that economic development in the regions along the transport route increases the overall benefit of the corridor many times over.

Incidentally, this north-south transport route itself is not new, but coincides with the traditional "Tea Road" from India. However, the efficiency and speed of transport can now be drastically increased, thanks both to the modernization of transportation technology, and the now agreed-to creation of a unified entity, which will be responsible for overall transport logistics in the corridor.

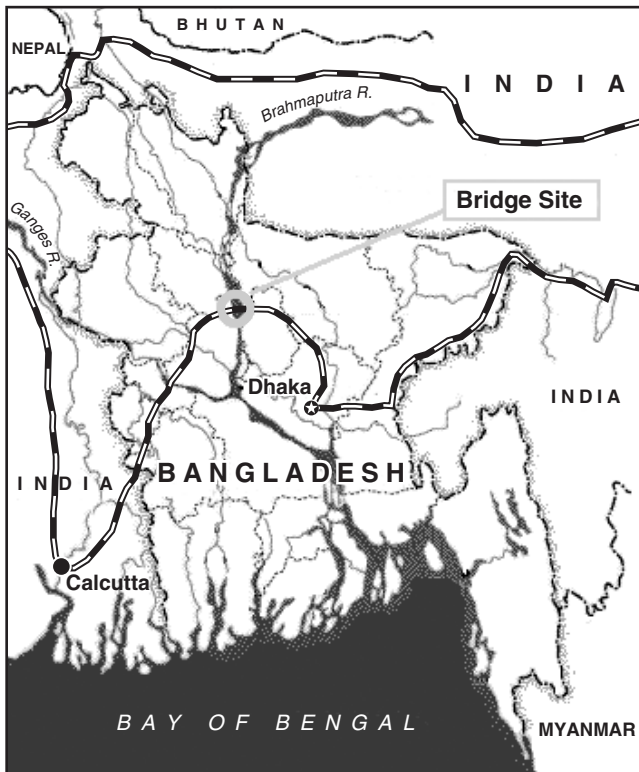
In order to promote the development of the North-South Corridor and other Eurasian transport corridors through Russia, the Russian Transport Ministry, with the agreement of 40 European and Asian nations, founded the Eurasian Transport Union (EATU) in May 2001.

Iran As Focal Point Of The Southern Corridor

Like Persia in the time of the old Silk Road, Iran has grasped its strategic location at the crossroads of Eurasian infrastructure corridors both in the east-west and north-south direction. Iran is the natural hub for land transport between Europe and Asia, across Turkey, the Caucasus, Central Asia,

FIGURE 10

Bangladesh's Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge



Important infrastructure projects have been under way in Bangladesh, including particularly the 4.8 km-long bridge over the Jamuna River, the lower reach of the huge Brahmaputra which divides the country. The bridge carries high-voltage and fiber-optic cables and a pipeline.

and the Indian Subcontinent, while at the same time, offering an efficient gateway for Russia and Central Asia, by way of the Iranian port cities, to the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea.

In EIR's 1997 *Special Report* on the Eurasian Land-Bridge, we detailed the remarkable recent developments of the Iranian railroads, which concretized this role as a Eurasian hub (Figure 12). At present, construction work is proceeding on a project of especially great historical and strategic significance: a railroad connection from the Iranian city of Kerman up to the border with Pakistan. Thereby, the Indian Subcontinent will be directly linked by rail to Europe for the first time in history. According to reports, work is now proceeding on 6 of 24 sections, while on the Pakistani border at Mirjaveh, a modern freight terminal is being built up. With the completion of the project, the entire line from Europe to Mirjaveh will be continuously traversible in European standard track gauge.

At the same time, since the beginning of 2001, regular passenger and container train service has been established on the Istanbul (Turkey)-Ankara-Tabriz (Iran)-Teheran-Mashhad-Tedzhen (Turkmenistan)-Tashkent (Uzbekistan)-

Almaty (Kazakhstan) line. This is occurring by agreement among ten nations of Central Asia and the Near East, with the support of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

Despite the attempts of the Anglo-American geopoliticians to play Turkey against Iran, economic relations have continued to develop between the two nations. After eight years, regular rail transportation between Istanbul and Teheran has been resumed, including the Lake Van Express. Interestingly, in July, natural gas from Iran began to flow into Turkey, in fulfillment of a 1996 agreement, according to which Iran is supposed to supply Turkey with natural gas valued at \$20 billion or more over the next 20 years.

Turkey has also, in 2001, resumed rail traffic with Syria and Iraq. Syria and Iraq agreed in September 2000 to establish regular rail connections between Damascus and Tehran, across Turkish territory.

New Rail Technologies Overcome Obstacles

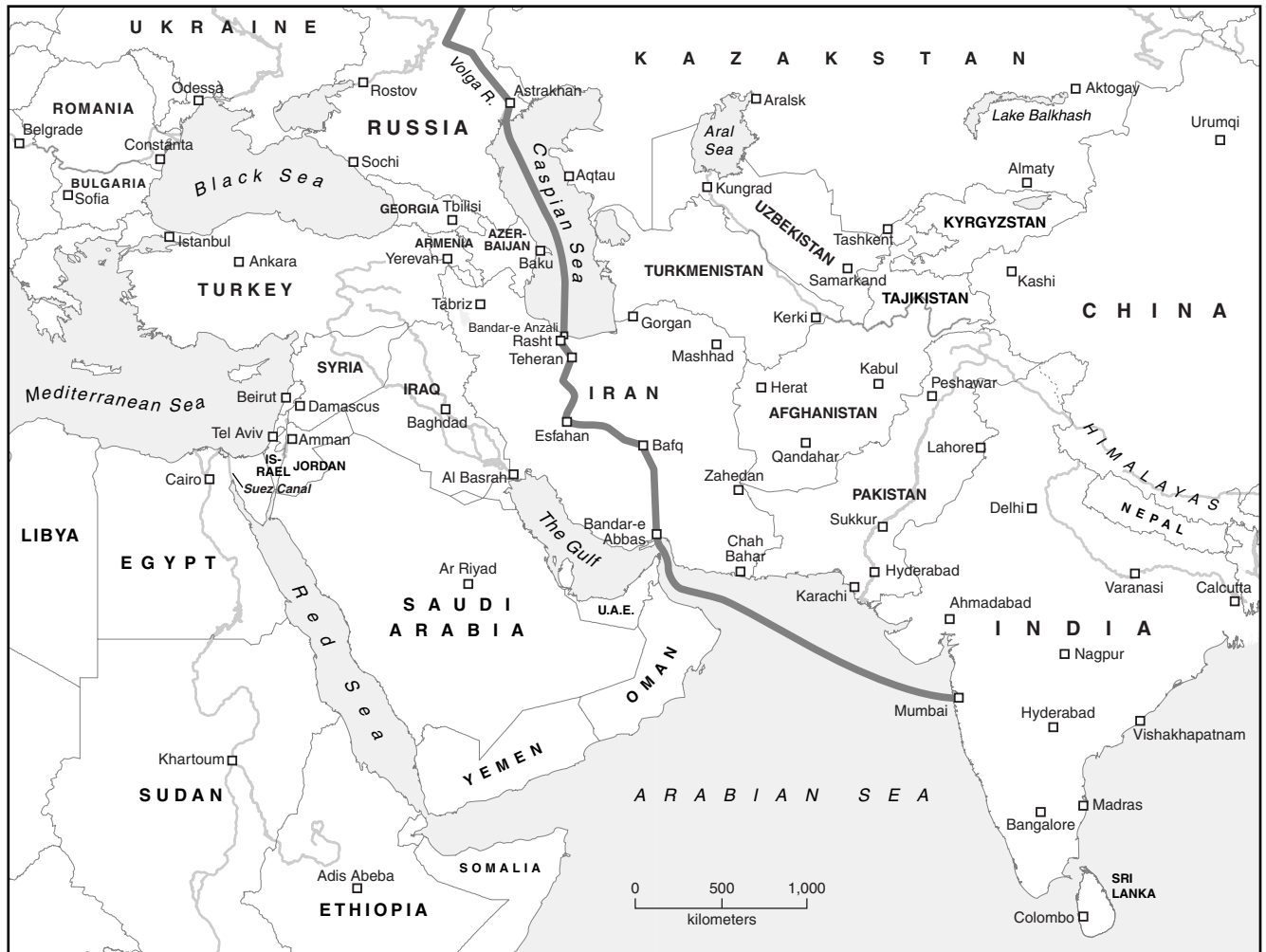
As a sign of the increasing trans-Eurasian rail traffic, solutions are being developed for the problem of different track gauges of existing railroads in different regions. One of the main problems is posed by the transition between the normal European gauge of 1,435 mm, also used in Turkey, Iran, and China, and the gauge width of 1,520 mm used on the territory of the former Soviet Union. In order to avoid the time-consuming reloading operations at the junctions between the rail systems, a variety of new container-carrying platforms are being developed, which can run on both gauges. The International Railroad Union (IUC) is working on such cars, which are designed to operate at higher speeds than the existing ones. The same approach can be applied to other gauge-change points in the emerging Eurasian rail system.

Tunnel Under The Bosphorus

The Bosphorus is the needle's eye of the Southern Corridor between Europe and Asia. Since August 1999, the so-called "Marmaray" project has been fully under way: building an underwater tunnel for freight and passenger trains, between the European and the Asian sides of the Bosphorus. The tunnel, whose realization has enjoyed substantial financial support from the Japanese Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, has an earthquake-secure design consisting of 18 sections. The project is supposed to be completed by the end of 2005. It is expected that in 2015, up to 65,000 people hourly will cross through the tunnel in each direction. The freight capacity of the tunnel corresponds to 10-12 highway bridges.

Several other projects have been launched in the framework of the Pan-European Transport Corridor IV, with a view toward improving the infrastructure connections from Central Europe over the Balkans to Asia. Among others, a new bridge will be built over the Danube in Bulgaria. All told, 16.8 billion euros are projected to be invested in the improvement of transportation infrastructure (railroads, highways, harbors, and so forth) in this corridor. Corridor IV includes the connections between the cities Dresden-Nuremberg-Prague-Vienna-Brat-

FIGURE 11
The New Russia-Iran-India Transport Corridor



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islava- Budapest-Constanza-Sophia-Thessaloniki-Plovdiv-Istanbul.

The Trans-Asiatic Pipeline Network

Besides rail and road transport, energy production and distribution infrastructure play a central role in the development of Eurasia. In the last 24 months, a large number of projects have been launched, which, taken together, lay the foundation for creating a unified energy network for the entirety of Eurasia.

The main emphasis today lies on tapping the huge crude oil and natural gas reserves in Central Asia, Siberia, and the Russian Far East (including Sakhalin), as well as on great projects for the construction of pipelines to Western Europe and East Asia. These projects, together with very promising developments in the sphere of nuclear energy, signal the beginning of the end of an era: Soon, the oil-producing countries of the Middle East—and the Anglo-American interests which

stand in close connection to them—will no longer be able to dominate the energy supply of the world in the same degree, as has been the case since the 1960s.

We will concentrate our attention here primarily on East Asia, where the foundations for a “trans-Asian pipeline network” are already being laid, with participation of Russia, Japan, China, South Korea, and other nations.

Today, 85% of the combined crude oil consumption of the Asian countries is imported from the Persian Gulf region. Practically 100% of these crude oil imports are transported by sea. Japan and South Korea, which possess hardly any sources of their own, import 90% of their crude oil and natural gas from the Middle East. Japan, South Korea, and China together consume 78% of the worldwide exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG). China, which has undertaken great efforts to open up its own mineral resources, and which has thereby become one of the largest oil-producing countries, must still import from the Middle East 62% of its rapidly growing con-

FIGURE 12

Expansion of Iran's Railroad Connections, East and West



John Sigerson / EIRNS 2001

- Existing main rail lines
- == Lines completed since 1996
- Projected new rail routes



Iran's development of its railroad grid since 1995 has allowed, for the first time, continuous rail connections from the Indian subcontinent to Europe; also, this first train run from Bafq to Bandar-e-Abbas in Iran, connected western China and the Central Asian Republics to the Indian Ocean, by rail, for the first time.

sumption. India is even less favored with concentrations of these natural resources, and must also import the major part of its consumption. Only a few countries in Southeast Asia, notably Indonesia and Malaysia, have significant established crude oil and natural gas sources.

It has long been known that Eastern Siberia and the Russian Far East dispose of gigantic natural gas and oil resources. Until now, however, these resources were only very marginally developed. This circumstance was connected with the harsh climatic and geological conditions, as well as the great distances and the lack of infrastructure in those regions, plus the fact that the overwhelming majority of the population of Russia and the former Soviet Union, were concentrated in the far-distant western regions. Today 78% of the crude oil production of Russia (approximately 300 million tons per year) and 87% (approximately 500 billion cubic meters per year) of the natural gas production of Russia is based in Western Siberia. The pipeline network of the Russian Federation, built in Soviet times, serves primarily the objective of distributing West Siberian oil and natural gas in the western part of the country, and (particularly in the case of natural gas) exporting them to Europe—which has multiple connections to the Russian pipeline network.

Japan, as the largest Asian consumer, up to now, of oil and natural gas, has long been interested in the energy resources of the East of the Soviet Union. In the Cold War period, however, Japan was strongly bound to the Western alliance and the United States; a significant dependence upon Russian energy

supplies was unthinkable, as also in the case of South Korea. The tense relationship between China and the Soviet Union since the 1960s also contributed to a situation, in which the development of the energy resources of eastern Russia received relatively little attention. Thus it came about, that up to today, no pipeline connections exist from the territory of Russia to the East Asian countries.

With the end of the Cold War and the economic rise of Asia, and above all of China, this situation has dramatically changed. The crude oil and natural gas resources of the Russian East have acquired new significance.

The Kovyktinsk fields near Irkutsk have “proven or probable” reserves of 1.4-3 billion cubic meters of natural gas, while the Chayadinsk natural gas fields in the Sakha Republic (whose capital is Yakutsk) possess about 1 billion cubic meters. The Sakhalin offshore natural gas fields have “proven or probable” reserves of approximately 1.8 billion cubic meters. These amounts surely represent only a fraction of the actually existing resources in East Siberia and the Russian Far East.

By comparison, China—where government policy projects a significant increase in the relative share of natural gas in the future energy system of the country—will import an estimated 120 billion cubic meters of natural gas per year by 2020. Evidently, Russia could supply a great part of this in the coming decades (**Figure 13**).

The present plans of the Russian natural gas firm, Gazprom, foresee the construction of least four major natural gas pipelines to East Asia in the coming period: 1) from the Tomsk region in northwest Siberia to Northern China; 2) from the Irkutsk region in the south-central region of Siberia, across Mongolia to Central China (already mentioned); 3) from Yakutia in northeast Siberia, along the eastern, coastal, rail line of China to Shanghai; and 4) from Sakhalin Island to Japan.

At the same time, China is building a pipeline from the Tarim Basin in western Xinjiang province, from west to east roughly 4,000 km diagonally across China, as a great project in the framework of the Chinese government's Tenth Five-Year Plan.

At the same time, in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, an expert seminar recently took place, on the construction of a gas pipeline from the Chinese border through North Korea to South Korea. This pipeline is supposed to be the continuation of a projected gas pipeline from the Kovyktinsk natural gas fields near Irkutsk, to China. The latter Russian-Chinese pipeline is scheduled to go into operation in 2008.

A similar situation holds for oil. On Sept. 9, 2001, China and Russia signed an agreement to build a 2,400 km pipeline between Irkutsk and Northwest China. The pipeline is to transport 20-30 million tons of crude oil to China.

One of the other centers of gravity of international energy cooperation, is the ongoing project for tapping the offshore gas and oil fields of Russia's Sakhalin Island, in the Sea of Okhotsk, whose proximity to Japan and other markets in the Pacific makes such a project especially attractive. There are

FIGURE 13

China's West-East Pipeline Project, And Planned Links Into Russia



John Sigerson / EIRNS 2001

seven projects for the exploitation of natural gas and oil around Sakhalin. Investments on the order of magnitude of \$25-45 billion in the transport and production infrastructure of the island, are planned for the coming 20 years.

In 1999, the first crude oil flowed from the “Sakhalin 2” project. In 2002, large-scale projects will begin for the development of harbors and other transport facilities on Sakhalin. The construction of an “energy bridge” between Sakhalin and Japan is also under consideration: According to this scheme, electric power will be generated in giant gas-powered plants near the natural gas sources in Sakhalin, and transported to Japan via undersea cables.

In the long run, what will count is not the energy resources alone, but rather the general development of Sakhalin as part of an infrastructure corridor, which will link Japan to the Eurasian mainland (discussed above).

The current projects constitute only the first steps toward development of a “trans-Asiatic pipeline network”—as this has been proposed for many years, by Japan especially, as the largest crude oil and natural gas importer of Asia. According to Japanese energy expert Masaru Hirata of the University of Tokyo, the trans-Asiatic pipeline network, now in its beginning stages, should reach an overall length of about 42,500 km (26,000 miles, equal to the Earth’s circumfer-

ence), and comprise the following primary corridors: 1) North Asia (East Siberia and Russian Far East)-North Pacific; 2) Turkmenistan-China-Korea-Japan (three different possible routes); 3) Sakhalin-Japan (with possible connection to Alaska); 4) Malaysia-Gulf of Thailand-Vietnam-South China; and 5) Australia-Southeast Asia.

In South Asia, a very important pipeline project is under negotiation, from Turkmenistan across Pakistan to India. In addition, a variety of new pipeline projects have arisen, running from the crude oil and natural gas fields around the Caspian Sea, to Europe. These have unfortunately become the subject of a dangerous geopolitical chess game, which has little or nothing to do with the real interests of the nations of the region.

But rather than go further into the infrastructure of fossil energy transport, we turn our attention now to the ultimately much more important sphere of nuclear energy.

Nuclear Energy On The March

One kilogram of nuclear fuel in an atomic reactor generates about as much energy as the combustion of more than 50 tons of petroleum! In that fact, we begin to grasp the vastly higher economic potential of nuclear energy, compared to fossil fuel technology. In Western Europe and the United States, the once-mighty nuclear industrial sector is threatened with extinction, thanks to the media-driven anti-nuclear hysteria in the population and institutions. But in Asia, nuclear energy is in the beginning phases of a vast upsurge.

Characteristic of this development is the fact, that nuclear power plants have become an “export champion” of an otherwise depressed Russian machining industry. At present, Russia is building six large nuclear power reactors abroad: two nuclear reactors in China (Tianwan 1 and 2 at Lianyungang, Jiangsu Province); two nuclear units in India, at Kudal; and two reactors in Iran, at Bushehr.

A whole series of further projects is under discussion. Nuclear power is making a comeback in Russia itself: The nuclear energy plant Rostov 1 went on line in 2001; three additional nuclear units are now under construction, and nine others are planned by 2010. Beyond this, the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy has drawn up a comprehensive plan for the development of nuclear power, according to which the relative share of this energy source in the total energy generation of the nation will increase dramatically over the coming 20 years.

China is also opting for a large-scale expansion of nuclear power. Although that nation possesses enormous reserves of coal, the annual mining, distribution, and burning of over a billion tons of coal per year creates an enormous burden on the transport system and the environment, and drags down the physical productivity of the Chinese economy. For that reason alone, a broad utilization of nuclear energy is inevitable. There are now eight large nuclear power reactors under construction: Qinshan 2, 3, 4 and 5; Lingao 1 and 2; and Tianwan 1 and 2.



Chinese technicians at the December 2000 startup of the world's only modular high-temperature gas-cooled reactor (MHTGR), at Hsinghua. The radioactive products, even at well above the high temperatures which give this reactor its great efficiency, remain trapped in the unique fuel capsules, which collect in the bottom of the reactor.

These projects will all be completed by 2005. Additionally planned are two 1,000 megawatt (MW) reactors at Haiyang, while four additional units for Hui An, Fujian, Sanmen, and Zhejiang are under study.

In South Korea, two nuclear power plants are under construction, and the construction of an additional 12 units is planned by 2015. Japan projects the construction of an additional 20 large nuclear reactors.

India plans 12 additional nuclear energy plants. Even Vietnam is planning the construction of a first nuclear power plant by 2020, in its long-term government program. Indonesia, while a major petroleum-exporting nation, has also been studying the possible domestic applications of nuclear power.

