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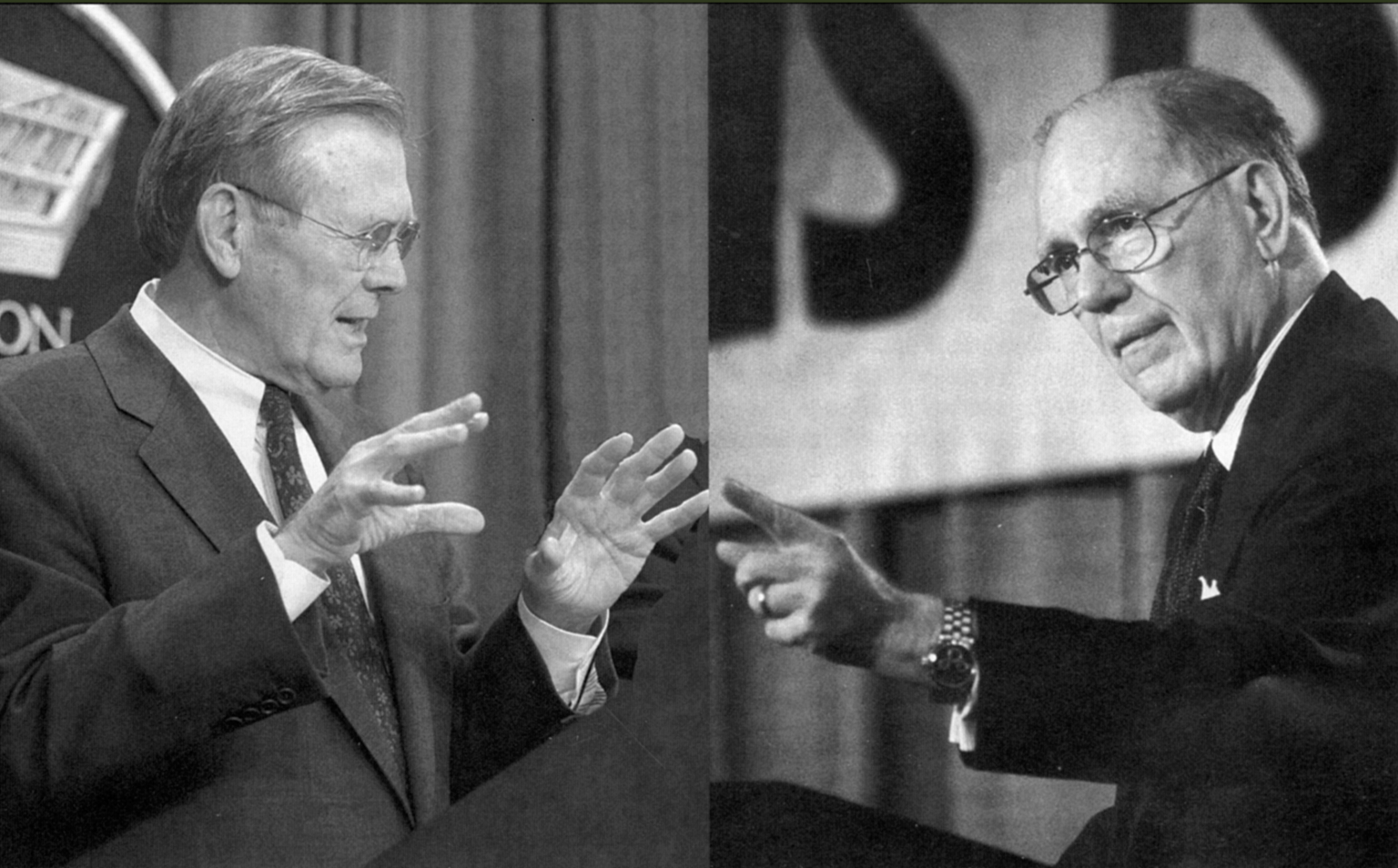
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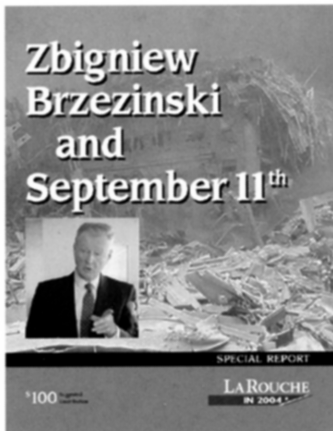
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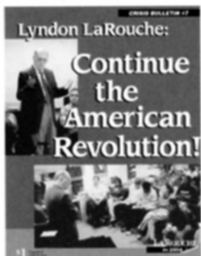
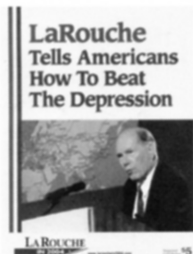
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From the Associate Editor