The High-Temperature Reactor Is Coming

At the beginning of 2001, in the vicinity of China's capital, Beijing, a unique nuclear reactor was put into operation, which is destined to play a key role in the development of the Eurasian infrastructure corridors (see **Figure 14**). This is the “pebble-bed” high-temperature reactor (HTR), first developed in Germany. After decades-long, highly successful operation of the first HTR test reactor AVR in Jülich, and the construction and operation of a 500 MW HTR power plant at Hamm-Uentrop, this revolutionary technology became the victim of the politically manipulated hysteria against nuclear energy in Germany. The pebble-bed reactor subsequently emigrated—exactly like the German-developed Transrapid—to China, and (see below) also to South Africa.

In the Institute for Nuclear Energy Technology (INET) of the Chinese Tsinghua University, the HTR was realized in an especially promising form for worldwide application. The 10 MW Chinese HTR-10 is the prototype of a standardized

modular reactor of approximately 200 MW-thermal capacity, which can be mass-produced at low cost in the future. On account of its simple construction and operation, inherent safety, small unit-size, flexibility, and ease of maintenance, this reactor is eminently suited for use in developing nations.

Apart from China, these advantages of the HTR have moved the large South African electric power company, ESKOM, to launch an ambitious program for the development and assembly-line production of HTR modules. ESCOM plans, after the success of a first, prototype project, to produce 30 modules every year: 10 for internal consumption and 20 for export. The Chinese HTR-10, already in operation, is supplying important advance data and practical experience for the South African program. In the area of HTR development, a comprehensive international cooperation has emerged in recent years, with the participation of China, South Africa, Germany, France, Russia, and the United States.

The core of the HTR-10 consists of a graphite-lined cylindrical chamber of 1.8 meters diameter, filled with 27,000 spherical fuel elements ("pebbles"), each the size of a tennis ball. Each fuel "pebble" contains about 8,300 tiny particles of enriched uranium, about the size of a grain of sand, embedded in a graphite matrix. Each particle is encased in concentric layers of a high-temperature ceramic (silicon carbide) and carbon material.

The idea of such "coated particles" is that the radioactive substances which are generated by nuclear fission reactions, are permanently trapped within the particles themselves, and cannot escape to the environment. The fuel elements are so constituted, that they withstand even extreme temperatures—up to 1,000°C in normal operation, and even peak temperatures of 1,600°C in the event of a failure of the cooling system—without any considerable quantities of radioactivity escaping to the outside. In addition to this, the fuel pebbles permit a continuous fueling of the reactor. This eliminates the need to interrupt power operation for several weeks for fuel reloading, as is the case with conventional reactors. In the HTR, fuel pebbles are continuously fed in from the top of the reactor, while old ones are gradually removed from the core via its funnel-shaped bottom.

Through the use of ceramic, "sealed" fuel pebbles, it is possible to greatly simplify the entire construction of the reactor, making it inherently safe under all conditions. An accident leading to dangerous escape of radioactivity to the environment is precluded in this reactor, because of its special physical characteristics—above all, the "trapping" of radioactive products in the fuel elements up to high temperatures and the strong "negative temperature co-efficient," which prevents a "runaway" power increase in the reactor. The HTR does not need the intricate, expensive safety systems that are required for conventional nuclear power plants. Yet, this is only one of its many advantages.

A decisive breakthrough over conventional nuclear tech-

nology lies in the fact, that the HTR has a much higher operating temperature—900°C, or more. Therefore, the HTR can not only reach a higher thermodynamic efficiency in the generation of electric power, but can also serve as an economical source of *process heat* for various chemical and other industrial processes. Among these are the environmentally friendly generation of fuels such as hydrogen and methanol from natural gas; coal gassification; process steam generation, metallurgical processes, and so forth.

Where conventional nuclear plants are only suited to, and designed for, delivering *electrical power*, the HTR can be employed in many more sectors of the energy economy, where energy is needed directly in the form of *heat*. HTR process heat can replace a part of the costly and environmentally damaging burning of coal, oil, and natural gas.

Chinese experts have in mind, among other things, to use HTRs for generating high-temperature steam, whose injection underground can make it possible to exploit major heavy oil deposits in the country.

In a first period, the heat generated from the Chinese prototype HTR-10 will only be utilized, with the help of a conventional steam generator and a turbine, to generate electrical power. INET plans later to install a compact helium turbine in the primary cooling cycle, in order to explore the possibilities for a very much simpler, and at the same time more efficient conversion of reactor heat into electricity. There are also various possibilities for tapping the HTR's waste heat. The helium turbine plays a large role in the plans of the South Africans, who hope to be able to produce electricity at extremely advantageous cost of about 1.6 U.S. cents per kilowatt-hour.

The majority of the components of the HTR-10 were produced in China itself, including the reactor vessel, steam generator, and the helium cycle cooling system. Exceptions are the graphite structures for neutron moderation in the nuclear reactor. The special graphite was imported from Japan; the precision machining of the material was done, however, in China.

Projects for Seawater Desalination With Nuclear Energy

Increasing shortage of freshwater has, in many regions of Eurasia and the world, become a serious economic and—as the case of the Middle East shows most explosively—also political problem. Conversely, the dry and desert areas of Eurasia could be turned into gardens, if we were in a position to efficiently produce sweet water from the practically limitless quantities of easily available salt water of the ocean and seas of the world (including inland salt seas such as the Caspian Sea).

There are today several well-established industrial processes for the desalination of salt water, processes which are constantly being improved, and which are already exploited in large scale, in Saudi Arabia and some other countries, for the supply of drinking water. All these processes use large

quantities of energy, and providing the required energy makes up a large part of the overall cost of the water produced per cubic meter.

For this reason, the possibility of using nuclear energy has long been considered. On the basis of modular nuclear reactors, highly productive “nuplex” centers can be built—agroindustrial complexes which combine electricity production, desalination, artificial fertilizer production, and other industrial processes, together with the most modern irrigation and other agricultural techniques. Only recently, however, have concrete projects been launched, which could lead to a worldwide breakthrough for nuclear desalination.

In December 2000, China and Morocco signed an agreement on building a nuclear-powered seawater desalination facility near Tan Ten in southern Morocco. According to the agreements, China will provide a 10 MW nuclear reactor, developed specifically for the production of low-temperature heat for desalination processes and other uses, at the Institute for Nuclear Energy Technology (INET) of Tsinghua University. This small reactor was specially designed for safety, reliability, and ease of operation, with a view to use in developing countries. The facility in Morocco, which will be constructed in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), should produce 8,000 cubic meters of fresh-water daily, enough for the water consumption of more than 70,000 people. If the project works out successfully, similar facilities will be set up elsewhere in Morocco and in other countries. At the same time, a large facility for seawater desalination on the basis of nuclear energy, is planned in China itself, to be built on the Pacific coast in the vicinity of Dalian.

The possibilities of desalination have been raised more and more frequently in China, in the framework of expert discussions on the solution of water shortage problems in the dry north of the country. For the western regions, the transfer of large amounts of water, with the help of pipelines, canals, and pump stations, is foreseen; but for the eastern region around Beijing, it appears that desalination may be more favorable in cost, than bringing in additional large quantities of sweet water from great distances. Scientists at the Beijing Institute of Nuclear Engineering are presently investigating the economic advantages of very large nuclear desalination sites. They are studying facilities with capacities of up to 100 million or more cubic meters per year, which could cost-effectively secure the water needs of large population concentrations in the northeast of the country.

The Era Of The Maglev Begins In China

On Jan. 23, 2001, the German-Chinese contract was signed, for the building, in Shanghai, of the first commercial magnetic-levitation rail line in the world.

It is of greater importance, that at the moment when the creation of a new, integrated Eurasian transport network has become necessary, a revolutionary new transportation technology stands ready at hand, one whose characteristics ideally

TABLE 1

Travel Times On Three Maglev Rail Lines From Berlin (Selected Stops)

Berlin	0
Warsaw	1 hour 43 min.
Minsk	3 hours 3 min.
Moscow	4 hours 45 min.
Berlin	0
Vienna	2 hours 9 min.
Budapest	2 hours 53 min.
Belgrade	4 hours 10 min.
Berlin	0
Kiev	4 hours 10 min.

Source: European Union.

meet the requirements of high-speed transportation in and between Europe and Asia. This is *magnetic levitation technology*, which is not only suited for passenger travel at velocities up to 500 km/hour—for which the German maglev system Transrapid was optimized—but in the future will also allow the creation of fully automated systems of freight transport, with performance parameters which up to now are completely unattainable. Such future freight systems will automatically transport containers from one chosen spot on the network to another, like a computer-controlled industrial conveyor belt. At speeds of up to 250 km/hour, a single maglev freight transport line could support as much freight daily, as 20 or more parallel conventional railroad lines.

With the Transrapid, the ancient invention of the wheel is for the first time becoming obsolete. There is no longer mechanical contact between train and track; instead, the train is suspended and propelled forward by electronically steered magnetic fields alone, in a friction-free manner. As a result, magnetic levitation technology allows, in comparison with conventional wheel-track technology, a much greater rate of acceleration, steeper ascents, narrower curves, low noise volume, higher safety because of fully automatic operation, and greatly reduced wear-and-tear on the train and roadway.

The significance of the rail-travel speed of magnetic-levitation technology, for the integration of Europe as far as Moscow, is demonstrated impressively by these realistic travel timetables, drawn up for a European Union study on “The Application of the Transrapid in Europe” (Table 1; see also Figure 15).

It is obvious, that the travel times of the Transrapid even for such longer routes, as from Berlin to Moscow or Kiev, can compete with air transportation; above all, if one keeps in mind the transfer time between airports and city centers, and the lengthy checking-in and boarding procedures of air travel. At the same time, the Transrapid system has all the normal advantages of passenger railroads: above all, that not only the terminal points of a line, but rather an entire series

FIGURE 15

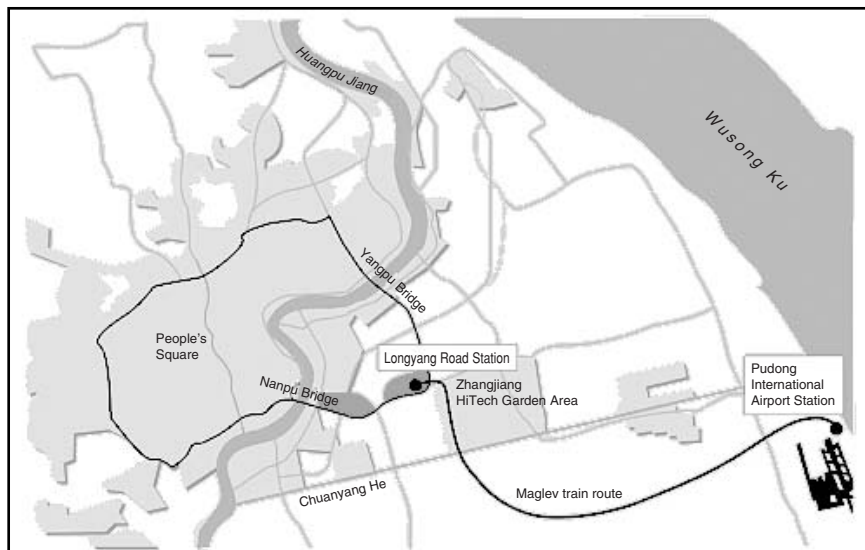
Transrapid Maglev Projects for Central and Eastern Europe



Source: Transrapid.

FIGURE 16A

The Shanghai-Pudong Transrapid Maglev Project



Source: Transrapid.

of cities in between are serviced by the same train, with the unlimited possibility of stopovers for the passengers. The Transrapid thereby contributes to the general development of the entire corridor. Whereas for an airplane there is only uninhabited, empty air between takeoff and destination.

This splendid perspective of the Transrapid for the development of Eurasia explains why this technology was targeted, in Germany itself, by the same perfidious machinations that previously sabotaged the HTR, as well as numerous other strategically decisive technologies. No one can have any doubt about the fact, that the oligarchical enemies of Eurasian development are to a large extent behind the curiously self-destructive tendencies of German politics, media, and industry, in this regard. In the case of the Green Party, this is easy to document. Thus it happened, that the planned construction of a Transrapid link from Berlin to Hamburg—which was supposed to demonstrate the commercial feasibility of this technology for the whole world—was finally dropped, after a tug-of-war that lasted years.

The cancellation of the maglev in its own birthplace would have meant the end of this revolutionary technology, were it not for Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji, a trained electrical engineer, who was fascinated by the Transrapid technology, and who knew how to assess its great significance for China. With China's large population density, high density of major cities, and complicated terrain, the maglev is a crucial alternative to the kind of wasteful overloading of passenger aircraft traffic, typified by the U.S. East Coast air corridors. In addition, large-scale maglev projects will greatly stimulate the high-technology industrial sectors in China itself.

After the visit of Zhu Rongji and a likewise enthusiastic mayor of Shanghai to the Transrapid test-track in Emsland, Germany, the decision came down from the Chinese side, to build an initial 36 km Transrapid route in Shanghai. This line will connect the new international airport in Shanghai's Pudong In-

dustrial Park, with the Long Yong metro station in the Shanghai financial district Lujiazui (Figure 16a). At peak speeds of 430 km/hour, today's travel time of 40-45 minutes (buses or cars) will be reduced to merely 7 minutes! In 2005, they expect 10 million passengers, and 21 million by 2010. The total cost of the project runs to about \$1 billion. In addition, the Transrapid line, due to its elevated construction above ground, is actually cheaper to build than a corresponding conventional metro underground rail line.

The Transrapid vehicles, control and energy systems, will be supplied by Germany, while the tracks will be assembled primarily from components and equipment produced in China. The Shanghai-Pudong line should be completed by the end of 2002, for testing and approval to go into commercial operation in 2003.

In Shanghai it is being considered, after the inauguration of the Shanghai-Pudong magnetic rail line, to continue this line for a further 180 km in a southerly direction to Hangzhou, one of the most beautiful cities in the world, and a great tourist attraction in China as well as abroad. There are, however, many more, still larger projects under discussion, which point in the direction of a national magnetic rail network in China (Figure 16b).

Prime Minister Zhu Rongji has repeatedly pronounced his view, that he prefers the Transrapid technology for the planned 1,300 km high-speed connection between Shanghai and Beijing, over the competing conventional high-speed rail technologies (the French TGV, the German ICE, and the Japanese Shinkansen). But the final decision depends upon the success of the Shanghai-Pudong line.

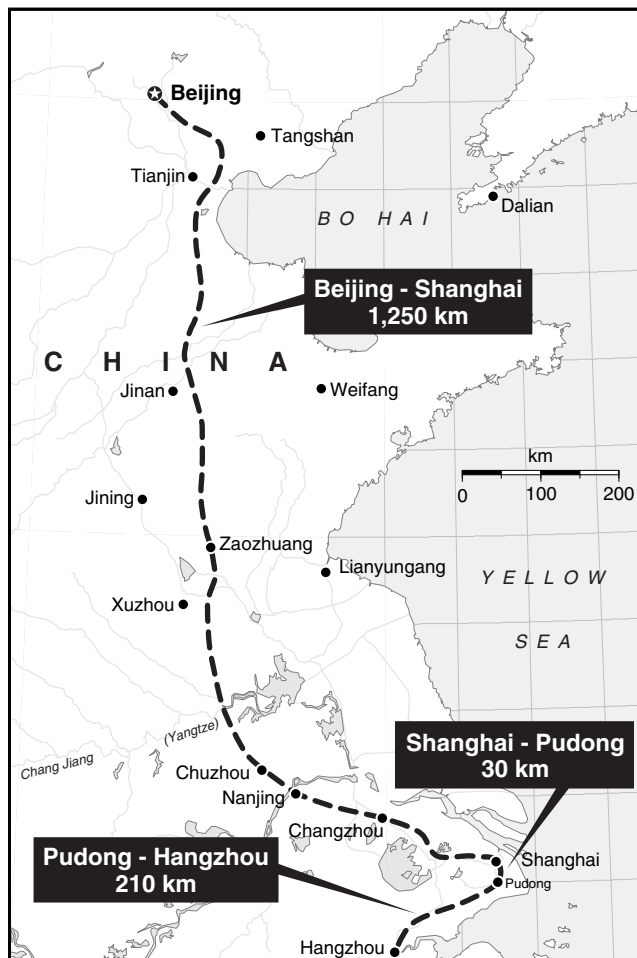
Yet, a second Transrapid project is already decided upon in China, according to Chinese reports: namely, the building of a relatively short (about 27 km) connection between the Beijing Airport and the future Olympic Village in the northern part of the city where the 2008 Olympic Games will take place. It is also being discussed, to extend this line southeastward toward Tianjin (about 100 km).

On Aug. 16 the China News Service reported that the government of Hong Kong is negotiating with the mainland government on future magnetic levitation train connections between Hong Kong and Guangzhou (Canton), roughly 140 km, as well as with Shanghai, Beijing, and other large cities of China. In the press release it is stated that with maglev technology, the travel time from Hong Kong to Beijing (about 2,000 km) can be reduced from today's 31 hours on conventional railroad, to only 5 hours. With that, many airline passengers would switch to the maglev.

The Eurorapid

As soon as Chinese decision had been confirmed, the Transrapid suddenly began to be discussed in Germany and Europe again. Interesting, in this connection, was a Transrapid seminar held on July 10 in Hamburg. There, a "Eurorapid" network was envisioned, which would join Germany with the Netherlands, Scandinavia, Poland, and the Czech Republic.

FIGURE 16B
Planned Maglev Projects in China



Source: Transrapid.

At the seminar, there was report of a rather far-advanced Dutch plan to build two important Transrapid lines: 1) a "great belt line," which would link Amsterdam with The Hague, Rotterdam, and Utrecht; and 2) an Amsterdam-Groningen link, with an eventual extension to Hamburg.

On July 12, the Dutch Ministers of Transport and Environment made their support for these Transrapid projects known. The first project will probably be a line from Amsterdam to Lelystad.

That same day, the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia announced a joint project with the Deutsche Bahn (German Rail Corporation), to prepare a first "Metrorapid" project: a Transrapid line to run between Dortmund and Düsseldorf. Later, the Metrorapid is supposed to connect a total of eight cities in the Ruhr region with one another.

Interest in the Transrapid is also rising again in Bavaria. The Bavarian government announced on July 13, that it wants to build, together with Deutsche Bahn, a 30 km Transrapid link between the airport and the inner city of Munich.

Dr. Robert E. Stevenson: Father Of Space Oceanography

In memoriam: Robert K. Stevenson recounts the fascinating career of his father, space oceanographer Bob Stevenson, who died of cancer on Aug. 12, 2001.

Robert Everett “Bob” Stevenson, the only child of Zella and George Stevenson, was born in Fullerton, California on Jan. 15, 1921. As a young boy and teenager growing up in the 1920s and 1930s in Fullerton (in what was then largely undeveloped Orange County), Bob and his father occasionally went to Newport Bay to fish. From the exposed seacliffs, revealing their fascinating geological history, to the rhythmic tidal surges, there was much here to arouse a budding scientist’s curiosity. And, in time, “The Marshlands at Newport Bay, California,” considered a classic, became the topic and title of Bob’s Ph.D. dissertation. Majoring in geology, Bob earned his Ph.D. in 1954 from the University of Southern California.

From 1953 to 1961, Bob served as Director of Inshore Research for the Hancock Foundation at the University, authoring many scientific papers during this time, such as: “Fog in the Los Angeles Harbor Approach Area” (1955), “A Shoreward Movement of Cool Subsurface Water” (1956), “The Marine Climate of Southern California” (1959), and “Winds over Coastal Southern California” (1960).

By now Bob had become a practicing oceanographer. For decades, oceanography had been regarded as a “backwater” science, but during the Cold War days (late 1940s to 1989), it assumed great importance. Soviet and U.S. submarines, armed with nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles, constantly played games of hide and seek, using oceanographic data to help remain hidden, or, conversely, to discover and track the foe. During his lengthy career, Bob was to make numerous

oceanographic discoveries of enormous scientific and military value.

Bob spent much of 1959 in England, researching the Yorkshire coast, under a grant from the U.S. Office of Naval Research. Resulting from this was his monumental work, “The Summer Climatic Environment of the Yorkshire Coast, England” (1961), which contained 98 figures. But it was in 1966 that Bob’s greatest scientific accomplishment was to occur—a profound new insight, which in turn generated the creation and development of an entirely new field of science: Space Oceanography.

The genesis of this insight, a product, in part, of Bob’s earlier job duties in 1951 to 1953 during the Korean War as Chief of the Photo/Radar Interpretation Section at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, was described in the February/March, 1970 issue of *National Wildlife* magazine:

“In 1966 a color photo was shown to a scientist named Dr. Robert E. Stevenson. The photo had been taken by Astronaut Ed White during a Gemini flight. He had aimed the camera at Gordon Cooper’s favorite fishing waters off Florida, and hoped to bring back a good shot to show his fishing cronies. Cooper was disappointed when he saw the result because the Sun’s reflection was smack in the field of view.

“Dr. Stevenson, though, thought otherwise, and he was a man uniquely qualified to interpret the photo. Professionally trained in meteorology and geology, he had also served as a professor of oceanography at Florida State University. By a stroke of luck, as far as this photo was concerned, he had done

pioneering work in photo interpretation during the Korean War. And at the time he first saw the photo he was Assistant Director of the Biological Laboratory of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries at Galveston.

“‘I honestly was flabbergasted,’ Dr. Stevenson recalls, ‘when I saw White’s photo. My first thought was that such photos could enormously increase our commercial fishing yield. No, I couldn’t actually spot schools of fish in that photo, taken from an altitude of 120 miles. But I could see everything that we were spending months to pinpoint by boat and plane — the shallows, the silt discharges, the upwellings, the estuaries, the interference currents. And these are the things that determine where fish feed. It really was astonishing; after one look at that photo, I was willing to bet I knew where schools of fish could be found.’

“‘I also sensed that the biggest breakthrough of the space program might not be the exploration of the Moon, but the opportunity to hang a camera out there in space and use it to locate more food from the sea than we’d ever imagined.’

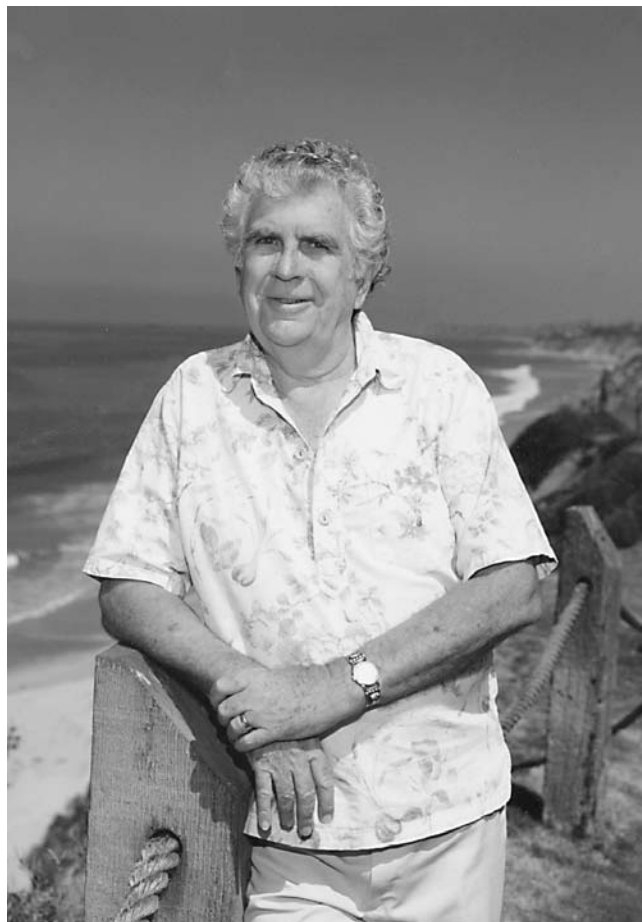
“... After Dr. Stevenson pointed out the possibilities of ‘fishing from space’ to scientists and authorities, he was asked to brief the Gemini 12 astronauts, to tell them precisely what types of photos would be the most valuable for fisheries research. Buzz Aldrin was the photographer for that space shot, and of all the missions to date, Gemini 12 yielded the most valuable ‘fishing photos.’

“‘After I saw the Gemini 12 pictures,’ says Dr. Stevenson, ‘I no longer thought we could locate big schools of fish from space; I knew we could pinpoint them.’”

Mapping The Oceans From Space

Space photos could not only help locate schools of fish, but also reveal various ocean features of tactical interest to naval forces. From 1970 to 1988, Bob worked for the Office of Naval Research at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego, first as Scientific Liaison Officer and then as Deputy Director of Space Oceanography. During this entire period, and through 1999, Bob continued to give each U.S. space crew a lengthy briefing on ocean features as seen from space, detailing what the crew members should attempt to photograph and be on the lookout for on their particular mission.

By 1984, Bob had become known throughout the scientific community as “the Father of Space Oceanography,” having authored dozens of related scientific works over the years, such as: “View of the Earth from Space” (1968) and “Oceanography in Orbit” (1984). The U.S. Navy had gained valuable knowledge from research conducted by Bob and his space oceanographer colleague, Dr. Paul Scully-Power, who worked at the Naval Underwater Systems Center in New London, Connecticut. In order to build upon this knowledge, the Navy desired to have either Bob or Paul fly aboard the Space Shuttle. Bert Vis, in his article “The NEREUS Programme,” appearing in the October 1998 issue of *Spaceflight*, describes what happened next:



Bob Stevenson in 1996, looking out at the Pacific, near his home in California.

“In April 1984 word was given to Admiral Mooney that a flight had finally been set for Bob Stevenson. Paul Scully-Power would act as backup and when the latter would fly later, Stevenson would in turn serve as his backup. But fate stepped in. Shortly after being assigned to STS-41G, and even before it was made public, Stevenson decided to step down in favor of Scully-Power. His wife was terminally ill and it was obvious where he wanted to put his priorities. It turned out he had made the right decision, as his wife died the week prior to the launch.

What Scully-Power observed, which had heretofore gone unnoticed, was the ubiquitousness, particularly in the Mediterranean, of special ocean phenomena known as spiral eddies, which appear from space as giant whirlpool-like features (of generally 5 to 15 kilometers in diameter and up to 50 meters or so in depth) but which are difficult to detect from a ship. In fact, prior to 1973, and the breakthrough observations of spiral eddies by Skylab astronauts, their existence in the open ocean was unknown, let alone suspected.

Scully-Power’s flight contributed greatly to advancing the understanding of spiral eddies, allowing Bob to fine-tune his

briefings to the astronauts. Photos obtained from follow-on Shuttle missions confirmed a hunch Bob and Paul had developed. As Bob noted in his Fall 1998 cover story in *21st Century Science & Technology* magazine, "Spiral Eddies: The Discovery That Changed the Face of the Oceans":

"A dimly lit light seemed to switch on in the depths of our collective brains. Are spiral eddies common features of all surface waters, we asked ourselves? Are they everywhere in the ocean, the observations limited only by the presence or absence of surfactants, and an appropriate Sun angle?

"As the crews returned from mission after mission with photographs from nearly every ocean area that could be viewed, the answer became a comfortable 'yes.' Spiral eddies were observed in the sluggish, central gyres of the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific oceans, the Sargasso Sea, the Caspian Sea, again in the South Indian Ocean and the slow, gentle Brazil Current. In fact, it was obvious. Spiral eddies, like the fictitious 'Chicken Man,' are everywhere! They are, essentially, ubiquitous!"

What is the significance of spiral eddies? From the military perspective, as indicated earlier, knowing their location and duration is very important, especially when it comes to hiding, avoiding, and detecting submarines. As far as science is concerned, one key ramification is that the ubiquity, nonlinearity, and quick-changing nature of spiral eddies make the construction of consistent, predictive weather and ocean models virtually impossible. Bob explained it this way in his *21st Century* "Spiral Eddies" article:

"Given the entire ocean, there are probably about 5 million (or thereabouts) spiral eddies rotating at any given time. The problem in using the energy numbers from spiral eddies is that the features are individually ephemeral, although the field of spirals may persist for days, weeks, or longer.

"Consequently, to try to separate the contributions of spiral eddies from mesoscale eddies in any General Circulation Model not only would be fruitless, but senseless.

"... At this moment in our history of scientific discovery, no one has a clue of how to make any calculation on the role of spiral eddies in any weather or climate predictive model, even though the influence must be major."

Almost An Astronaut

After Scully-Power's flight, efforts were made to reschedule Bob for a mission aboard the Shuttle. By the mid-1980s, though, the Shuttle had become a junket ride for nonessential VIPs. U.S. Sen. Jake Garn, House Rep. Bill Nelson, and Saudi Arabian Prince Bandar flew on missions that the Navy had wanted Bob to be on. Finally, NASA and the Navy agreed to assign Bob to STS-61K, a Shuttle flight scheduled for October 1986. Bert Vis, in his above-mentioned "NEREUS Programme" article in *Spaceflight*, describes the plan:

"Of course, the 'lessons learned' during STS-41G would be put into practice by Stevenson. One of the biggest restrictions on Scully-Power's flight had been the impossibility to

observe and to photograph interesting sites round the clock. Not only was it physically impossible for him to be on the flight deck all the time, but 41G also had designated sleep periods, and commander Bob Crippen had made sure they were kept. It did not necessarily mean the crew members had to be asleep, but those who were awake were not allowed to make any noise to prevent others from waking up. This made it impossible for Scully-Power to use cameras in those periods. Since they automatically advance the film, they would have made far too much noise, especially in an otherwise totally quiet spacecraft.

"It was also recommended by Scully-Power to fly a complete Hasselblad camera (including the full set of lenses) on the next mission, for exclusive use by Stevenson, as well as some 5-8 extra magazines of film, and several extra audio tapes for making notes.

"Another thing was that after 41G, it was determined that it would be of importance to photograph a certain feature with as many cameras and types of film at the same time as possible. On STS-61K, which was an Earth observation mission in the first place, this could be accomplished. The European Space Agency (ESA) would be sending up a number of brand-new mapping cameras with 9x9 inch film, and when Nicollier informed ESA that Stevenson had been assigned to the crew, they immediately offered to fly up to three times as much film so there would be enough to cover the ocean sites he would want to photograph. All in all, it promised to be a perfect mission. It was scheduled for launch in October 1986 and it would have had excellent lighting conditions for the entire duration of the flight. Many North Atlantic and North Pacific regions would have been photographed for the first time and with cameras of unprecedented quality. In addition, having had observers on the flight deck around the clock would have enabled the crew to view certain locations for the first time.

"George Abbey (Chief of the Johnson Space Center's Flight Operations Division) and John Young (Chief of the Astronaut Office) had agreed that after STS-61K, Stevenson and Scully-Power would fly once again, together, on a specially selected high-inclination mission. After that flight they would give way to other Navy oceanographers, both civilian and military, although Scully-Power thought that he might want to fly a third time. So did Stevenson, but he had set an age limit of 70 for himself, stating that 'I would probably give too many bureaucrats heart attacks if I insisted on flying.'

"... In early January 1986 it seemed that Stevenson would finally get his chance. But it was not to be. On 28 January 1986, the space shuttle Challenger met with disaster during the launch of STS-51L, the very flight Stevenson had been removed from at the insistence of Hughes."

Yes, Bob had originally been scheduled to fly on the fatal Challenger mission, but had been bumped off that mission, too. Hughes, a large aerospace company, was at the time NASA's top commercial customer, and their own man, Greg

Jarvis, had been knocked off previous missions as well. So, Hughes insisted that Jarvis fly on Challenger, even though there were no real pressing experiments or duties for him to perform. Therefore, instead of becoming a dead national hero, Bob got to continue on with his life and career, although his chances to fly aboard Shuttle ended with the Challenger disaster. It would be 12 years before NASA ever flew another nonessential person on the Shuttle (77-year-old Sen. John Glenn in 1998).

Guiding Astronauts To See The Ocean

In 1988, Bob retired from his Office of Naval Research job. But, just before retiring, he completed his masterwork, *Oceanography from the Space Shuttle*, a 200-page book published in 1989, containing approximately 90 color photos of ocean phenomena photographed by Space Shuttle astronauts. The pictured phenomena include spiral eddies, solitons, surfs, and internal waves — phenomena hard to detect and measure from a ship. Alongside each photo in this book Bob presented one or two pages of description. Nothing like this book had ever appeared in print.

Oceanography from the Space Shuttle had been preceded in 1987 by a related, though smaller-scale work Bob produced for the U.S. astronaut corps, titled *Astronauts' Guide to Oceanographic Phenomena*. Published in August 1988 by NASA's Space Shuttle Earth Observations Office, the *Astronauts' Guide* contains 37 color photos of various oceanographic phenomena captured by the cameras of the Space Shuttle astronauts. Importantly, the *Astronauts' Guide* provides instructions to the astronauts on how best to capture the desired images. For example, in discussing the Sun's reflection upon the ocean as seen from space, Bob made the following observations and recommendation:

"On the edge of the Sun's reflection, the golden colors change to blues. In this part of the glitter pattern, smooth water has a dark blue color (the angle of the Sun permits the light to penetrate into the sea) and roughened water has a light blue color. The glare into the lens, both eye and camera, is far less on the edge of the reflection than in the very center. Fine details of sea surface turbulence can be lost in the central glare of the Sun's reflection. Wherever the glitter pattern is complex, it is *best to observe and photograph the surface phenomena on the edge of the reflection field.*"

The photograph gracing the cover of the Fall 1998 issue of *21st Century* (containing Bob's "Spiral Eddies" article) illustrates well the above observation, as spectacularly delineated spiral eddies are easily seen on the edge of the Sun's reflection field.

Over the years, Bob received numerous awards for his enormous contributions to the field of space oceanography. Most notably, in January 1985 at a special ceremony in a packed auditorium at Scripps, Rear Adm. J.B. Mooney, Chief of Naval Research, acting on behalf of President Ronald Reagan, presented Bob with the Navy Meritorious Civilian

Service Award — this being the highest award possible for a civilian to receive from the Navy; Bob was the only Office of Naval Research employee to ever receive the award.

Now, a logical question to ask is this: What motivated this man to accomplish all that he did as a scientist? Bob provided the answer to this question, in a cover letter he sent to many friends and colleagues upon the publication of his 1998 "Spiral Eddies" article. He explained:

"As far back as I can recall any of my logical thoughts, I wanted to fly in airplanes. Lindbergh, Doolittle, Roscoe Turner, Wiley Post were my heroes. In those days of the 1930s, I read every nickel pulp magazine I could find on the aerial exploits during 'The Great War.'

"In June 1940, the government's Civilian Pilot Training program came to Fullerton, my home town. In August I had my civilian pilot's license. For the next 15 months I flew whenever I could dig up \$5 per hour for the rental of a J-3 Piper Cub. War came on 7 December 1941, while Robert Finch and I flew over the U.S. Fleet in Long Beach Harbor, wondering why the guns on the ships followed us as we crossed back and forth over anchorage.

"The next day, most of the guys with whom I'd learned to fly enlisted in the Navy Air Arm. 'Are you crazy? Fly off ships over water? Forget it!' About half of them never made it back from the Battle of Midway.

"I enlisted in the Army Air Force as quickly as possible; not to fight dastardly enemies, or to stand firm for any patriotic philosophy, or even home, Mom, and apple pie. I joined to fly! And, as an aerial navigator in those days of the 1940s, it was the most satisfying occupation I could ever imagine, or that I've ever had.

"Why do I relate these early, halcyon days of mine? Because, it was a huge step for me to become an oceanographer. *I hate ships*, especially when they are floating on the ocean. *They constantly move*. Yet, after four years majoring in geology, crawling for days on end through mountain brush and desert sands, and staring down rattle snakes, sitting on the deck of a research vessel had a certain attraction.

"For 15 years, I never participated in a research cruise during which I did not at one time or another curse the ocean, the ship, and my stupidity for being out at sea. In the late 1960s, at a chance meeting, I was introduced to photographs of ocean features taken by astronauts from manned spacecraft. I was stunned by the dynamics of the sea surface that could be evaluated by this technique. When NASA invited me in 1973 to brief the astronaut crews training for Skylab, and such briefings became part of my duties with the Office of Naval Research, the rest of my career was set.

"Since then, I have trained all of the astronauts in 'space oceanography' and prepared observational experiments for every Earth-orbital NASA manned space flight. From the eager efforts by the astronauts, details of the ocean never before imagined have been defined — examples of which are in the accompanying paper on Spiral Eddies.



When the Skylab crew first photographed ocean spiral eddies in 1973, oceanographers Bob Stevenson and Paul Scully-Power took notice. The existence of the eddies, which they hypothesized were spun off along the edges of major ocean currents, provided the necessary clue to finding the cause of the unusual acoustic signals that Bob and Paul were tracking.

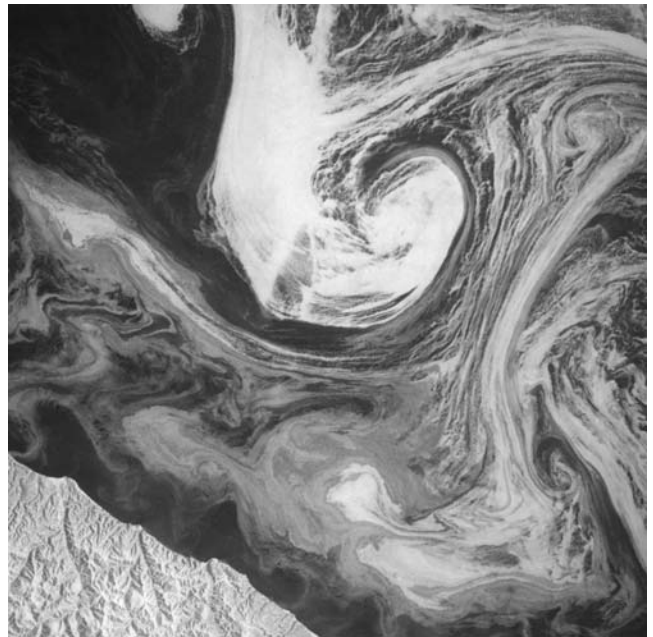
Shown here are spiral eddies photographed from the Endeavor, looking northwest across the western Black Sea toward Turkey and the Bosphorus.

“I must point out that the best part of this approach to oceanography meant that I never had to go to sea again! And, the view from space is nearly as good as from the nose of a B-17 ‘Flying Fortress.’”

Leading International Oceanographers

In 1987, Bob was elected Secretary-General of IAPSO—the International Association for the Physical Sciences of the Ocean—an international organization comprised of more than 5,000 members, most of whom are oceanographers. He was re-elected Secretary-General, which is IAPSO’s top position, in 1991. In August 1995, Bob organized and ran IAPSO’s most successful General Assembly ever, which took place in Honolulu. Referred to afterwards by attendees as the “Sensation in Hawaii,” more than 700 oceanographers from around the world showed up for and participated in the event—to this day, still the largest gathering of oceanographers in history.

Bob’s skillful management of IAPSO’s budget over the years provided him the funds to pay for the travel and lodging expenses of several leading foreign oceanographers (many of these being Russians) who otherwise would not have been able to attend. Consequently, many useful contacts (some being of a once-in-a-lifetime nature) between oceanographers were made, with important projects by various scientists able



These dramatic eddies are near the tip of the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia, where warming coastal waters have broken up the pack-ice, and it is caught up in upwelling plumes. The photograph was taken by Dr. Kathryn D. Sullivan, Payload Commander on the crew of the Atlantis, March 1992.

to advance as a result. At the conclusion of this week-long General Assembly, Dr. Evgeny Kontar of Russia congratulated Bob on his “triumph,” though, more precisely, it was the science of oceanography that experienced a great triumph.

Although it was his for the asking, Bob chose not to serve a third term as IAPSO Secretary-General, as the honor of holding the position did not compensate for its time-consuming nature, and time is what Bob needed to address his various other interests. One such interest of Bob’s during the last decade of his life was the global warming debate, and he became actively engaged in this controversy. Contributing articles to several publications, Bob advanced the argument that no scientifically credible evidence exists indicating that mankind is responsible for any purported global warming.

A Polemic On Global Warming

Bob’s lengthiest, and best argued, article on the subject, titled “An Oceanographer Looks at the Non-Science of Global Warming,” appeared in the Winter 1996-1997 issue of *21st Century*. Presenting four graphs and the results of many scientific investigations to support his position that mankind “has not become a geophysical force,” Bob concluded his article with six “bottom lines,” the first two being as follows:

“(1) *There is no warming trend in the oceans, and has not been in the past 50 years.* There are places in the ocean that get warmer than other locations for periods of time up to decades, but those waters then cool as other ocean areas warm.

These periods are so close to the 11-year sunspot cycle that it is difficult not to consider a correlation. Yet, over all, there are no warming or cooling trends in any ocean, including the Southern Ocean near Antarctica.

“(2) Special attention was paid to the Arctic Ocean, when teams from the United States, Canada, and Russia occupied stations that had been visited repeatedly since 1937. The results? *There is no warming trend in the Arctic, and has been none since 1937.* Indications by the Canadian team of warmer than normal water turned out to be an intrusion of water from the Atlantic. In the past 60 years, the Arctic ice pack has neither retreated nor thinned. These data are not controversial!”