Our photographer was not on hand to capture the expression on Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's face, at the Kuwaiti Embassy's National Day reception in Washington on Feb. 26, when he arrived and found out that Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. was, along with himself, a guest of honor. The reader's imagination will therefore have to work from our cover photo collage, and fill in the pungent, ironic details, perhaps in the style of Francisco Goya or Hieronymus Bosch.

That image captures the political fight going on now, for the soul of the United States—a fight on whose outcome depends the future of the entire world for generations to come.

On the one side, the Rumsfeld faction is hell-bent for war against Iraq, as the stepping stone to a global utopian empire. In *National*, we report the emergence of a nuclear first-strike plan, a radical shift in U.S. military doctrine—and how this came about historically, under the auspices of Dick Cheney and Rumsfeld.

In *International*, we present a full package of documentation of the worldwide opposition to an Iraq war, making clear just how far out on a limb the Bush Administration has gone, and what disastrous consequences a war would have for U.S. foreign policy far into the future. Even countries that have gone a long way toward cooperation with U.S. war preparations (such as Kuwait and Turkey), are dismayed by what a war would unleash. The increasingly vocal opposition in Britain, including from Prime Minister Tony Blair's own Labor Party, is especially noteworthy, since the ouster of Blair could very well turn the tide against the war-hawks and chicken-hawks in the Bush Administration.

Lyndon LaRouche's leadership in the fight for a sane America stands out increasingly as a beacon of hope, at home and abroad, as reflected in the Kuwaiti reception and in the Presidential pre-candidate's visit to Arkansas, reported also in this issue. As LaRouche told a town meeting in Pine Bluff, Arkansas on Feb. 23, "We've got to pull ourselves together, and force the Federal government to respond to the fact that we don't need this foolish war, and to respond to the fact that we have a depression, and if we use the lessons of the past, we should know how to fix it, and let's fix it."

Susan Welsh

EIR Contents

Cover This Week

*Democratic
Presidential pre-
candidate Lyndon
LaRouche (right)
and Secretary of
Defense Donald
Rumsfeld.*



34 The Human Race Says No, at the Brink of Iraq War

The irony of having Lyndon LaRouche, America's best known champion of peace, as a guest of honor at the same Feb. 26 Kuwait Embassy celebration as Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, the advocate of pre-emptive war on Iraq, focussed a battle between America's republican and "imperial" policies, which has mobilized the whole world.

36 Facing Global 'No War,' U.S. Plays 'Monopoly'

38 Revolt Against Blair Explodes Across U.K.

41 Africa Unites Against Iraq War

42 The Pope Leads Diplomacy for Peace

Economics

4 Disarray in Crisis Is Clear Among G-7 Finance Ministers

The Feb. 21-22 Paris meeting meeting of the G-7 Finance Ministers and central bank governors had been expected to indicate what monetary moves the industrialized nations would take to meet the shock of a new Mideast war. But, the ministers threw up their hands at the prospect of deepening global depression.

6 Emergency Meetings Over German Bank Crisis

8 Pro-American Germans Oppose Iraq War

9 Brazil: Lula About To Slam Into Soros' 'Wall of Money'

10 What Follows Brazil's 'Great Expectations'?

A guest commentary by Adriano Benayon.

13 Major Airlines Will Go Bankrupt Without LaRouche's Re-Regulation

14 Kolkata: Mother Teresa's Haunt

Feature

18 José Rizal and the Challenge of Philippines Independence

The story of the Philippines' national hero, Dr. José Rizal, and his family, is representative of the courageous spirit and moral intellect, the sublime quality of leadership, that makes possible the emergence of an independent nation from colonized, disunited, or economically looted territories.