Interestingly, Bob’s last published article—another thoroughly researched one—dealt with the same subject. Titled “Yes, the Ocean Has Warmed; No, It’s Not ‘Global Warming,’” this article, appearing in the Summer 2000 issue of *21st Century*, contains 46 references and Bob’s well-reasoned position that mankind’s activities have not resulted in any global warming; any such warming, Bob maintained, “can be explained by means of intrinsic internal modes of the Earth going through their normal cycle of warming and cooling.” Bob, who had recently moved to Princeville, Hawaii (island of Kauai) with his wife, Jeani Marie Wetzel, whom he had married in June 1988, ended his article with this observation:

“Yet, here I sit in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, surrounded by papers (peer-reviewed, I guess I should add) which conclude:

“(1) For the past two decades at least, and possibly for the past seven decades, the Earth’s true surface air temperature has likely experienced no net change;

“(2) there should have been a sizable CO₂-induced increase in atmospheric radiative forcing during that time, but there wasn’t. That must mean that a suite of compensatory feedbacks overwhelmed the ‘greenhouse’ impetus for warming; implying, therefore,

“(3) that the planet will not warm from any man-produced increases in CO₂; indicating

“(4) any increases in temperature will likely fit the global trend of +0.048°C/decade, that is, about 0.5°C this century—the rate of warming that has existed since the Little Ice Age, centered around 1750 in Europe, South America, and China; suggesting

“(5) that the heat storage in the upper ocean takes place in the upper 100 meters, and the magnitude provides a rise in temperature at those depths of 0.5°C in the past 50 years (in those parts of the ocean for which we have data);

“(6) this global warming (and cooling) of the ocean occurs on biennial, ENSO, decadal and interdecadal period scales; thence,

“(7) the ocean thermal changes on centennial-period scales, which appear as the warming trend through the past 50 to 100 years, can be explained by means of intrinsic internal modes of the Earth going through their normal cycle of warm-

ing and cooling, independent of both radiative and anthropogenic influences.”

Once again, the question can be asked: What led Bob Stevenson to develop such an active interest in the global warming debate? One word explains it all: “honor”—or, more accurately, “dishonor.” For the first time in his life, Bob observed fellow scientists engage in “fraudulent or deliberately dishonorable scientific conduct,” and his sense of duty did not permit him to sit on the sidelines and not object. In a cover letter (accompanying his “Non-Science of Global Warming” article) sent to friends and colleagues, Bob detailed his concerns as follows:

“My first peer-reviewed paper was in 1947, co-authored with U.S. Grant IV, my major professor at UCLA. I could have published before ’47, but in ’42 I joined the U.S. Army Air Force to ‘save the world for democracy’; with an encore during the Korean Conflict. Since then, I’ve published annually papers, books, training manuals, and classified oceanography tactical documents for the Navy, and became an expert in space oceanography.

“My professors were all from the great universities of the early 20th Century; Harvard, Chicago, Illinois, Cal/Berkeley, Stanford. Each practiced the principle of personal ‘honor.’ Scientific honor codes were not explicitly taught in my classes, but we learned by example. Of course, about 99% of fellow students then were veterans of World War II in whom honor had been thoroughly indoctrinated. It was enhanced by our professors, and all of us understood ‘dishonor.’ Such conduct simply was not tolerated—by student or professor.

“During my career, as professor, science and institution director, oceanographer with the Office of Naval Research, and as Secretary-General of IAPSO, I met thousands of scientists, read and listened to uncountable scientific papers, attended hundreds of scientific meetings and workshops (national and international), and reviewed hundreds of research proposals. The science ranged from excellent to mundane; the papers, books, and monographs the same. Through it all, I watched the tremendous growth in our knowledge of geophysics, and the dynamics of the atmosphere, the oceans, and the solid Earth. It has been exhilarating to be part of this greatest of all possible adventures.

“In all these years, I never recognized any fraudulent or deliberately dishonorable scientific conduct—until 1989. It was then, as Secretary-General of IAPSO, that I began to hear about anthropogenic ‘global warming’ and ‘ozone depletion.’ At first, I considered these ‘doomsday scenarios’ just the usual idiotic bleatings of radical environmental NGOs. Then came the extraordinary, non-scientific Rio Summit in 1992! In the following years I observed ‘scientists’ associated with, and supporting, the IPCC [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change], WMO [World Meteorological Organization], and UNEP [United Nations Environment Program] practice dishonest and, therefore, dishonorable science. It seemed, too, that much of the scientific community had lost its intolerance



Paul Scully-Power (left) and Bob Stevenson (right) with Capt. John W. Young, head of the Astronaut Office at Mission Control, Johnson Space Center, in November 1981.

of dishonorable scientific conduct. Personal pragmatism appeared to replace honor, especially amongst those scientists supported by government funding.

“Science is the anchor of rationality for our civilization. It cannot serve this purpose if dishonorable conduct is common and tolerated. Such conduct must be eliminated! True scientists and their scientific institutions must stand up and be counted.”

Those who knew Bob learned soon that the pivotal moment of his life was his service in World War II—a real “character builder,” as it was for so many—flying in nearly 30 missions over “Fortress Europe” as a B-17 bomber navigator. A natural story-teller, Bob loved recounting his war experiences and the many close calls that occurred during flights, which often lasted over 10 hours, 8½ hours of which the crew spent on oxygen. In his retirement days, he joined the Confederate Air Force (Arizona wing); as a CAF “Colonel,” he relived some of his World War II thrills by participating in two summer tours of the CAF’s restored vintage planes, flying a few legs in a B-17.

In May 1999, Bob wrote a unique article—“What Happened to This 367th Plane?”—for the *306th Echoes* publication. This article was really intended for the benefit of the widow and children of Harry Gile. Gile was a crewman on a B-17G, the “Fightin’ Car barn Hammer Slaw,” which never made it back to England after a bombing mission to Berlin on Dec. 5, 1944. At the time, not even a reasonable approximation could be made of where the plane had disappeared. Employing his knowledge as an oceanographer and navigator, Bob re-created what likely happened.

Bob’s missing plane scenario no doubt provided aficionados of World War II history something new to ponder, but that wasn’t the main reason Bob went to the trouble to research the fate of the “Fightin’ Car barn Hammer Slaw.” On many occasions over the years, Bob told others that he believed one’s life could be considered a success if that person’s presence on the planet had made it a better place. Certainly, Harry Gile’s family felt that Bob Stevenson had made the planet a better place for them. As reported by Russell Strong, editor of *306th Echoes*, “one of Harry Gile’s sons,” after reviewing Bob’s re-creation of his father’s last bombing mission, “has told his mother that for the first time in 55 years he has a sense of ‘closure’ on the combat death of his father.” Harry’s widow, Shirley, experienced the same psychological relief when she took a cruise on the North Sea and convinced the ship captain to steer the ship to 52°20’N, 02°00’E—the spot where Bob had determined her husband’s plane most likely crashed. When the ship reached this particular location, Shirley tossed a floral wreath onto the ocean, and experienced the indescribable emotions that one would experience after waiting so many years for justice to a loved one’s memory to arrive.

In 1997, Bob became a member of the Scientific Advisory Board for *21st Century Science & Technology* magazine. Another feature article of his, “A View from Space: The Discovery of Nonlinear Waves in the Ocean’s Near-Surface Layer,” was published in the Summer 1999 issue of *21st Century*. This article, a masterpiece like his earlier “Spiral Eddies” article, discusses the nature of such phenomena as solitons and suloyls (phenomena difficult for research ships to detect,

but which, it turns out, are readily detectable from space), and contains outstanding photos of them taken by various Space Shuttle astronauts whom Bob had trained.

Some Special Mentions

Bob's work was greatly aided by several people, some of whom deserve special mention:

Paul Scully-Power's teaming up with Bob to advance the cause of space oceanography has been detailed earlier. It is sufficient to note that had Paul, serving as Bob's replacement, not flown on Mission STS-41G, progress in the field of space oceanography would have been greatly retarded.

While working for the Office of Naval Research, Bob's colleague and "right-hand man" was Prof. Ben J. Cagle, a scientist noted for his unpretentiousness, quiet efficiency, and wisdom. Ben and Bob worked together on many classified projects for the Navy, and the twosome's various contributions helped shorten the Cold War. When Bob became Secretary-General of IAPSO, he naturally chose Ben to act as Deputy Secretary-General, who served him and the organization in exemplary fashion.

Marine geologist and oceanographer Gerald G. Kuhn, understudy to the legendary Francis P. Shepard, and co-author with Shepard of *Sea Cliffs, Beaches, and Coastal Valleys of San Diego County*, was like another son to Bob. Over the years, NASA sent Bob copies of all the photos taken during each Space Shuttle mission. Gerry stored, archived, and previewed these photos for Bob, frequently bringing to Bob's attention scientifically important shots which deserved the master's special scrutiny, and which would have otherwise gone unnoticed and unstudied. The two collaborated on several endeavors, such as the publication of Gerry's feature cover article, "The Impact of Volcanic Eruptions on Worldwide Weather," in the Winter 1997-1998 issue of *21st Century*, and assisted the California Seismic Safety Commission in the identification of previously unrecognized earthquake faults.

While Bob served as IAPSO's Secretary-General from 1987-1995, the "real Secretary" during this time was Bob's wife, Jeani. She assumed multiple near-impossible tasks for IAPSO—that is, preparing all the mailings, maintaining an up-to-date database of the members, preparing IAPSO's massive 518-page *Proceedings* of its 1995 General Assembly, and so on. Over the years, Jeani word-processed to professional quality standards Bob's numerous astronaut briefing documents and articles; she made her often reluctant husband computer literate, enabling him to more easily research and compose his writings, as well as interact via e-mail with all his friends and colleagues worldwide (a favorite pastime of Bob's).

In 1995, shortly after stepping down as IAPSO's Secretary-General, Bob was diagnosed as having prostate cancer. The cancer was kept under control for years with hormone therapy; eventually, though, the cancer acted like the incom-

ing tide. After a lengthy illness, in which he demonstrated the same courage that he displayed during all his dangerous World War II bombing missions, Bob passed away on Aug. 12, 2001.

Bob's Legacy

At the moment when his health no longer permitted him to work, Bob was engaged in his greatest project, when judged from its potential positive impact for mankind. He was preparing the "Astronaut Guidelines for Ocean Observations"—a CD-ROM containing the 100 best space oceanography photos ever taken, along with pertinent instructions to the astronaut on how best to observe and photograph important ocean phenomena. In the years since Bob's 1988 *Astronauts' Guide to Oceanographic Phenomena* had been published, far superior photos of solitons, suloids, and other ocean phenomena had been captured by the cameras of the Space Shuttle astronauts. Knowledge about these phenomena had also increased significantly since 1988. The "Astronaut Guidelines for Ocean Observations" was, therefore, shaping up to be the ultimate space oceanography training tool for astronauts. One of its key advantages, was that its convenient format—a CD-ROM—easily allowed for its being taken up into space; astronauts aboard the space station or Shuttle could, whenever necessary, quickly review the CD's photos and instructions, facilitating their ocean observation duties. It is hoped that NASA will live up to its commitment to implement the "Astronaut Guidelines for Ocean Observations" project, with some of Bob's colleagues.

When one discovers and works tirelessly to develop an entirely new field of science, as Bob did, and vigorously defends and promotes throughout his career the values of ethical scientific conduct, few words can adequately describe the legacy left to us by such a man. Among all the accolades that could be made, probably the words that would satisfy Bob most to hear said of him are the following: The presence of Dr. Robert E. Stevenson, "The Father of Space Oceanography," made our planet a much better place.

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Did Israeli Military Kill 'General Gandhi'?

by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

This release was issued Sunday, Oct. 21, 2001, by the LaRouche-in-2004 political committee.

I have two important, closely related statements to make on the matter of the assassination, this past week, of retired Israeli General Rehavam Ze'evi, a.k.a. the "General Gandhi" of Central American drug-trafficking and other notorieties.

First, I reference facts which expose the appalling credulity of those, who exclude the strong evidence suggesting that the list of suspects in seeking out the authorship of the assassination, could be the Israeli military itself.

Second, I emphasize that those silly people who insist, fanatically, "I don't believe in conspiracy theories," usually turn out to be the same fools who shriek, "Don't mention the word truth in my presence! There is no truth! There is only the set of facts which happen to fit with my opinion." Thus, people either select some facts, while denying others, or even invent their so-called "facts," to fit their degraded desires. This second problem is, from experience with governments and others over decades, the most common cause of what events have proven to have been the probably unintended failures of law-enforcement and intelligence investigations.

I present this twofold warning from the standpoint of being the only major U.S. Presidential candidate for the 2000 election, who documented the truth about the onrushing collapse of the world's present monetary-financial system. Often, we are confronted with something like the case, of the virtual insanity of those who placed their religious faith in the now collapsed "new economy" swindle. Obviously, those who said that I was wrong in warning against buying into that swindle, are much sadder, and definitely not richer,

as a result of their own foolishness. If you supported any of my rivals in the 2000 election campaign, you are one of those foolish fellows who must remember the issue of the economy during that 1999-2000 period. While some of our airlines are still flying, although most of our railroads are now shut down, you still owe it to yourself to stop, look, listen—and think.

In my long experience with our own and other governments, the most frequent source of needless suffering of our own citizens and other nations, is, similarly, not consciously malicious intent; but, often, the result of what is simply a kind of stubborn incompetence in official circles. Often it is just one more example of the degree of increasing ignorance among recent generations of university graduates and others. Often, it is the kind of negligent morality which argues, "let us hope that this guy turns out to be guilty." Those kinds of problems have become—not steadily, but—unsteadily worse since President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

The all-too-typical Presidential candidate, or even ordinary U.S. citizen today, reacts to even crucially important events with words to the effect, "Don't tell me to think! I don't wish to think; I have already made up my mind!" Those words deserve to be written on that poor fellow's tombstone, if he can still afford one.

Look at the case of the Ze'evi assassination. Listen, once again, to my worry that the present U.S. government is shooting itself on the foot on the matter of its response to the recent Sept. 11 attacks. Someone must tell the U.S. citizens what is actually happening to their future; that job of getting you to recognize the truth, falls to me, largely by the failures of others who have left this burden on my shoulders. Probably, in my



The last Israeli “breakaway ally” scenario, in 1982, destroyed Beirut, thousands of Palestinian lives, and President Ronald Reagan’s attempt to bring peace to the region. A much greater swath of destruction is threatened this time, as LaRouche explains.

present role as a candidate for the 2004 election, I am now your future. If you reject my leadership now, as you did during 1999-2000, you probably have no future. What it will be, is now up to you.

‘Who Killed Cock Robin?’

Since the 1970s, the principal method of blackmail used by Israeli fanatics in controlling the behavior of the U.S. government, has been the threat of what was known since then under such “Get Smart”-style rubrics, as “the breakaway-ally syndrome,” or the “chicken-game syndrome.” Israel would threaten to go to the threshold of a nuclear Middle East war, threatening the U.S., that if Washington did not fight Israel’s war, Israel would start a war which couldn’t be stopped.

Typical is the way in which the terrorist attack on the Marine barracks in Lebanon brought President Reagan’s Middle East peace initiative to an end.

Thus, the peculiar character of Israel’s bloodiest roles in world affairs, has been its emphasis on privately financed special killing and related operations in the Americas, Africa, and elsewhere. In the case of the two relevant Palestinian combat associations, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and Hamas, the role of the Israeli and certain other governments in building these up as rivals to the Arafat-

led Fatah organization, is typical of the kinds of operations in which Ariel Sharon and his long-standing accomplice Ze’evi were active.

If we take into account all of the most relevant factors of the situation in which Ze’evi was assassinated, qualified security specialists are compelled to ask whether or not Ze’evi was killed as a substitute for the Sharon who was already a candidate for assassination by the most desperate faction of the Israeli military command. Given the realities of Israeli security practices, and Ze’evi’s own capabilities, a group such as PFLP would not have attempted such an assassination unless they were confident that the expected several layers of official and private security screens around Ze’evi were down.

Who benefitted from the assassination of Ze’evi? None other than that section of the Israeli military command which is determined to bully the Bush Administration into allowing, or even conducting full-scale attacks on Syria and Iraq.

The Hamas, which is not suspected in this case, was fostered as an anti-Arafat force by Ze’evi ally Sharon, during the period Sharon was Israeli Housing Minister. The PFLP has a more complicated, French-flavored pedigree. These cases are merely typical of the fact, that, throughout the period since the aftermath of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, terrorist and other groups have been able to function only to the degree they had protection from either governments, or financial cabals with capabilities comparable to those of governments. Through Israeli penetration of and cooperation with international black operations of that type, relevant Israeli intelligence agencies, as in Ze’evi’s role in Colombia drug-running circles, have effective penetration of most such irregular organizations — such as terrorist organizations — often including elements of top-down control.

Ask two questions. First, who has benefitted from the aftermath of the assassination of Ze’evi? Second, what is the meaning of the remarkably exact coincidence in timing, between the filing of dramatic new evidence which could overturn the Lockerbie verdict in the Pan Am 103 case, and the targeting of Syria-based PFLP as the putative author of the Ze’evi killing?

As a U.S. citizen, it is in your vital personal interest, to ask the question: Will the killing of Ze’evi, a killing with

those predicates, tend to push the Bush Administration into capitulating to the Israeli military command's efforts to bring about an immediate U.S.-based, large-scale military operation against both Syria and Iraq?

Since most of you were already suckered into believing in Al Gore's promises of a bright future for the "new economy," you are doubtless one of those people who seriously need to begin thinking, rather than being, once again, blindly suckered into believing such fairy-tales as the current mass-media line on the Ze'evi assassination.

The Geometry Of Intention

The time has come to abandon the cult of popular opinion, and to try telling the truth, instead. Your life, and our nation's future may depend upon it.

The poor fool whose wits were flushed down the drain in the post-World War II brainwashing of many Americans, as by wild-eyed existentialists and liars such as Theodor Adorno and Hannah Arendt, says, "I don't believe in conspiracy theories." Your best shot in rebuttal of such silly outbursts from sources such as that, is, "So, first gargle, and then tell me: Are you just a brainwashed idiot, or, are you trying to cover up something with that stinking hogwash you just spouted?"

The effects which may be recognized later as the fruits of a conspiracy, include such cases as the tragic failure of the conspirators' intentions, but also the control of mass behavior, by what they have failed to recognize as the unsuspected influence of more or less axiomatic, controlling assumptions, on their own behavior. I have illustrated the role of unsuspected axioms by reference to the example of axiomatically different kinds of physical space-time geometries.

Take as a relevant example, the suicidal assumption by some influential Israeli and other circles, that the Palestinians would be guilty of any war resulting from their refusal to allow the building of the so-called Third Temple of Solomon on the present site of one of the holiest places of Islam. In the present state of Middle East and related affairs, such a demand by the Israelis or others, means the unleashing of a general religious war of the type we had thought to eliminate from European civilization with the 1648 Treaty of Westphalia. Anyone who supports the demand for the forcible building of the so-called "Third Temple," is not only a wild-eyed warmonger, a virtual criminal, but is indulging in promoting the very worst kind of warfare, religious warfare.

It can not be said that the backers of the Israeli fanatics' demands are simply being stubbornly stupid on this question. An adult drunken driver who drives is guilty of the intention implied by his condition. Nor can we say, that the Israeli fanatics acting in that manner are in any sense innocent fools. European history, from the time of Venice's partnership with the Plantagenets in the religious and related wars of the period from the Second Crusade through the toppling of England's evil Richard III, and the pattern of religious wars

which Venice orchestrated from 1511 through 1648 AD in modern Europe, are examples of the witting role of those, like Zbigniew Brzezinski, who have orchestrated prolonged religious war for geopolitical or related strategic purposes. The fate of civilization on this planet, now depends upon preventing the supporters of Ariel Sharon and the Israeli right-wing military, from triggering the kind of "Clash of Civilizations" toward which figures such as the British Arab Bureau's Bernard Lewis and Zbigniew Brzezinski have been working.

Brzezinski's role and influence typifies what should be understood as social processes which only a madman would refuse to recognize as a conspiracy. The insistence on adhering to assumptions which have inherent consequences, means that the perpetrator intends to bring such consequences into play. Either he knows what he is doing, in which case he is explicitly guilty, or he does not know, in which case he is to be judged insane.

For example, the reigning form of psychotic mass-hysteria on this planet today, is the form of impassioned dedication to the presently collapsing, existing world monetary and financial system of 1971-2001, even to the point of insisting that that system be defended, "whatever that costs." The intention to defend that system, and such accreted features as "globalization" and "new economy" delusions, represents an axiomatic kind of intention built into the behavior of the believer.

In the case of the policies of the presently ruling Israeli military dictatorship, the commitment to a certain conception of Israel, including the matter of al-Haram al-Sharif, represents the intention to carry the world to a virtually unstoppable, prolonged, genocidal religious war. That is an evil conspiracy by implicit intent. Those who use their Israeli military puppets, to launch such a deadly provocation, such as those who argue like Brzezinski and Kissinger, are also guilty of the consequences of their intentions.

All well-crafted constitutions, such as the 1776 U.S. Declaration of Independence, or the U.S. 1789 Constitution, are examples of conspiracies whose embedded intention shapes the future of states and relations among states. Prevailing beliefs respecting science and art, or morals, have similar efficiency. Only through understanding the role of intentions, and also the way, in truth, they may be foreseen to produce their effects, can there exist either sane forms of national government, sane relations among states, peace among religious bodies, or a calculable future of any sort for even the adulthood of the present generation of infants.

As I used to demonstrate to the students in my economic classes, it would be impossible to organize the presence of the cup of coffee set before you, without a well-functioning, world-wide conspiracy among the agencies which produce all of the elements of materials and processes which go into presenting that cup, with that content, in that place and time at which it is served to you.

Syria, Lebanon, Iraq May Be Next Targets

by Dean Andromidas

Since the assassination of Israeli Tourism Minister Rehavam Ze'evi on Oct. 17, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and his generals have moved one step further toward provoking general warfare in the Middle East. The Israeli military has been conducting attacks on the Palestinian-held territory of the West Bank, attacks which politically threaten to collapse the Palestinian Authority. At the same time, Israeli defense officials have threatened Syria with military strikes if it does not stop Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas from carrying out attacks along Israel's border with Lebanon. These actions are aimed at dragging the United States into a wider anti-Arab war in the Middle East, a war targetting Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon.

Sharon's provocation must be seen in the context of the ongoing campaign in Washington by those who want to extend the "war against international terrorism" into a "Clash of Civilizations." Those leading this drumbeat, for a wider war against Iraq and Syria, since the Sept. 11 attacks, are precisely the friends of Sharon and his generals. They include U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz and U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage.

Ze'evi's assassination should be assessed from this strategic standpoint. In an Oct. 20 statement, U.S. 2004 Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche outlined the context and the characteristic features of Ze'evi's assassination. LaRouche emphasized that it would be irresponsible to "exclude the strong evidence suggesting that on the list of suspects in seeking out the authorship of the assassination, could be the Israeli military itself. . . . Qualified security specialists are compelled to ask whether Ze'evi was killed as a substitute for the Sharon who was already a candidate for assassination by the most desperate faction of the Israeli military command."

LaRouche pointed out that those who benefitted from Ze'evi's assassination were "none other than that section of the Israeli military command which is determined to bully the Bush Administration into allowing, or even conducting full-scale attacks on Syria and Iraq."

Sharon Spits In Bush's Eye

Within hours of Ze'evi's assassination, Sharon ordered an Israeli military assault on Palestinian territory, unprecedented in its scale and brutality. Attacking all the major Pales-

tinian-held cities in the West Bank, including Ramallah, Nablus, and Bethlehem, the assault destroyed municipal buildings and the homes of Palestinian families linked to "terrorists," some of whom had already been assassinated by Israeli forces. More than 40 Palestinians, including women and children, were killed in the first week of operations. More than ten of those victims were killed after President George Bush told Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, on Oct. 23, that Israeli troops must withdraw "as quickly as possible" from Palestinian territory. Later the same day, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said that Israel should withdraw "immediately."

The obvious concern of the Bush Administration was stated by U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, who told Peres during their meeting on Oct. 22, "The more the situation escalates, the more our ability to maintain the coalition against terror with Arab states is eroded."

Sharon's opposite intent is also obvious. If the Arab states abandon the U.S. "coalition," the administration will not "reward" the Arabs with a Palestinian state and the return of the Golan Heights to Syria, but will rather have to fight Israel's war against the Arabs. For Sharon's supporters in Washington, if the Arabs are forced to abandon the United States, then there is nothing to stop their policy of a "Clash of Civilizations."

As of this writing, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) have not withdrawn from Palestinian territory. But even should Sharon eventually "capitulate" to the U.S. demand to pull out, it will change very little. Commentator Gideon Samat, in the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz*, wrote that Sharon "does not want a settlement and will use any reason on which he can lay his hands or tongue. . . . His revulsion for a real settlement is greater than that of the Palestinian leader. Arafat went to top-level talks with former Prime Minister Ehud Barak. He rejected his proposals but was prepared to discuss them. Sharon has not even come close to this threshold." Samat concludes that Sharon is "pushing the country . . . toward another disaster."

A senior Israeli intelligence source expressed to *EIR* his amazement at how Sharon has "spit in the face" of the Bush Administration's demands, yet the administration continues to play soft with Sharon. "If this continues, the region will be slowly moving to a disaster of major proportions," he said. The IDF's operation, even should it soon be withdrawn, remains an obvious prelude to the eventual reoccupation of the West Bank and the crushing of the Palestinian Authority. If not now, it could occur at the next opportunity.

U.S. Threatens Syria

Ever since Sept. 11, elements within the American intelligence community—typified by former CIA chief James Woolsey—and among such as the Bush Administration's Deputy Secretary of Defense Wolfowitz, have been pushing for a military attack against Iraq. Also, since late August, and



U.S. Secretary of State Donald Rumsfeld (left) and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. The Sharon government has thumbed its nose at Bush Administration requests to pull its troops out of Palestinian-controlled areas.

especially since Sept. 11, senior figures in the administration, most explicitly Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, have issued warnings and threats against the government in Damascus for allegedly protecting or colluding with terrorist groups. These are precisely those in the administration who maintain strong ties to Sharon and his generals.

It is well known that if the United States attacks Syria or Iraq, Arab support for the United States will evaporate. It should be remembered that the President's father would have been unable to organize a pan-Arab coalition against Iraq in 1991, without the support of Syria. An attack on Syria is an attack on that nation's allies, and Iran and Saudi Arabia as well. An attack on Iraq, could spark popular unrest that could lead to a collapse of the Egyptian and Jordanian governments.

A senior British military source indicated to *EIR* that the Anglo-American war in Afghanistan is only the "initial phase" of the so-called "war against terrorism." "I don't think we are being told what is really happening militarily, in and around Afghanistan," the source said. "I think it is a 'blind,' for action being planned in the Middle East, against Syria, and conceivably Iraq."

According to this source, "there have been regular reconnaissance flights over Syria recently. Syria is becoming a foremost concern, given developments in Lebanon—the Hezbollah—and the PFLP." In Lebanon, where Hezbollah is based, the Syrian government exerts major influence, and some 20,000 Syrian troops are stationed there. The PFLP maintains a headquarters in Damascus.

The Ze'evi's assassination has given Sharon and his generals the perfect pretext to play their part in bringing about a

"Clash of Civilizations." Since Sept. 11, Sharon's government has been busy doing everything possible to have Arafat declared as in the same league as Osama bin Laden, and to have the ruling Syrian Ba'ath party declared the Taliban of the Middle East.

The IDF's Mad Logic

On the morning of Oct. 23, IDF Deputy Chief of Staff Moshe Ya'alon warned of mounting tensions between Israel and Syria and Lebanon, as well as Iran. On Israeli Radio, Ya'alon said, "Lebanon has recently turned into a potential launching platform for Iranian-made rockets." He said that Syria is at "a point from which [Damascus] could move toward an agreement or, alternatively, return to conflict."

As if on cue, Hezbollah guerrillas in southern Lebanon launched

anti-tank rockets at two Israeli military outposts along the Israeli-Lebanese border in the area of the disputed Shaaba farms.

On the same day, Ahmed Jibril, leader of the PFLP-General Command (a splitoff from the PFLP), told Danish radio that Ze'evi's assassination was justified, because he was a criminal. Jibril went further, saying that Prime Minister Sharon, Infrastructure Minister Avigdor Lieberman, Interior Minister Nathan Sharansky, and former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu should also be assassinated.

At an Israeli military base along the Lebanese border, Israeli Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer threatened to attack Syria if the Hezbollah attacks Israeli positions along the border. "There is no guarantee that Hezbollah won't continue" its attacks, Ben-Eliezer said. "Hezbollah has become one of the world's primary terror threats." He said that he had sent a message to the U.S. administration: "We told them that we think the Syrians—and apparently Hezbollah—have not been paying attention to American pronouncements and warnings. Syria is a state containing 20 terrorist organizations, including the leadership of Islamic Jihad. Syria is now also a member of the UN Security Council. There is nothing more cynical than that." Directly threatening Syria, Ben-Eliezer continued, "The fact that yesterday we attacked Hezbollah does not mean we have absolved Syria. It does not mean that we do not know that without Syria's backing this sort of action could not have taken place."

IDF Chief of Staff Shaul Mofaz, speaking before the Knesset (parliament) Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, displayed typical IDF logic, thundering that if Hezbollah

attacks Israeli positions along the border, the IDF will exact a “heavy price” from the Hezbollah right then and there, in order to keep the situation from escalating!

The Bush Administration seemed to get the message. U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Vincent Battle reportedly delivered a warning to the government in Beirut, that Israel is preparing to attack Syrian military positions and installations in Lebanon, in response to a Hezbollah attack along the Israeli border. Battle warned Lebanon not to allow the situation to escalate along the border.

Ambassador Battle’s statement followed comments by

President Bush on Oct. 23, during his meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Peres, in which Bush said that the United States views Hezbollah as a terrorist group with “global reach.”

A Bush Administration official was quoted by the *Jerusalem Post* as saying, “The President said very clearly that Hezbollah is one of those terrorist organizations that qualifies within his scenarios of global reach.” The term “global reach” is apparently the term that the administration has applied to organizations it considers in the same category as Osama bin Laden.

Israel Buried Reagan Peace Plan In Blood

The possibility of an Israeli “breakaway ally” war provocation, ostensibly triggered by the assassination of Israeli Gen. Rechavam Ze’evi, had been under active consideration by the Sharon government and leading circles within the Israeli Defense Forces, prior to the Ze’evi murder. On Oct. 12, days before Ze’evi’s assassination, in response to news coverage of a Bush Administration peace plan to formally recognize a Palestinian state, Cabinet minister Dan Nevah warned: “All history shows that when the Americans put a plan on the table, like the famous Reagan plan, the programs did not achieve their aims.” Prime Minister Ariel Sharon’s personal spokesman, Raanan Gissin, seconded the Nevah threat, declaring days later, “The United States will never submit to Israel by surprise a plan for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The United States has never imposed a plan that both sides have not accepted.”

Nevah’s scornful denunciation of the “Reagan plan” could not have constituted a more direct, violent threat against President Bush’s revitalized peace efforts.

On Sept. 1, 1982, President Ronald Reagan launched a Mideast peace initiative. The President declared, “The war in Lebanon has demonstrated . . . [that] first the military losses of the PLO have not diminished the yearning of the Palestinian people for a just solution of their claims; and second, while Israel’s military successes in Lebanon have demonstrated that its armed forces are second to none in the region, they alone cannot bring just and lasting peace to Israel and her neighbors.” Reagan went on to call for direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians and the Arab states of the region, for the “transfer of territory” in exchange for peace, and he declared that the “final status of Jerusalem” should be “decided through negotiations.”

That initiative, far less ambitious than the past decade’s Oslo and related proposals, was immediately sabotaged by Israel’s 1982 invasion of Lebanon, and by the massacres of unarmed Palestinians, including women and children, at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps near Beirut.

On Sept. 18, 1982, the morning after the Sabra and Shatilla massacres, President Reagan addressed the American people, and held Israel responsible for the mass killings: “All people of decency,” he declared, “must share our outrage and revulsion of the murders, which included women and children. . . . We [had been] assured that Israeli forces would not enter west Beirut. We also understood that following withdrawal, Lebanese Army units would establish control over that city. We were thwarted in this effort by the Israeli occupation that took place beginning Wednesday. . . . We strongly opposed Israel’s move into west Beirut . . . for fear it would provoke further fighting.”

Then-Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon has recently been accused in a Belgian court of war crimes, for his role in the Sabra and Shatila mass murders, and one former Reagan special envoy to Lebanon, Morris Draper, has told BBC’s Panorama that Sharon was a pivotal figure in that act of genocide against unarmed civilians.

President Reagan continued the peace efforts, until the Spring of 1983, when two terrorist attacks—the car-bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut and the bombing of the U.S. Marine barracks near the Lebanese capital—forced him to withdraw American peacekeepers from Lebanon.

Israeli military forces refused to leave Lebanon (they finally withdrew in 1999, after a 20-year occupation). At the time of the Embassy and Marine barracks bombings, there were widespread reports that the Israeli intelligence services had known in advance about the attacks, but neglected to inform the United States.

—Michele and Jeffrey Steinberg

Powell's Visit To Asia Clarifies Some Issues

by Ramtanu Maitra

The purpose of the Oct. 16-17 visit of U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell to the Asian subcontinent was *not*—as India had hoped—to consolidate forces to eradicate terrorism, not only in Afghanistan, but in India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka as well; but rather to explain why such consolidation is not America's policy at this time. It was also pointed out, that what does not correspond to immediate administration policy, can be dealt with only later.

Powell's main destination was Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan. The India leg, on the other hand, was an add-on to massage New Delhi's ego. The objective of the trip was to convey to Pakistan's President Gen. Pervez Musharraf that the Afghan campaign may be longer than Islamabad would like. Powell's second point, was that Washington, like Islamabad, does not believe that Afghanistan's Northern Alliance—the force opposing the Taliban composed of ethnic Afghan minority groups backed by Russia, India, and Iran—has a legitimate right to control Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan.

Secretary Powell also made President Musharraf aware of how important it is to have Pakistan on the American side as it launches the upcoming ground action against the Taliban, to ferret out the terrorist, Osama bin Laden. President Musharraf, a trained commando who came to power with the help of three other fellow “commando generals” in October 1999, is knowledgeable about Afghanistan and the terrain where American and British commandos are expected to soon be operating. Powell also told President Musharraf about the work-in-progress to get Pakistan some more financial help and ease its foreign debt burden.

Caution In Islamabad

In Islamabad, Powell liked what he saw, although that may not be the real picture. He found a cooperating Pakistani President, who expressed his concern about a long-drawn-out American involvement in Afghanistan. President Musharraf brought to the Secretary of State's notice the social impact—the Muslim unrest and the Afghan refugee factor—if the bombing of Afghanistan were to continue for long. Although there were very few political demonstrations targeted against either Secretary Powell or the United States, President Mu-

sharraf made it abundantly clear that such demonstrations would occur, and they may even turn violently anti-government and anti-United States.

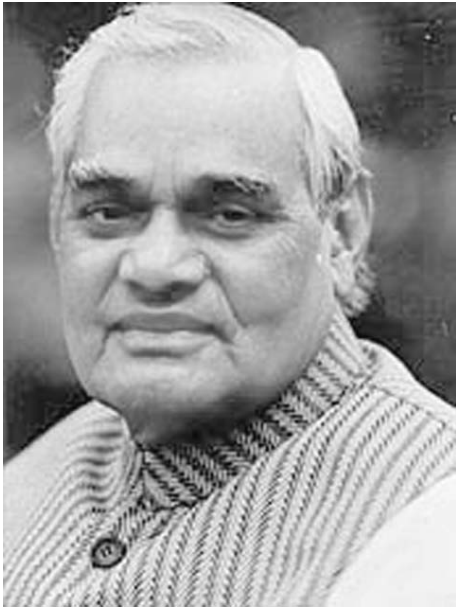
That was the crux of the trip. But, since it is not possible for any American diplomat, working at a high level or low level, to come out of the subcontinent without making a formal announcement of some sort on Kashmir, Powell climbed the podium with President Musharraf and declared that the Kashmir issue is “central” to Indo-Pakistan relations. He also said that the Kashmir problem could be resolved if all parties engage with a willingness to address concerns in a mutually acceptable way. Secretary Powell made it clear, first to President Musharraf, and later to Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, that Washington would not like to see relations between India and Pakistan heat up at a time when the United States is engaged in the region curbing terrorism.

The statement brought cheers within the Pakistani power structure, but drew gloomy faces in New Delhi. Whether the Secretary of State was not adequately briefed about the Indian sensitivity to hearing anyone of his stature addressing the Kashmir issue as “central” to Indo-Pakistani relations, or had made his statement deliberately to rile the Indians, is moot. India's recently re-appointed Defense Minister, George Fernandes, organized a fresh round of heavy shelling across the Line of Control, which separates the Indian- and Pakistani-held parts of Kashmir. India's Ministry of External Affairs, which has received a lot of flak in recent days for rendering wholehearted support to the Americans, fervently began working to pressure Secretary Powell to remove the word “central,” in describing the Kashmir issue.

Confusion In New Delhi

The New Delhi leg of Powell's trip, as it is, was expected to be fraught with differences. New Delhi, following the Sept. 11 attack on the United States, had pledged total backing to Washington, including willingness to provide full logistical support to the American Army. At the time, New Delhi's hope, which turned out to be illusory, was that Washington would step in with authority, and tell Pakistan to stop training the Kashmiri terrorists and thus prevent future cross-border terrorism. Pakistan has never admitted that it encourages cross-border terrorism, or even training of the terrorists. To Islamabad, Kashmiri militants are “freedom-fighters,” and they cannot be lumped together with the kind of terrorists that have targetted the United States.

India's other bone of contention is the Northern Alliance. Despite the group's meager capabilities, India wants the Northern Alliance to have a power-sharing role in Kabul. The reason why India backs this rag-tag group of warriors, who do not control even 10% of the country, is that it is also backed by Russia and Iran—two of India's allies. The other reason is that the Northern Alliance is simply not acceptable to Islamabad and, hence, is acceptable to New Delhi.



Secretary of State Powell's trip to Pakistan and India left Indian President Vajpayee (left) with concerns over what the U.S. is doing to attempt to deploy Pakistan in the "war against terrorism." Vajpayee will discuss those concerns in Moscow in early November.

As it turned out, Powell had little to offer to the Indians on these two issues. Washington is not in a position to antagonize Pakistan on Kashmir and rev up the dormant Kashmir *jihadis* against Islamabad. This, however, antagonized India. Prime Minister Vajpayee went on record, apparently referring to Powell's comments, saying, "We decide on our own as to what is good for the country, and that is why we are respected, and we have a place in the comity of nations, and our views are sought on the future of Afghanistan."

One country that will give more weight to India, is Russia. Vajpayee is scheduled to meet President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on a Nov. 4-7 trip, after which he flies to Washington on Nov. 9 for a meeting with President George W. Bush, prior to addressing the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Tension Prevails

Sensing the tension that prevailed in New Delhi, Powell did what he could do best. He resorted to semantics and retracted his earlier position on Kashmir. Powell rephrased the formulation attributed to him — that Kashmir was "a central" issue in the India-Pakistan equation. Referring to his Islamabad press conference, Powell said, "I didn't say 'a central.' If you look at it carefully, I said 'central' in the sense that I believe it is an important issue, and to suggest it isn't, wouldn't have been accurate."

India appears to have persuaded the United States that it needs to reassess the merit of accommodating a "moderate" wing of the Taliban in the future government of Afghanistan,

our sources have said. While the two countries agreed on resurrecting a broad-based, multi-ethnic post-Taliban dispensation, they differed with respect to the details.

In conclusion, the Powell trip has straightened out some kinks, but not much more. President Musharraf has been made to understand that while money and support will be forthcoming, he, in turn, must refrain from criticizing the U.S. operation in Afghanistan and must keep the *jihadis* under control till the campaign is over. President Musharraf has also been assured that the United States fully recognizes his difficulties vis-à-vis India on Kashmir; and in due course, that, too, will be discussed.

For India, the trip has been a wake-up call. India now feels that it cannot, and should not, depend on Washington to resolve the terrorist problems in Kashmir. Washington has a different set of priorities in dealing with the terrorists, and that set is quite independent of India's. Second, the Northern Alliance is nothing more than what it is, and the United States is not going to project it as what it is not. It is almost a certainty that the Northern Alliance will have a minor role to play in the present Afghan campaign. Its role, for the Americans, is to prevent the Afghans and hardcore Taliban militia from crossing over to Central Asia and escaping the U.S. dragnet.