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International

43 Sharon Forms New War Government in Israel

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has formed a government which is the furthest right in more than a decade.

46 An America 'Posse' Heads for Philippines

48 Anti-U.S. Taliban Ready to Strike

Including a profile of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the U.S.'s former best friend, now labelled a terrorist.

51 FARC Narcos Goad Bush To Invade S. America

53 Pro-Drug Soros Ally Forced Out of UN Post

54 Non-Aligned Movement Revives a Voice for the Third World

56 Excerpts from "The Spirit of Bandung," a History of the Non-Aligned Movement.

National

60 LaRouche Becoming the Issue in the Democratic Party

Lyndon LaRouche, who is seeking the 2004 Democratic Presidential nomination, returned on Feb. 23-25 to Arkansas, where he garnered more than 22% of the vote in the year 2000 Democratic Presidential primary. LaRouche's support has grown in both depth and breadth—while the Gore-Lieberman organized-crime-linked machine seems to have learned little from its past fatal errors.

62 'To Deal With a Depression'

Lyndon LaRouche's address to members of the Black Caucus of Arkansas, in Pine Bluff on Feb. 24.

64 Nuclear First-Strike Plan: It Keeps Getting Scarier

66 The Ghost of Bertrand Russell Stalks Cheney-Rumsfeld Pentagon

69 Lieberman Again Claims Bush's Iraq Policy

71 Imagery Intelligence of U.S. Blurred

By Ray McGovern, a CIA analyst for 27 years and co-founder of Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity.

Departments

72 Editorial

The Fight for Peace.

Disarray in Crisis Is Clear Among G-7 Finance Ministers

by Paul Gallagher

A most unusual set of statements resulted from the Feb. 21-22 Paris meeting of the Group of Seven Finance Ministers and central bank governors, which had been expected to indicate what monetary moves the industrialized nations would take to meet the shock of a new Mideast war. If one judges by the statements made public, the Finance Ministers were simply unable to discuss this critical question, and threw up their hands at the prospect of deepening global depression. If they did discuss it in secret, the ministers certainly failed to agree on any specific action to prevent the global economy from sinking further. What they did discuss revealed a widening rift of policy positions—not only in respect to an Iraq war and its economic-financial consequences.

The scant joint communiqué from the meeting did acknowledge that the economic situation in the United States, Europe, and Japan is “weakening.” The word speaks volumes, as G-7 communiqués, no matter the mudslide going on, usually speak only of differing rates of “growth” in near-meaningless Gross Domestic Product calculations—which will “grow,” like hair and nails, on a dead man.

The seven economies—United States, Britain, Canada, Japan, Germany, France, and Italy—have all been suffering continuous loss of jobs—especially industrial jobs—for many months, with the European countries acknowledging unemployment rates of 10% or more while Britain and the United States have equally high jobless rates but cover them up. Even economists in the United States who were hyping “a turnaround” in December-January now say the labor market “hit a wall” in February, driving the famous U.S. “consumer confidence” into a 15-point plunge. New figures on machine tool production showed a 16% decline worldwide in 2002, led by a 37% decline in the United States, a 31% decline in Japan, and a 17% decline in Germany. The world’s reserve

currency, the dollar, is sinking despite a continuous crude oil-price rise which would “normally” hold it up—and that when Iraqi oil production has actually risen, and when more than half that production has been going to the United States. That means the United States is taking more oil now from Iraq’s decrepit and undermaintained oil infrastructure, than it would conceivably take in the aftermath of invasion and conquest of that country.

‘Each Nation On Its Own’

The real prospect, if war begins in the Mideast, is for an accelerated collapse. And all the G-7 governments, and their state or provincial governments, have been undergoing a drastic, depression collapse of tax revenue—which means that without a dramatic policy change, they have no means to intervene into that collapse.

Given this, the second aspect of the Finance Ministers’ statements was even more unusual, and disastrous: Instead of even indicating an overall plan, they said that each nation should take “whatever steps it saw fit” to get out of the crisis. Not even the hint of a policy was claimed.