The new awakening may allow India to chart its own path on the issues discussed. It may also weaken the desire of some in India's bureaucracy to develop a lasting strategic partnership with the United States. It may, as well, raise the temperature in Kashmir.

Pakistani Economy Is Collapsing Fast

by Mary Burdman

The economic situation in Pakistan, the key U.S. base of operations for the war against Afghanistan, is growing more desperate by the day. Pakistan, a nation of 156 million people, is already burdened with at least \$36 billion in international debt. After two decades of war in Afghanistan, Pakistan is now host to 2 million Afghani refugees.

When the Bush Administration made clear, that blame for the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington would be shifted outside the United States — rather than on the internal rogue forces actually responsible — Pakistan was plunged into an even more precarious economic situation.

Foreign importers of Pakistani textiles, especially in the United States and Europe, are cancelling orders on a large scale. Commerce Minister Abdul Razzak Dawood said on Oct. 25, that the cancellations are hitting at the time when Pakistan usually gets most of its international orders. While Pakistani factories and ports are operating well, he said, “the slowdown of the buyers is affecting our industries. . . . The main assistance we are looking for is the market access for our products.” This means factories will shut down, and unemployment will shoot up, he warned.

At the same time, foreign companies are shutting down operations in Pakistan, and, with foreign airlines pulling out, exporters are having to pay much higher freight costs for what orders still exist. The Islamabad Board of Investment warned on Oct. 26 of “acute difficulties” for the Pakistani economy. Among other problems, the United States and Europe have been delaying in issuing visas to Pakistani businessmen, while the United Arab Emirates cancelled visas altogether, further cramping exports.

Former World Bank economist Shahid Javed Burki recently wrote in *Dawn* that Pakistan could lose \$1 billion worth of exports in the wake of Sept. 11. Other estimates put the losses as high as \$2 billion. Pakistan has only \$2 billion in foreign reserves.

The U.S. and international financial agencies have “pledged” a pathetic \$800 million-worth of financial aid to Pakistan, but this — when it materializes — is but a drop on a hot stone.

Urgent Call For Debt Relief

Islamabad urgently called for extensive debt relief, in a ten-point proposal to U.S. Economic Undersecretary of State

Alan Larson, who was in Islamabad on Oct. 23. The demands reportedly include “re-profiling” of \$12 billion in bilateral debt, because Pakistan cannot wait for debt write-off. A write-off would take much too long, because it would require the Western creditors to change their laws to permit so radical a measure.

What has materialized to date, has been World Bank “approval” of a \$300 million credit — for the “restructuring and privatization” of the Pakistani banking system! This is hardly the way to aid a rapidly collapsing economy.

The International Monetary Fund, meanwhile, is making noises about a “major” poverty-reduction loan, but amounts and dates of delivery, as ever, have yet to materialize.

Pakistan is also calling for \$5 billion worth of debt relief from Japan, which on Oct. 26 lifted the sanctions it had imposed on Islamabad after the latter’s 1998 nuclear tests. Tokyo is considering an \$800 million new loan to Pakistan.

Meanwhile, Washington has made it absolutely clear that it will continue to exert heavy political pressure on Islamabad to comply with U.S. demands on such issues as “nuclear proliferation” and “democracy.” On Oct. 23, Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf asserted publicly, that there was “no question” that his country would not give up its nuclear program, which he called the cornerstone of Pakistan’s national security.

The Refugee Crisis

At the same time, desperate and destitute refugees from Afghanistan continue to flood into Pakistan. Since Sept. 11, an estimated 40,000-60,000 Afghan refugees have crossed the officially “closed” border. On one day, some 6,000 poured through Chaman Point alone, and many thousand more are crossing via unmonitored sections of the border in the mountains. For most Afghans, Pakistan is the only external country they can reach, due to the U.S. bombing, the breakdown of internal transport, and the mountainous terrain. There are at least 180,000 more internal refugees in Afghanistan now, and many of them could try to reach Pakistani as the situation deteriorates.

UN agencies, which have called for \$585 million in aid to care for the refugees, have so far only had some \$67 million in aid “confirmed” — although how much even of that has actually been delivered, is not known.

One ironic effect of the situation, is that the value of the U.S. dollar against the Pakistani rupee has been falling steadily since Sept. 11. While one reason for this, is that Pakistani trade has been severely curtailed, leading to much less demand for dollars, another may have to do with reported large purchases of Pakistani, Afghan, and Iranian currencies in the local markets. The Peshawar *Frontier Post* notes the local view, that U.S. and other intelligence agencies may be buying the funds, clearly for use in attempts to buy off various groups inside Afghanistan.

U.S. Protects Al-Qaeda Terrorists In Kosovo

by Umberto Pascali

While the United States is relentlessly bombing Afghanistan with the official aim of getting Osama bin Laden, one of bin Laden's top collaborators is running a terrorist training camp in an area of Kosovo that is *under U.S. control*. The shocking revelation has been confirmed by multiple sources: Macedonian intelligence agencies, as reported by several Macedonian media, including the leading daily *Dnevnik*; Russian press agencies, including Novosti and ItarTass; and the London *Independent*.

This intelligence coheres with Lyndon LaRouche's assessment of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, as a strategic covert operation by an enemy *within* the U.S. and "allied" security services, for geopolitical purposes.

The Russian media quoted, as the source of their detailed revelation, the Russian troops stationed not far from the reported terrorist training camp. This is in itself exceptional, in the sense that there is hardly a precedent of the Russian military in Kosovo reporting events of such gravity to the leading news agencies.

These revelations, and the clear position taken by Macedonian intelligence in confirming and expanding them, are now reopening the explosive question of the protection and sponsorship granted to the narco-terrorists by Anglo-Ameri-

can agencies.

But this is only a small part of the new strategic geometry opened up by the revelations. The red-hot political point concerns the very basis for the "war against terrorism" launched after the war-like attacks of Sept. 11, and the immediate concentration on bin Laden and Afghanistan as the perpetrators of those attacks—and the threatened extension of the "infinite war" to Syria, Iraq, and so on. If the Anglo-Americans are at "war" with bin Laden's terrorism, why are bin Laden operatives active in Kosovo in an area totally controlled by NATO? Furthermore, in the U.S. zone in Kosovo? Investigations on the bin Laden connection into the Balkans and Kosovo could, according to experts, lead to even more explosive truths in a very short period of time.

Keep The Clash Going

On Oct. 16, Novosti reported: "A training camp of Albanian militants functions near the village of Ropotovo, close to Kosovska Kamenica, in the Yugoslav province of Kosovo, which is controlled by the American force, sources from the Russian peacekeeping force in Kosovo reported on [Oct. 16]. According to [the sources], the camp is now training 50 Afghan and Algerian mujahideen, led by Zaiman Zawahiri. He is reportedly the brother of one of the closest associates of international terrorist Osama bin Laden. This camp prepares militants for terrorist formations in Kosovo and Macedonia. Their 'instructors' are former [ethnic] Albanian officers who, in 1991-92, deserted from the Yugoslav Army."

The *Independent* reported on Oct. 21 that Interpol has linked bin Laden to Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) crime gangs, and that he "supplied one of his top military commanders for an elite KLA unit" in Kosovo.

That was only the beginning. The target of the terrorist gangs' deployment into Macedonia: to prevent, by violence, the return of Macedonian refugees into the villages "cleansed" by the KLA during this year; and to take over the water reserve on which the Macedonian capital, Skopje, depends.

Beyond that, these extremists are out to reignite the ethnic "Clash of Civilizations" in the Balkans, to crush the escalating resistance of Macedonia—which has been actively playing the LaRouche card in response to its national crisis (see *EIR*, Oct. 19)—and to continue the march of destruction, possibly triggering in the near future, an ethnic upheaval in Greece or Bulgaria.

The fact that such an operation is taking place in the middle of the "war on the Taliban and al-Qaeda"—the fact that NATO's Lord George Robertson, U.S. Ambassador James Pardew, and the European Union's Javier Solana insist, to this very day, that Macedonia



NATO "KFOR" units in Kosovo—specifically, American forces in the U.S. zone of control—are reported to be harboring the al-Qaeda network of terrorists in the Balkans, run by the brother of Osama bin Laden's top aide.

has to surrender to the KLA ultimata, including the subversion of the Macedonian Constitution, opens up a dramatic contradiction. That contradiction throws light on the virtual reality the world has been propelled into after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Who Runs Al-Zawahiri?

The Macedonian daily *Dnevnik* reported on Oct. 19 that the group led by the brother of Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, the closest associate of bin Laden, had crossed the border from Kosovo into Macedonia. Quoting intelligence sources, *Dnevnik* wrote: "The younger brother of the chief of the Balkan headquarters of al-Qaeda, Ayman al-Zawahiri, with around 50 mujahideen, has entered Macedonia and has started building fortifications in the Skopska Crna Gora region. The aim of the terrorist group is to attack the water supply" for Skopje.

The newspaper reported that the gang had been stationed earlier in the training camp near the village of Ropotovo, Kosovo—as *Novosti* also reported—and received orders to enter the Macedonian town of Matejce. On Oct. 16, a convoy of refugees, who were previously expelled by the KLA, were supposed to visit their destroyed houses. However, the observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe entered the village first, and reported that at least 50 armed men had communicated they were going to fire on the convoy if they dared to enter Matejce. The OSCE order to the heartbroken refugees was: Go back, we cannot guarantee your security!

But who is Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, whose brother Zaiman is running terrorist camps under NATO protection in the U.S. zone in Kosovo? As the London *Guardian* wrote recently, "Even to say he is bin Laden's right-hand man may understate his importance." He is considered by many to be the real head of what is known as the bin Laden group. "Some analysts believe that in his current role in Afghanistan, al-Zawahiri has taken over control of much of bin Laden's terrorist finances, operations, plans, and resources," wrote the *Guardian*. His known terrorist career started no later than 1981, with his involvement in the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat; it includes the massacre of 70 people on a tourist bus in 1997 in Luxor, Egypt, and the assassination attempt against Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in 1995.

Strangely enough, according to an expert who testified before a U.S. Congressional committee in January 2000, al-Zawahiri was granted U.S. residence by the Immigration and Naturalization Service—something almost impossible for many legitimate immigrants to obtain. Should we be surprised that one of the centers of operation for al-Zawahiri was London, where one of his closest relatives resided? President Mubarak is believed to have referred to him when, after the Luxor massacre, he stated: "There are people who carried out crimes and who were sentenced [in Egypt] and live on British soil."

Australia: Election May Bring Drug Legalization

by Robert Barwick

An unprecedented step toward drug legalization in Australia, a government-run, prescribed heroin trial, may be one election away from reality, and that election looms on Nov. 10. Australian Prime Minister John Howard has steadfastly refused to allow a heroin trial under his administration, despite an intense lobbying campaign by the pro-dope lobby and many of Australia's state governments. However, federal Opposition Leader Kim Beazley has long promised a heroin trial, and so, the Nov. 10 election, which is at present too close to call, will not just determine who governs Australia for the next three years, but whether Australia takes that fatal step on the slippery slope of legalized drugs.

State Initiatives

Over the past decade, Australia's highly influential pro-dope lobby has shifted drug legalization to the top of the political agenda. Almost all issues relating to drug problems are now couched in legalization language, and propose legalization as a solution. The state governments of Victoria, New South Wales, and Western Australia have all hosted community "Drug Summits" in the past two years; the most common recommendation to emerge from all of them is for heroin-injecting rooms, a.k.a. "shooting galleries," where addicts will be medically supervised as they get their "hit" (and police are obliged to look the other way).

New South Wales is currently running an 18-month trial of one shooting gallery in the notorious "red light" district of Kings Cross—although this experiment almost didn't get started, when His Holiness Pope John Paul II personally intervened and forbade the original administering charity, the Catholic Sisters of Charity, from participating. The Victorian government plans five shooting galleries in the city of Melbourne. The newly elected mayor and city council have promised to consider the idea again if the state government revives it, after the previous mayor quashed the plan for an inner-city shooting gallery. The New South Wales and Victorian police forces have adopted an active legalization position, conducting experiments where police issue warnings for drug possession, instead of making arrests. All of these legalization initiatives are carried out in the name of "harm minimization," which since 1986 has been the official policy of Australia's Federal Health Department.

Ties To The British Establishment

The success of the drug lobby, lies in its direct ties to the highest levels of Australia's very British financial and political establishment. All of Australia's major banks, including the Reserve Bank, fund the Australian Drug Foundation (ADF), the most prominent national lobby group for drug legalization. The ADF is directly connected to the Drug Policy Foundation and the Lindesmith Center in the United States, controlled by global speculator, drug-legalization financier, and investment adviser to Queen Elizabeth, George Soros. For example, a prominent member of the ADF's Policy Advisory Committee, Dr. Ethan Nadelmann, is the executive director of Soros' Lindesmith Center.

The mainstream media are now part of the drug lobby. ADF Director Bill Stronach boasted at a Washington conference in 1992, "We employ journalists not to churn out press releases, but to get in the mainstream media and act as subversives." In fact, the drug-lobby control of the media is much more top-down. Billionaire media magnate Kerry Packer, a close personal friend of Britain's (and Australia's) Queen Elizabeth, even sharing a box with her at the Royal Ascot races, uses all his media outlets in television and magazines, and his contacts, to widely promote legalization. In 1983, Packer was the subject of a massive government investigation, for drug-running and other organized-crime activities — an investigation shut down by his friend, Prime Minister Bob Hawke, before it could release its findings.

There are many other British Crown connections to the drug lobby. For example, leading legalization advocates Prof. David Penington, the author of the defeated 1996 marijuana decriminalization proposal in Victoria, and Canberra Health Minister Mike Moore, are both members of the Institute of Public Affairs, an Australian front for the British Crown's Mont Pelerin Society, which advocates drug legalization as a free-market principle. Also, Australia's leading police advocate for drug legalization is a British cop, former National Director of Britain's Police Training College Peter Ryan. Ryan was imported from Britain to be the police commissioner of New South Wales, following a rigged "corruption" scandal which dismantled the state's highly effective anti-drug squad. As commissioner, he continued dismantling the New South Wales police force, Australia's largest. Ryan, when he was chief constable of the Norfolk Constabulary, developed close ties to the royal family, because Norfolk includes Sandringham, the Queen's country retreat.

Little Popular Support

Despite the success of this powerful cabal, they haven't had it all their own way. There is little popular support among "mainstream" Australia for legalized drugs, as seen in Prime Minister Howard's opposition to a heroin trial. Although the arch-conservative Howard is no great example of a moral leader, he does have a reputation as an astute politician who



Queen Elizabeth. The push for drug legalization in Australia is being carried out by those tied closely to the British Crown.

has a keen sense of what issues enjoy community support. Also, in 1996, a highly publicized political attempt to change the law to decriminalize marijuana in Victoria was smashed by a mobilization led by the Citizens Electoral Council, a national political party allied with the international economic development movement led by Lyndon LaRouche.

In November 1999, the UN International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) wrote to the Australian government, with the blunt warning that shooting galleries would be in breach of Australia's international treaty obligations. The INCB charged that if Australia proceeded with a trial of supervised injecting rooms in New South Wales, Victoria, and the Australian Capital Territory (Canberra, the federal capital), then Australia would be "aiding in the commission of crimes" and "facilitating illicit drug trafficking."

Perhaps most effectively, several spectacularly successful drug busts by the Australian Federal Police in the past 12 months saw the quantity and quality of heroin on Australian streets dry up, giving the lie to the dope lobby's constant refrain that "you can't win a war on drugs." These multibillion-dollar busts were carried out even though the "fiscally conservative" Howard government had drastically cut funds for law enforcement since it came to power in 1996. In Melbourne in February and March, heroin overdoses fell to eight, from more than 30 for the same period last year — giving the lie to another maxim of the "harm minimization" crowd, that because saving lives is the main priority, people should be allowed to use drugs.

International Intelligence

France's Chirac Rejects 'Clash Of Civilizations'

French President Jacques Chirac, in a speech to the UNESCO General Conference in Paris on Oct. 15, rejected the concept of a "clash of civilizations," as propagandized by Harvard's Prof. Samuel Huntington, and called for a dialogue of civilizations instead.

"Increasingly, we hear talk of a clash of civilizations," Chirac said. "This, it is claimed, will mark the 21st Century in the same way as the 19th Century was an age of conflicting nationalities and the 20th Century that of ideologies. People claim this clash of civilizations, present and future, will be more radical, more violent, and more impassioned because it will be a conflict of cultures and religions.

"We must refute this way of thinking, which feeds on all our fears. We must do so because to adopt it, would mean to fall into the trap the terrorists have laid out for us, their aim being precisely to stir up men and to set cultures and religions against each other. . . .

"Above all, we must oppose this way of thinking with another reality, a political, cultural, and moral one: we must oppose it with our own resolve, founded upon respect, exchange, and dialogue among all cultures. This is inseparable from the uncompromising assertion of values that make us what we are."

Anger Grows At British Harboring Of Terrorists

British security services ignored terrorist recruitment and fundraising for years at the Finsbury Park mosque in north London, according to an Algerian informant who provided information to both British and French authorities, the London *Daily Telegraph* reported on Oct. 13.

The informant, Reda Hassaine, said that the French had becoming increasingly infuriated that British authorities wouldn't do anything about the mosque's operations. "The French felt British law was very, very soft on these people. . . . It gave these people

flats, benefits, passports, citizenship," Hassaine said. "The British thought that by having them there and keeping an eye on them, Britain would be safe. I have been told at the mosque that there will not be an attack on England because they were living there. But the French were enraged. . . ."

The *Daily Telegraph* notes that French counterterrorist experts refer to the British capital as "Londonistan."

In a related story, terrorist recruiter and trainer Abu Hamza al-Masri bragged openly about his activities in London, Associated Press reported on Oct. 23. Al-Masri is the imam of the Finsbury mosque. Al-Masri told AP: "War must be fought against America. Without it, they will own the land, and God will not like it." AP mentions that Labour Party Parliamentarian Andrew Dismore and others are trying to change the law to make it possible to expel British citizens like al-Masri for terrorism.

More than 20 Islamic terrorists, including those wanted for murders of at least 100 people abroad, are currently living freely in Britain, the London *Sunday Times* reported on Oct. 14. "Last week several governments accused Britain of harbouring terrorists and demanded they be expelled immediately to face justice."

Mahathir: 'Jihad Means Development Of Nation'

Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, in an interview on state-owned Malaysian television on Oct. 15, urged the "superpowers" to use economic development as a weapon against terrorism.

"We should find out why they resorted to terrorism," he said, with reference to the perpetrators of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States. "We should make some efforts to try and eradicate the causes. . . . We do not agree with the raids [against Afghanistan], because many innocent people will become victims, but this is not a war on Muslims."

Asked about calls for a *jihad*, or holy war, of all Muslims in defense of Afghanistan, Mahathir said: "We feel that this is not a *jihad*, definitely not a way to go on *jihad*. We can embark on *jihad* through vari-

ous ways, for example by developing our country until it is so strong that no one can pressure us, that is also *jihad*."

War On Bin Laden Is 'Folly,' Says Von Bülow

Former Assistant German Defense Minister Andreas von Bülow does not buy the story that Osama bin Laden was behind the Sept. 11 terror attacks. He called the Afghanistan war a "great folly," in an interview with the *Rheinische Post* on Oct. 18. Von Bülow, who served the Social Democratic-led government of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt until September 1982, categorically opposed sending ground forces into Afghanistan:

"Three weeks before the arrival of winter, one will hardly achieve anything," he said. "And I am not convinced, either, that bin Laden is the organizer of the whole affair. . . . Neither the Europeans nor the Muslim states have been presented with any striking evidence. The guesses do not qualify for a trial, but they are thought to suffice for warfare. The fact of the matter is, that the American foreign intelligence did not know about the attacks in New York and Washington, D.C. beforehand, yet stated the day after already, that bin Laden was behind them. With that approach, one documents one's total incompetence."

Bülow does welcome an overthrow of the Taliban regime, adding that "it was supported by the CIA, before," but warns against a takeover by the Northern Alliance as not being any better. "All in all, the war is a great folly. First of all, one should relieve the millions of Afghanis from the acute famine."

Asked about the role of German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, Von Bülow said: "The European political leaders are presently pulling their nations into a uncontrollable swamp, from which it is difficult to escape. They are the co-executors of American directives, without being consulted or informed before. This is uncritical followership, rather than solidarity with the U.S.A."

"I fear that America has not thought through the end results which its intervention will have in the Muslim world. It is

more concerned about the effect on the media, than about the matter itself," Von Bülow said.