The G-7 impasse flows in significant part from the Bush Administration’s insistence that tax cuts, free trade and deregulation are the answer to the economic problems, and a growing realization in Europe that those policies are the problem, and must be reversed. What is brewing in Europe, is renewed talk of protectionism, infrastructure projects and easing the Maastricht austerity criteria; as the crisis deepens, the ideas of Lyndon LaRouche are increasingly appearing on the agenda.

U.S. Treasury Secretary John Snow said the American government is already doing a “great job” for the world economy, and all problems could be overcome once the rest of the

G-7 were to follow the American example. Snow promised that once Congress passes President Bush's \$690 billion tax cut package, U.S. economic growth will be 3.3%, 500,000 new jobs will be created, stock prices will be boosted, and economic growth around the world will be promoted. But the global economy is in free fall thanks to the very policies Snow was promoting. The tax cuts are opposed even by Sir Alan Greenspan, the architect of the largest bubble in history, who was at the Paris meeting. Greenspan fears that the cuts would trigger a rise in long-term interest rates, thereby blowing out the American housing bubble. He knows all too well the way the overvaluation of real estate in the United States has been used to create trillions of dollars of fictitious asset values. If—that is, when—the real estate market blows, the resulting devastation of household balance sheets will quickly spread to the banks and other holders of suddenly glaringly worthless household debts.

The situation is similar in Britain, where the Bank of England recently and suddenly lowered interest rates in hopes of propping up stock prices and saving the British insurance sector. The move infuriated the big British banks, which feel that the Bank of England's sudden shift from "all is fine" could push Britain's own housing bubble over the edge, with disastrous consequences.

The European officials attacked the core of the American economic recipe. European Central Bank President Wim Duisenberg described the U.S. twin deficits—current account and the Federal budget—as "a cause of concern for the EU and the world." Nikos Christodoulakis, the Greek Finance Minister who currently chairs the European Union finance ministers, stated that Europe was skeptical about "the size, the composition and the timing" of the Bush stimulus package. He said, the twin deficits "may create risks, which . . . would have significant ramifications well beyond the United States itself."

A European Emergency Counter-Policy

The Germans and the French are also bucking the Anglo-American globalist faction by discussing the need to ease the budget restrictions built into the EU's Maastricht Treaty and Stability Pact. Italy, Germany, and France are known to be considering bolting from Maastricht under conditions of war crisis, and going for coordinated public infrastructure-project spending.

It is not known whether a breakout from Maastricht, as a economic countermove to a U.S.-British war on Iraq, was actually discussed at the Paris meeting, with Snow, Greenspan, and Bank of England Governor Eddie George there to oppose it; but it is being discussed elsewhere. German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder was reported in the German media to have told the Social Democratic Party's national executive meeting recently that he is consulting with the French government on ways to ease the Maastricht budget restrictions. France and Germany have already contacted the

European Union Commission in Brussels on the matter. *Le Figaro* reported on the eve of the meeting that German Economics Minister Wolfgang Clement and Finance Minister Hans Eichel had said "there is not the shadow of a doubt" that Maastricht would be bent in the case of war.

As for the EU, Commission President Romano Prodi said that "exceptional circumstances" call for a new interpretation, and confirmed to the French daily *Le Figaro* that a partial suspension of the Maastricht criteria is indeed an option.

Italy, where discussion of breaking the Stability Pact emerged in force last Fall after the influential speeches and meetings of Lyndon LaRouche in that country, is now also moving toward restoring industrial protection by the government. "We must not be afraid of talking about tariffs," Italian Finance Minister Giulio Tremonti had said on Feb. 13. "Maybe it is true that globalization will make us all richer in the future, but we risk arriving there dead. We must defend Italian products." Tremonti announced that Italy would propose the reintroduction of import tariffs during the coming European Union semester.

These moves have "LaRouche" written all over them. Back in February 2000, nine Italian Senators introduced a motion calling for an international conference to create a New Bretton Woods financial system. The motion was prepared with the help of LaRouche's European representatives, and heavily reflected LaRouche's analyses and solutions. After two years of discussions and appearances by LaRouche to brief parliamentarians, the Italian Chamber of Deputies voted a motion for such a new monetary system on Sept. 25, 2002.

Shocks to Banks Anticipated

Preparations for economic and financial emergencies are clearly underway in Germany.