Turkish Daily Quotes LaRouche On The Crisis

On Oct. 5, the Turkish daily *Zaman* published a lengthy article with excerpts from Lyndon LaRouche's July 24 international webcast (published in *EIR* on Aug. 3), and also his analysis of the Sept. 11 events. (For the full text in English translation, see www.zaman.com.tr.)

Author Ali Unal, a prominent columnist, writes that LaRouche, a pre-candidate for the 2004 Democratic Party Presidential nomination, addressed a videoconference audience of 250 on July 24—"namely 48 days before Sept. 11"—and warned that the current financial and economic system is bankrupt, and that this is propelling the world toward war.

"Under such circumstances," the paper quoted LaRouche, "world wars are orchestrated. World War I was started by the British, to stop similar developments in Asia. The British had first fired up the Balkans and later the world. . . . Now some influential people within the U.S. and Britain—Brzezinski is one of them—want to start a war to stop the developments in Asia. August is the best month for this kind of thing. They are going to call this war, a war between the West and Islam. We have to stop this war. For this, we need to stop Sharon in Israel. This man loves wars, has no other worries other than starting a war. He must be stopped. We have to establish peace in the Middle East, revive our system, back to Roosevelt's principles, and start an economic recovery program."

The article then quotes LaRouche's evaluation after the Sept. 11 attacks: that they must have involved a domestic rogue operation, and could not have been done from outside the United States. "This was an attempted coup d'état intended to topple the government of the U.S., if successful; or, to draw the U.S. into a war, if not successful. Those perpetrators are planning new operations to achieve their goals." LaRouche advised people not to listen to CNN. "If you

follow them, you will be helping those perpetrators and their cause, which is to start a war."

Russian Experts Dispute 'Bin Laden' Theory

Russian military and intelligence officers are engaged in an ongoing discussion of who committed the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, and with what motive.

The latest such person to come out publicly saying that the "bin Laden/al-Qaeda" story doesn't add up, is Leonid Shebarshin, one of the highest-ranking former Soviet intelligence officers. Chief of the First Main Directorate of the KGB (foreign intelligence) from 1989-91, Shebarshin was also formally the last head of the KGB. During his intelligence career, Shebarshin was posted in India, Pakistan, and Iran. He was KGB resident in Tehran during the tumultuous period of 1979-83. During a visit to Argentina in 1994, he was billed as "Russia's greatest expert on Islamic fundamentalism."

Interviewed in the daily *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* of Oct. 20, Shebarshin said, "I am accustomed to work with facts, and I do not have enough evidence, to reach any definite conclusions about who did this. There was a lot of reporting about what happened. But it was basically emotional. There were very few facts. More than 6,000 people were killed—that is the only completely real fact."

Shebarshin pointed out that Osama bin Laden was blamed immediately. Now, "a month has passed, but no proof of his complicity has appeared." As to the al-Qaeda organization, much effort had been expended by U.S., British, and Israeli intelligence services to monitor the group constantly. "All electronic communications were monitored for this purpose. E-mail, radio communications, telephone calls—all of this was monitored. It is difficult even to imagine, that the preparation and execution of such a large-scale operation as the attack of Sept. 11, could have occurred without using electronics and the air waves. It is even more difficult to imagine, that this would not have been intercepted and recorded."

RUSSIAN Chief of Staff General Kvashnin announced the closing of military facilities in Cuba and Vietnam, for financial reasons. The radar site at Lourdes, Cuba, a favorite target of anti-Cuba networks in the United States, will be dismantled, while the Navy base at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam (a former U.S. base), will be abandoned.

ACCUSATIONS about a "Rhine-Main terror cell" in Germany having been involved in planning the Sept. 11 attacks, were substantially weakened on Oct. 17, when one of three arrested suspects was released. German prosecutor Kay Nehm said there was no evidence against him. Two men are still in custody.

CZECH OFFICIALS say there is no evidence that Mohamed Atta, suspected leader of the Sept. 11 hijackers, met with any Iraqi officials when he was in Prague last year, as some have accused. The *New York Times* reported that one Czech official said that some of the reports of the alleged meeting came from small businessmen who appear to have denounced their competitors for having done business with Atta.

A BRITISH EXPERT on bio-terrorism told *EIR* that he believes the anthrax scare is "a follow-on McVeigh operation," referring to Oklahoma City terrorist Timothy McVeigh. "The fact is, al-Qaeda and bin Laden have nothing to do with it, although I'm sure they are laughing all the way to the bank, at the success of this operation in closing down America."

SAUDI Interior Minister Prince Nayef warned Saudi security officers not to sympathize with the Taliban, in a televised speech on Oct. 18. "Unfortunately, we find in our homeland those who sympathize with people who try to damage our security in the name of Islam," he said. Radical Saudi cleric Sheikh Hamoud al-Shuaibi has been calling on Muslims not to help "infidels" against the Taliban.

LaRouche Says, Treat Anthrax Attack As ‘Wartime’ Emergency

by Marcia Merry Baker

All the while the anthrax attack has grown (to involve Congress, the postal system, the White House, as well as the media and New York mayoral offices), and instances of exposure, infection, and death increased, two points have come to stand out clearly. Both were predictable given the abandonment of a “general welfare” approach to public health since the 1970s.

First, the U.S. public health and medical infrastructure has been allowed to become so eroded over 30 years of health maintenance organization (HMO) deregulation, that the broken-down health care system itself is now part of the crisis. The second, “cultural problem” related to this, is that the many expert agencies involved—such as medical, military, investigatory, law enforcement—are acting as the gang that can’t think straight.

Appropriate Action

U.S. Democratic 2004 Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche stressed on Oct. 25 that what is required is to see the anthrax terrorism as an act of warfare against the United States, and accordingly, to declare a wartime medical emergency, and take the appropriate actions: Open up any and all the institutions needed, including hospitals, laboratories, emergency facilities; deploy the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control (CDC), epidemiologists, and public health experts to take all necessary action to test and define areas of exposure and infection; use relevant antibiotics; regularize testing as an early warning program; look for specifics of other biological threats. In other words, mobilize as in war.

In particular, LaRouche pointed out, you have to focus on poorer people, whose greater health problems and poorer health care make them most susceptible. LaRouche pointed to the immediate testing and treatment for Capitol Hill staff after an anthrax letter was sent to the offices of Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.), and that this kind of follow-up was not pursued as general policy. It was not pursued in

the case of the District of Columbia local community and postal workers in mid-October.

Washington: What Did, And Didn’t Happen

On Oct. 15, it was made known that Daschle’s Capitol Hill office had received a letter confirmed to be carrying anthrax. The letter was sent for analysis to the Army specialist laboratories at Fort Detrick, Maryland for further, refined testing. On Capitol Hill, steps were taken right away for individual screening and precautionary treatment of staff; for environmental testing to establish the location of any “hot spots;” and for defining the perimeter of the area of potential presence of infective agents. Buildings were shut down for a long recess. As of ten days later, some 400 people had been given 60-day doses of antibiotic; of those, 28 had shown confirmed exposure.

However, days went by before there were similar actions taken along the “backtracking” route of the letter’s postal trail, most particularly at the Brentwood Road Post Office, where workers had been exposed. Four workers there were stricken with inhaled anthrax; two died.

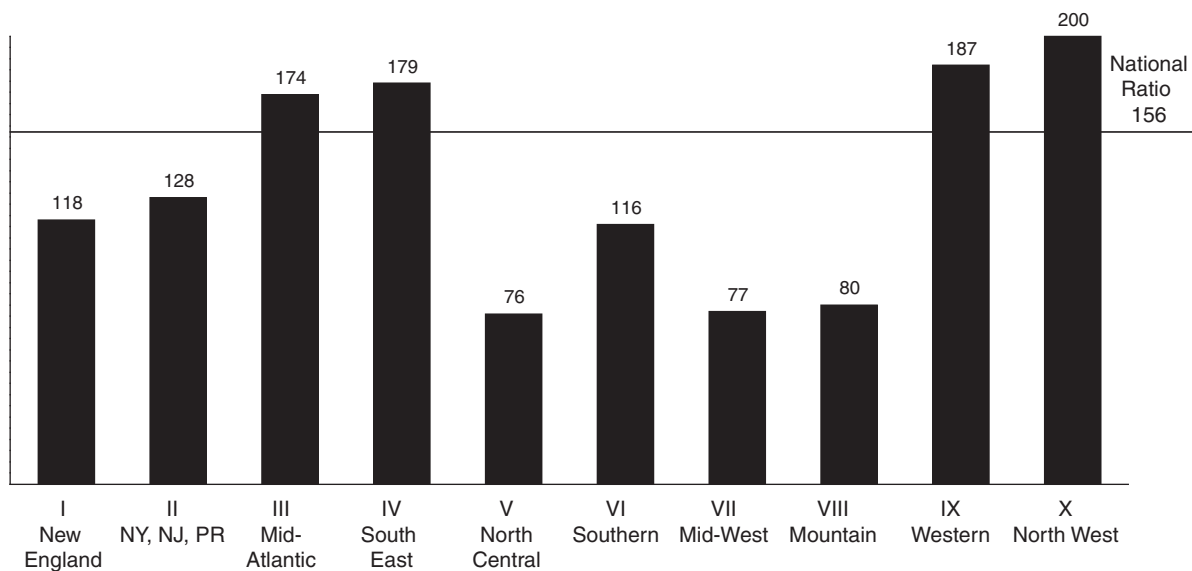
This lapse of command-decision was not the result of need to await test results on the Daschle letter. It was established relatively quickly that the strain involved was “common” (i.e., was not antibiotic resistant, or did not have other bio-engineered traits), but *it was imputable, under a military readiness approach*, that the powdery form of the anthrax in the letter, might be highly dispersible through the air. Therefore, aggressive precaution would have dictated rapid backtracking through the postal system—testing, treating, and analyzing at likely points along the way; most importantly; the feeder station to the Senate building, Brentwood Road Northeast. This was not done.

Instead, the CDC said on Oct. 18, that there was no significant danger at the Brentwood Post Office; other agencies

FIGURE 1

U.S. Ratios Of Public Health Workers Vary, By Region, 1999

(Number per 100,000 Population)



collaborated in this baseless public reassurance, ranging from the District of Columbia Department of Health, to the Army, the FBI, and Bush Cabinet officials.

On Oct. 22, fully one week after the public notification of the Daschle letter, the spokesmen for the CDC and other agencies apologetically admitted their error in delay. They even said that there had been a delay in their being informed that the two Brentwood postal workers had been hospitalized with extreme flu-like symptoms in the days following the Oct. 15 Daschle letter incident. These two workers died from pulmonary (inhaled) anthrax; two others have been in serious condition with the same infection.

It was not until Oct. 21, that the public health order was given for Brentwood and other postal employees and post office users, to report to D.C. General Hospital for precautionary antibiotics; and for the environmental testing of 36 postal stations in the District. However, the 5,600 postal workers and others were not being given careful follow-up. CDC officials staffing the location, at first began screening and testing, then abandoned it for the mass dispensing of a ten-day supply of the antibiotic Cipro.

Physicians, including Dr. Bernard Anderson, the former head of surgery at (now closed) D.C. General Hospital, point out that the proper way to proceed, would instead be to try to focus on those individuals who were likely exposed to known areas of contamination; start them on the full antibiotic treatment (60 days), and if they later test negative, stop the treatment. This takes staffing, lab back-up, and commitment.

The CDC defended all that happened the week of Oct. 15 by saying that their “science was evolving.” They defended

their judgment, by saying that they had wrongly oriented to presuming danger of infection only in direct association with the contaminated letter in a restricted area, not with significant airborne sources.

In fact, it has been subsequently reported that the final test results show that the dry anthrax substance inside the letter was remarkably refined, concentrated, non-electrostatic, and in other ways “weaponized” for maximum transmissibility and potency. In terms of leads on the perpetrator, this sophisticated character of the anthrax powder raises questions of domestic complicity in the terrorism. In terms of public health, this episode, and the deaths, demonstrate that a medical wartime approach is the only realistic response—not just for anthrax, but for any bio-threat.

Public Health Infrastructure Degraded

Even beyond the evil cunning of the anthrax attack, is the reality that the U.S. public health system is so badly atrophied, it doesn’t take much to overload it. In Washington, laboratories can’t handle the testing, hospitals are strained, and any “routine” occurrences—e.g., seasonal flu epidemic, or a large-scale accident—could overwhelm the whole medical infrastructure system. This end result—not necessarily mass kill—is one of the top objectives of bioterrorism, as was always stressed by the famous Soviet program Biopreparat.

On Oct. 23, LaRouche commented, “I am not yet able to determine whether the anthrax cases are action from the original set of conspirators [of the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and on the Pentagon], or, what appears to be a copy-cat of lesser technical capability. So far, this problem has not yet

assumed the form of an epidemic; I would be worried by the technical possibility of a return of the ‘Spanish flu’ epidemic, or some other horrors; but in any case, panic is the worst danger of all.

“Instead of panicking, we must act to force through a rapid rebuilding of those health-care and related national defenses which have been torn down since the Nixon Administration’s ramming through the overturn of the Hill-Burton law with HMO legislation.”

Since that Federal law authorizing HMOs was enacted in 1973, all the critical U.S. public health ratios have declined: manpower, diagnostics, laboratories, hospital beds, vaccine stockpiles, to the point of becoming a clear and present danger. This was the direct result of the switch-over from public infrastructure standards, to health care *deregulation*, in which so-called “market”-based decision-making provided spectacular rates of profiteering to “managed care” companies, pharmaceutical houses, and financial interests.

The public and lawmakers stood by and let it happen. Some of the same leaders of the shutdown process are now holding Federal office, calling for billions in Federal monies to revive health infrastructure. Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge drastically cut Pennsylvania medical programs for the poor while he was Governor there. Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy J. Thompson pioneered imposing sweeping cuts in state welfare, health, and medical ser-

vices in Wisconsin, when he was Governor there.

Even if billions in Federal spending on public health were authorized tomorrow, the political reality is that on the state and local level, there are multimillion-dollar cuts being made in medical and health services, because governments are trying to “adjust” to the economic collapse now under way (see *Documentation*). A national “Chapter 11 bankruptcy-style” approach is required to ensure that vital economic functions are kept going—services, businesses, agriculture, transportation, and health care. Unpayable debts need to be frozen, while an infrastructure build-up—in the case of health care, “soft” infrastructure—revives the economy.

Health Infrastructure Decline

Over the past 30 years, some 1,000 U.S. hospitals have been closed down; still more have had their bed-count reduced, dropping the national ratio of beds per thousand persons from about five in the 1970s, down to less than three; and in many counties down to one or none. The world-famous 1946 Hospital Construction Act (“Hill-Burton”) had mandated a ratio of between 4.5 and 5 beds per 1,000, but this was scrapped in the 1970s.

Besides hospitals, all the other parts of our national “soft” infrastructure for public health, have been undermined.

Workforce: The ratio of U.S. public health workers to population dropped drastically from the 1970s to the 1990s. In

Budget Cuts Threaten Argentine Institute

The Argentine government’s insane “zero deficit” plan, mandated by the International Monetary Fund, threatens the state-funded Malbrán National Microbiology Institute, the nation’s premier scientific agency which is known throughout Ibero-America for its excellence in medical and microbiology research. Founded in 1916, Malbrán treats 7,000 patients annually for diseases such as tuberculosis, Chagas, hantavirus, dengue, meningitis, and polio. It also specializes in the production of vaccines, and in the study and treatment of congenital birth defects and high-risk pregnancies.

Between 1998 and 2001, the Institute’s budget was cut by 12.5%, and under President Fernando de la Rúa, it is slated to undergo another 21% cut in 2002. This, despite the fact that the Institute has been recently called upon to analyze, for possible anthrax contamination, more than 1,000 letters sent into the country—which it can only do by diverting financial resources from other Institute departments.

In an interview with *EIR*, Dr. Sergio Angel, Vice President of the Institute’s Professional Association (APROINM), said that this means that “people won’t die of anthrax, but of other diseases,” because there are no funds for treatment. APROINM President Graciela Davel said that with the Institute’s reduced budget, “50% of the 13,000 TB patients nationwide will die, because they won’t receive medication. . . . We aren’t prepared to handle any bioterrorism emergency, because [the government] hasn’t really complied with the full budget.”

Dr. Angel told *EIR* that Finance Minister Domingo Cavallo has allocated “zero pesos” for purchase of supplies in the fourth quarter of this year. For 2002, the Finance Ministry plans to allocate only \$2.6 billion to the Institute, whereas the budget for TB treatment *alone* is \$2.2 billion. Doctors, and even patients and their families, are donating personal funds to pay for supplies. Contract personnel (doctors, technicians, administrators) will have to be fired, as the monthly budget for that category has been cut from \$130,000, to \$10,000.

Dr. Pablo Barbero, who heads the Institute’s Human Genetics Center, said that the lack of funds threatens the Institute’s ability to maintain sanitary standards, protect ongoing experiments, and preserve biological strains being studied.—*Cynthia Rush*

the early 1970s, there was one public health worker employed (state, county, Federal combined—from nursing, to clerks, to epidemiologists, etc.) for every 457 persons; in 1999, this had fallen to one worker per 635 persons.

Moreover, the jobs of many in today's public health field now involve home care and primary care, not necessarily "front-line" disease-related functions, which have been scaled back severely.

There is also a wide disparity in the ratios of public health staff per population, depending on the part of the country. **Figure 1** shows this variation across country in the ten health districts (which are set by the Department of Health and Human Services). As of 1999, the national ratio was 158 workers per 100,000 population. But, according to *The Public Health Workforce, Enumeration 2000*, many states are way below this ratio, e.g., the North Central region (Illinois, Minnesota, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin) has 76 workers per 100,000! For the Midwest (Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri), there are 77 per 100,000 population. The highest ratio is in the Northwest (Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska), with 200 workers per 100,000 population.

Vaccines: U.S. vaccine output capacity, and stockpiles, fell below minimum security levels years ago, both for seasonal influenza, tetanus, and similar "routine" illnesses, as well as for exotic diseases. In 1985, a report called "Vaccine Supply And Innovation" came out from the National Institutes of Medicine and the Academy of Sciences, warning that the supply of vaccine in the United States was "precarious" and the situation "a threat to the public's health." The report said that steps were "urgently" needed to assure that supply stockpiles, production, and development remained adequate. This did not occur.

Now, Ridge has called for production of 300 million doses of smallpox vaccine as a precaution against bio-terrorism. The government stockpile is below 15 million doses, of uncertain condition. It will take through Summer 2002, at best, to produce another 54 million doses. How to produce the remainder is now under negotiation. The Gilmore Commission, the anti-terror preparedness group set up a few years ago, is expected to issue a call for a Federal government vaccine factory.

The danger posed by the marginal state of U.S. vaccines is now shown by the bio-preparedness recommendation, that the general population in New York City, Washington, D.C., and elsewhere get flu shots this Fall, because any case of anthrax poisoning would then be less likely to be confused with influenza. This means millions more doses of flu vaccine are required.

D.C. General Hospital

The case of the status of the 195-year-old District of Columbia General Hospital makes the point about what is wrong, and what is required nationally. This Summer, the capital's top-flight—and only public—hospital was shut down, over the objections of the D.C. City Council, the population, and

the international community, led by the Lyndon LaRouche 2004 Presidential campaign. The reason given was "fiscal" necessity, by the decision by a Congressionally imposed Financial Control Board.

But all of a sudden, on Oct. 21, the hospital came back on the TV screens because of the anthrax crisis. Part of D.C. General was re-opened at that time, because thousands of postal workers and others had to be screened for exposure. *The necessity of a full-service hospital* has thus been made dramatically clear. Even so, D.C. General's high-quality microbiology laboratory, trauma unit, and other divisions, remain closed.

States Cut Public Health, Medical Infrastructure

by Mary Jane Freeman

South Carolina: The only state health laboratory capable of analyzing suspicious letters and packages for South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia, may have its budget cut or frozen, just when usage has increased markedly, *The State* reported on Oct. 23. State budget officials plan to impose 4% across-the-board cuts by Oct. 31, which will include a \$10 million cut in the health department's spending. All agree that the lab and law enforcement *should be* spared any cuts—but by law, they cannot be. The state faces at least a \$310 million revenue shortfall.

Connecticut: A Nov. 13 special session of the legislature has been called, to deal with a \$300 million revenue shortfall which will require budget cuts. A proposed \$14 million cut in new mental health programs is likely, the online *Hartford Courant* reported on Oct. 24.

Florida: The legislature is in special session, wrangling over how to plug a \$1.3 billion revenue shortfall, Sun-Sentinel.com reported on Oct. 24. The House plan would cut 7% across the board including \$5 million for dental care, hearing tests, and eyeglasses for the poor and disabled adults; \$22 million in prescription help for the elderly; and \$14 million in juvenile substance abuse programs. Jack Levine, president of the Center for Florida's Children, said, "Many of our basic prevention services are severely at risk. We are in for a terrible ride if we go along with these cuts."

Illinois: Nearly 100,000 state workers, retirees, and their dependents may face delays in payment on health insurance claims, to help stave off up to \$110 million of the state's expected \$450 million revenue shortfall, the Oct. 24 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reported.

Indiana: The state has a two-year revenue deficit of almost \$1 billion, which will translate into an additional 5% cut in the state's Medicaid budget.

Sept. 11 Must Involve Enemy Within U.S.

Matthew Fogg, a decorated U.S. Chief Marshal who has waged a celebrated legal battle against racism in the U.S. Marshals Service, spent several days at Ground Zero, the site of the World Trade Center, in New York City just after the Sept. 11 attack. He gave the interview excerpted below to Marianna Wertz on Oct. 17, 2001.

EIR: Could you give us your view of the situation around the Sept. 11 attacks?

Fogg: Number one, I view it as a total breach of our security. Where did this breach of security come from? I think that it came from within our own country. Certainly, there may be foreign nationals that carried out these acts, but I believe that these foreigners would not have been able to carry out these acts without the support of someone within our own infrastructure.

As you follow the money trail, we can already see that they used American banks, they used American airlines, airplanes, they basically went through all of our security, [with] box cutters and so forth. And they used the simplest techniques to breach our security: They walked onto our airlines and then forced our airlines into our own buildings.

When we had the previous attack on the World Trade Center, back in 1993, that should have opened our eyes then, that this is something that would have been forthcoming. I think that this country *had* to have known that this was forthcoming. This country is always on alert for this type of thing. If the information is correct, this thing had been planned for well over a year. For it to have so-called “bypassed” our CIA and our FBI and so forth—I just think it’s ludicrous for someone to believe that this had nothing to do with our people here in this country.

EIR: Have you any idea of where the finger should be pointing, or the investigation going?

Fogg: Let’s go back to the Alfred P. Murrah Building [in Oklahoma City], with Timothy McVeigh, in this country. He was one of our own and he blew up the Alfred P. Murrah Building, with Terry Nichols as his assistant. Many people believe that there were more than just these two involved in this operation.

EIR: But then McVeigh was executed, under orders from

Attorney General John Ashcroft, so we don’t know who they are.

Fogg: That’s correct. Or, . . . if he hadn’t been executed, I believe maybe we could find that out at some point in the future. But I just don’t believe these foreign nationals could have breached our security to the level they have.

EIR: Lyndon LaRouche has charged that what should be investigated, is that this attack is part of an ongoing coup d’état attempt, to redirect the American government toward a “clash of civilizations,” as advocated by men such as Henry Kissinger, Zbigniew Brzezinski, and Bernard Lewis, and that that policy direction is what is at issue today.

Fogg: LaRouche is a lot more knowledgeable in this approach to looking at it than I would be. It just would be hard for me to say, but I would certainly say that there is an element in this country that we have to be concerned about, right here at home. It’s not abroad; I think it’s more at home. I look at America as like the Roman Empire. Its demise and fall will come from within, not from the outside.

Also, I believe there’s an issue of race in America, where it seems like whenever we’re looking at people of color, all the attention suddenly is placed on them, in any type of breach of security or terrorist act, that’s where racial profiling and all these other issues come from. So there is that tie-in there as well, that I think a lot of people are concerned about—when there wasn’t this same type of emphasis put on this security of America when Timothy McVeigh blew up the Murrah Building.

Also, when we look at Robert Hanssen. This was a supervisory special agent from the FBI. This man went in and gave away all of our secrets for the last 20 years! And this country’s going to tell me that this man was able to do this for 20 years, and nobody knew anything about it?! I don’t think anybody in America believes that. I don’t think anyone on Capitol Hill believes that. Now, we may hear the media say it, and they may tell us that, but I don’t believe it, and nobody, certainly in law enforcement, believes that. So, obviously, there’s someone on the inside that needs to be watched and needs to be checked out.

EIR: You were at Ground Zero in New York just after the attack. Could you tell us what you saw there, and your thoughts about it?

Fogg: I got there the night before it occurred. I was in a hotel room about 30 blocks up the street when it started taking place. . . . I went down to the site and went in and started trying to help out. I was there about the first 4-5 days of it.

It was just pure pandemonium at first, just large piles of debris. The only way I can describe it, is to say that it was as though I were there to visit Jurassic Park. You look at these structures that were so tall and, all of a sudden, all of this metal and twisted rock and steel all coming down.



U.S. Marshal Matthew Fogg at Ground Zero in New York City (he is the third from the right).

EIR: Were you helping to pull people out of the rubble?

Fogg: Right. I wasn't there directly when it occurred, it was about 12 hours or so afterwards. When we went in, there were still bodies being taken out. A couple of magazine photos—*People*—have me escorting the body of a dead fireman off the hill.

EIR: Is there anything more you want to say on that?

Fogg: I want to say that I concur with the President as far as going after anyone that might be the culprits in something of this nature. With this large event that has changed America's way of life, this large Richter-scale event of destruction, I certainly believe that anyone that is responsible for this, we definitely want to find them, and that's the main issue. We definitely don't want to jump the gun, but we want to find them.

I also want to say that the people who were there working, the people I came in contact with, we were all working diligently, trying our best to find as many people alive there as we could, and bring them out and back to their families, even if we had to just recover the bodies. It was an event that I shall never forget, something that will always stay with me: the body parts, what we saw, the amount of debris and destruction, the looks on the families' faces. I talked to a lot of families that stopped at the Fire Department at 48th and 8th Avenue, which wasn't far from where I was staying at the hotel. Just the looks on the faces of the individuals, who would look at us in hope. Every day, we'd come back, and they'd say, "Did you find anybody alive?" It just was a feeling of emotion that you can't explain.

I just thank God that I was able to be there, to be a part of that. It showed me one thing and said something to America:

Many people thought that individuals who complain when the system is out of order or things aren't right, they want to quickly say that you're not patriotic. My civil rights issue against America—many wanted to try to say, "You're not patriotic because you stood up against these legislators." But I think this shows my patriotism . . . the same way it was when I tracked down the many fugitives I did, and received awards from the Justice Department for my outstanding work. It just goes to show that none of that—all the accolades and awards—could stop the inherent racism that was within the system, in those bad apples down there in control. I certainly believe that America is not all bad apples. But the problem is, those few bad apples, when left in the bushel, they spoil the lot, and that's the issue.

But definitely, it was my honor to be at Ground Zero and be able to serve this country and, in that sense, be able to help all those we could to come out alive. Those brave firefighters, those brave police officers who lost their lives in this whole ordeal; it's just a shame it happened that way, but certainly we hope that America finds the real bad guys.

One of the things that I did notice, though, and I've heard this spoken of so many times: I didn't see a lot of African-Americans. When I looked around and saw that Mayor Giuliani was replacing the firefighters who were lost—they were promoting a whole group of new firefighters—I didn't see very many African-Americans. All the officials on the stage to congratulate these people and welcome their promotions, every one of them was white. Not one African-American was on the stage. Also, a lot of the media images from around the country didn't show any African-Americans, people of color involved. Certainly we were, as I was, right there involved, and many more wanted to be involved.

Decorated U.S. Marshal Fights For Justice

Matthew Fogg, currently a Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal, began his career in the U.S. Marshals Service in the District of Columbia in April 1978. He has received widespread recognition for his outstanding accomplishments in law enforcement, including major trials, fugitive arrests, and other operations.

As a Supervisory Inspector during 1989-92, Fogg led the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Metropolitan Area Task Force Fugitive Group, with the arrest of over 267 Federal, state and local fugitives from justice throughout the United States.

Fogg received the Certificate of Appreciation for meritorious service to the citizens of Washington from former

United States Attorney for the District of Columbia Jay Stevens. He was recognized by the Federal Bar Association, District of Columbia Chapter, for outstanding law enforcement service above and beyond the call of duty, and has received many awards for outstanding service in law enforcement.

His 1998 discrimination case, *Fogg v. Reno*, effectively set the stage for class actions brought against law enforcement agencies which fall under the umbrella of the Department of Justice. In April 1998, Fogg was awarded a \$4 million judgment and other relief by a Federal jury, which found that the U.S. Marshals Service had carried out a 13-year vendetta against him, in retaliation for his efforts to expose and eliminate racial discrimination and corruption within the Marshals Service.

Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson, at the Justice Department's request, attempted to drastically reduce the jury's relief, but was effectively reversed by the U.S. Court of Appeals, and the judgment is now in mediation.

EIR: Is there still discrimination in the hiring process in New York City?

Fogg: Definitely in the hiring process of the Fire Department. I heard that mentioned over and over again. As a matter of fact, the black firefighters up there filed suit. And the same with the Police Department up there. That's something that they've got to overcome. If they want to find one of the downfalls of Mayor Giuliani, that is it.

When he came on board, he hired one of our assistant directors in the United States Marshals, whose name is Howard Safir. He came from the Marshals Service and started off in the New York Fire Department, and then went over to the New York Police Department, and became the Commissioner for both of those departments. This man was known in the Marshals Service to have problems with blacks.

Howard Safir's record, once he came onto that department, was clear when it came down to hiring African-Americans, as well as what his officers did to African-Americans, including the Abner Louima and Amadou Diallo cases. The Louima case just typified the whole cultural network of racism: to bring this man into the station and then sodomize him inside the police station. That said that it was an accepted culture, it was an accepted network of rogue cops working within that department. It told me that just about every manager in that particular precinct should have been fired, behind something like that. New York City has serious problems when it comes to racism in its public services. . . . Speaking of my case, it shows a point here. I won a major case against the Department of Justice. It proved that racism was alive and well within the United States Marshals Service. As a matter of fact, the jury came back and said it was a "racially hostile

environment" throughout the United States Marshals Service all across America.

On top of that, you would have thought that the agency would have tried to do something to fix the problem. Well, not only did they not do anything to fix the problem, but the Black Marshals Association, in turn, had to file a class-action complaint against the United States Marshals Service earlier this year, in March.

In my case, we're going back to the judge to discuss equitable relief, but it's just amazing: This case has been going on for 16 years, without any resolution [see box]. That says something right there about the people in charge.

I think we have one of the greatest Constitutions that could be written, on paper; but, as we know, it's not the Constitution on paper that's the problem. A lot of times, it's the rogues and the bigots that end up having to be the ones who have to enforce the rules or carry out what's written in that Constitution, which damages it. But it's never the Constitution. It's: Who do we have in charge, that's going to follow the procedures of the Constitution?

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Appropriations, Other Bills Delayed By Shutdown

Before departing on Oct. 17, the House acted on conference reports on the Interior Department and the Military Construction appropriations bills. The Senate acted the following day, making these the first two of the 13 annual spending bills to be sent to President George Bush. However, with little prospect that the remaining bills will be completed quickly, both Houses passed another continuing resolution keeping the government open until Oct. 31.

Other legislation that has been delayed includes the aviation security bill, and various pieces of anti-terrorism legislation.

One piece of legislation that now seems unlikely to see the light of day is the bankruptcy reform bill. That bill had been passed in both the House and the Senate earlier this year, and had been scheduled for conference committee consideration on Sept. 12, but the events of Sept. 11 forced postponement of the conference committee meeting. The *New York Times* reported on Oct. 21 that, given the current economic climate, the bill simply isn't on the priority list, now. Also, many members don't want to be seen as tough on consumers.

Hyde, Graham Urge Caution On Iraq

Over the last few weeks, there has been a growing drumbeat for an attack on Iraq, especially from among members of Congress, but at least two key members of Congress are marching in a different direction.

House International Relations Committee Chairman Henry Hyde (R-Ill.), during an Oct. 20 appearance on CNN's "Novak, Hunt, and Shields" program, was asked by columnist Robert Novak if the United States

should attack Iraq "regardless of whether there is any firm evidence indicating complicity by the Iraqis in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11." Hyde replied that to do so would be a big mistake." He said, "I have no illusions about Saddam Hussein, but at the same time, I don't think we could put together the coalition against him and his country that we were able to put together in Desert Storm." Hyde added, with respect to Afghanistan and Iraq, "We have to be concerned with the aftermath of any battles we're in, because we need friends in this world, not enemies."

The following day, Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Bob Graham (D-Fla.) echoed Hyde's warning during an appearance on Fox News Sunday. He said that while Iraq will continue to be "in our cross-hairs . . . we don't have the basis upon which to pull the trigger." He added that the standard of evidence "that we're really using now is the standard of what it's going to take to hold this coalition [against Afghanistan] together."

Hyde's and Graham's comments are in contrast to most of the public statements emanating from Capitol Hill in recent weeks, including from within Hyde's committee, where the Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia, chaired by Rep. Ben Gilman (R-N.Y.), held a hearing on Oct. 4, for the apparent purpose of cranking up the war propaganda against Iraq.

Media Psywar Targets House Over Shutdown

The House leadership decision to shut down in the midst of the anthrax scare on Capitol Hill, was used by the media as another angle in their psychological warfare campaign against the American people. The tactics were expressed by the Rupert Murdoch-owned *New York Post* on Oct. 18: The single word

on its front-page banner that day read, "Wimps!"

The Senate decided to stay in session another day, although the Senate office buildings were closed.

The morning the *New York Post* headline came out, CBS's Joan Clayson waved it in front of House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.) and asked him to respond to it. Gephardt said, "The House did what we thought was the prudent and careful thing to do and that was to make sure" that staff and the public "were not in harm's way." Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Ala.), appearing earlier on the same CBS program, simply refused to comment on the House action. Sen. Joe Lieberman (D-Conn.), who followed Shelby and Gephardt, stated that he fully agreed with the Senate decision to stay open, and defended the House, indicating he thought their decision to shut down was done for "purely practical" reasons, because most Senators have offices in the Capitol Building, unlike House members.

The same pattern continued on the Sunday talk shows on Oct. 21. ABC's Sam Donaldson baited Daschle and Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.), by reporting that Democrat Rep. James Moran, whose Virginia district includes the Pentagon, complained, "You've got about a hundred would-be Presidents over there and they want to be able to thump their chests and say they're sending a message to the terrorists." Rather than rising to the bait, Daschle told Donaldson that the issue is not only safety, but also "ensuring that this democracy goes on." Lott agreed with Daschle.

The correctness of the decision to proceed cautiously was borne out by the discovery of anthrax contamination in a House mail sorting facility on Oct. 20. At least two workers in that facility have become ill with inhalation anthrax and two postal workers have died.

Barking Up The Wrong Trees

The greatest burden resting on America's attempt to deal with the irregular warfare attacks of Sept. 11 and following, has been the refusal to contemplate the hand of an "enemy within" in these attacks; or the question, "Who benefits?" These are not a few individuals to be apprehended, but powerful "rogue elements" within the U.S., British, and Israeli security and military establishments, whose continuing actions and power threaten everyone from the President, to the ordinary citizen, to the real allies of America.

Two breaking developments of the last week of October, again demand Lyndon LaRouche's analysis stated in the first two hours of the attacks: an implicit coup from "within" against American institutions; a drive to push the United States into a "clash of civilizations" religious war to be triggered by Israeli military actions.

First, the newly-accumulating, scandalous, but widely acknowledged evidence: the United States military, along with other NATO troops, are protecting—even advising and training—Osama bin Laden's "Al-Qaeda" in Kosovo and now in Macedonia, while bombing them in Afghanistan. The evidence is not indirect—it is the brother of Osama bin Laden's supposed right-hand man, training terrorists who have long been active in the American military zone in Kosovo, and in recent days invading Macedonia. Nor is it just a local incident—the Taliban-Kosovo connection is the way Afghanistan's huge heroin supplies get into Europe; furthermore, the same "Al-Qaeda" is in the middle of what Britain and the United States call the anti-Russian "freedom fighters" of Chechnya.

Second, the revelations coming originally through the Danish daily newspaper *Ekstra Bladet* on Oct. 24, indicating that many on the large lists of terrorist suspects in the attacks were under direct U.S. security surveillance for a long time before Sept. 11. American and Canadian security specialists who are willing to speak, have also noted that a great number of the suspects were living in the immediate vicinity of U.S. special operations bases.

In addition, there are increasing indications, acknowledged by some among the qualified personnel investigating, that the anthrax letters are operations which have most likely been accomplished with aid of influential circles inside Western security sectors.

More than that can not be said at this point, and the objective should not be that of moving from one Sherlock Holmes detective track to another. There is a more fundamental question. The United States faces national security threats which require, above all, that the government act for the general welfare of the population, in the broadest sense.

This means an emergency commitment to repair the tremendous damage done to American public health capabilities by 30 years of "managed care"; damage which has made the response to the bio-terrorism threat, so far, look woefully unprepared. It means determined action to bring a peace guaranteed by economic development to the Middle East, to remove the trigger for potentially endless religious warfare facing the United States.

It means, above all, solving the economic and financial collapse which is plunging the country into depression, even as it is attempting to project fighting global "wars against terrorism." The way to do that is true cooperation, on basic principles of the general welfare, with Russia and other nations that are making clear offers of such cooperation.

The principles of financial recovery, of economic rebuilding, have been placed on the table by Lyndon LaRouche, and as a result of LaRouche's increasing influence in Russia and other key countries. Those principles are, again, the subject of our featured coverage in this issue.

The "enemy within" is above all the failed and false economic and foreign policies which the United States must change in this crisis. Attempts to intensify those policies and make them into a "war on terrorism," have the country barking up the wrong trees, while those benefitting from the effects of the Sept. 11 attacks, are free to attack again.

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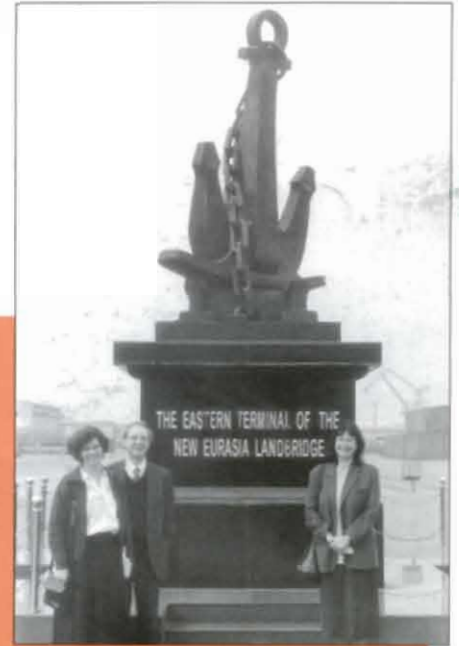
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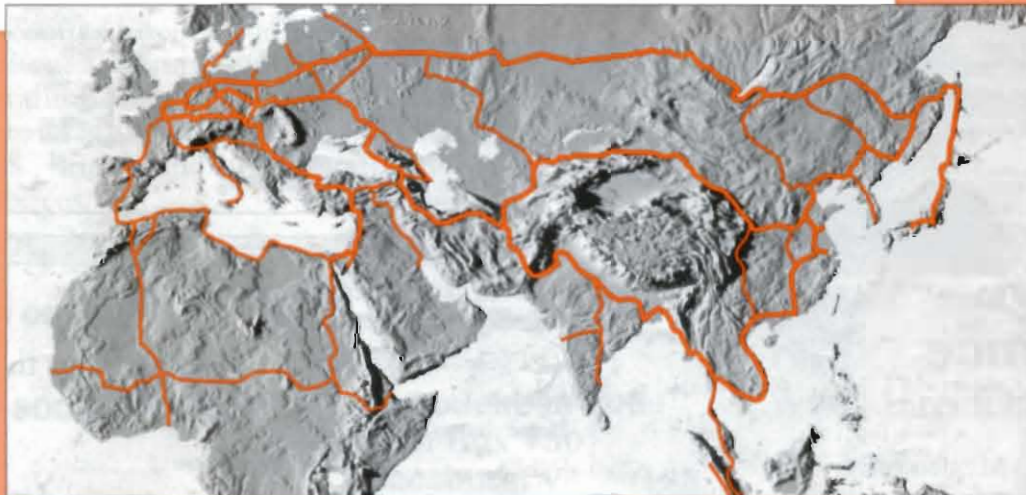
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Helga Zepp-LaRouche (right), known as "the Silk Road Lady," has played a major role in organizing worldwide support for the Eurasian Land-Bridge. She is shown here with Schiller Institute associates at Lianyungang Port in China, October 1998.



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