On Feb. 16, a crisis meeting took place in the Berlin Chancellor's Office, which included Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, Economics Minister Clement, Finance Minister Eichel, and the top managers of Germany's largest banks.

According to Germany's financial daily *Handelsblatt*, which cited government sources, the meeting was not so much focussed on the situation of the German banking sector, which is precarious enough, but rather on threats to the German and global banking system that might materialize due to "external shocks," such as the "incalculable risks" posed by an Iraq war or terror attacks.

Another kind of "external shock" which had been discussed, was "the campaign against Commerzbank last Autumn," including nasty rumors spread from London (this referred to an e-mail sent by a Merrill Lynch London officer in October 2002 which caused a panic collapse of the shares of Commerzbank and other German banks). Measures that had been discussed include the building of special funds by German banks to prepare for the possibility of such attacks, and also the possible establishment of a publicly financed institution that would buy up bad loans from the banking sector.

Emergency Meetings Over German Bank Crisis

by Lothar Komp

The German Finance Ministry declined comment, but according to a report in a weekly financial publication, the German government and the Bundesbank central bank were working out scenarios for holding off or responding to a crisis of the country's banking system, in an emergency meeting on Feb. 16. According to *Focus-Money*, this was a special gathering at Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's office in Berlin, involving the Chancellor himself, Economics Minister Wolfgang Clement, and Finance Minister Hans Eichel. The government officials had invited top bank managers to discuss what is clearly the worst crisis of the German banking system in 50 years.

It was reportedly decided at the meeting that Eichel, in close cooperation with the Bundesbank, will have to work out scenarios and possible counter-measures against major disruptions, including the collapse of a larger financial institution.

While the financial authorities of every member-nation in the Group of Seven—decidedly including the United States—should be doing the same thing, two factors are driving the German banks to the edge. First, the country is mired in a deep economic depression which is getting worse, with unemployment well over 10% officially and only exports and technology sharing with China and Asia generally keeping the German economy from complete breakdown. And second, the banking system, like Germany generally, is the target of Anglo-American financial warfare aimed at bringing down Social Democrat Schröder and replacing him with Iraq war-friendly Christian Democratic Union Chairwoman Angela Merkel.

The only effective defense against both problems, for Germany, is to throw out the European Union's Maastricht Treaty budget straitjacket and adopt the full "Eurasian Land-Bridge" and public infrastructure policy of Civil Rights Movement-Solidarity party leader Helga Zepp-LaRouche—who also catalyzed Germany's strong anti-war stand with her campaign mobilization of Summer 2002.

'Worst Year in History'

Both the inside collapse and outside attack are seen in the plunge of European bank and financial stocks. Germany's second-largest bank, HypoVereinsbank (HVB), is but one good example. HVB on Feb. 25 reported a disastrous fourth quarter of 2002. Chief Executive Officer Dieter Rampl said



German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder has had to call an emergency meeting with finance officials and bank heads on the severe threat of a blowout of the banking system. Both economic depression conditions, and Anglo-American geopolitical financial warfare, are contributing to the threat.

in a statement that last year was the "worst and most difficult year in the bank's history." During the fourth quarter alone, the Munich-based bank produced loss of 926 million euros, the biggest quarterly loss reported by any German bank since World War II. HVB had a particularly high exposure to failed German corporations as well as to victims of the Summer 2002 floods. For the first time in more than half a century, it had to eliminate dividend payments, and announced 9,100 layoffs.

That day the German stock market crashed to its lowest level since August 1996. Ever more escalating disasters in the banking and insurance sectors, and panic selling of specific stocks like ThyssenKrupp and Bayer, pushed the main DAX-30 stock index below the 2,500 mark; it has now erased more than two-thirds of its March 2000 peak value, making its crash almost as bad as that of the notorious Nasdaq or Germany's short-lived equivalent, the Neumarkt. In the wake of a geopolitically very suspicious downgrading of ThyssenKrupp bonds by Wall Street's Standard & Poor's rating service on Feb. 21, ThyssenKrupp stocks fell by 15% within just two trading days. This was reminiscent of the "leaked" phony e-mail of a Merrill Lynch London official, which almost destroyed Commerzbank in October 2002.

Stock prices of the Bayer chemical group suffered their biggest crash in decades on Feb. 25, down 14%, after a new U.S. lawsuit was filed over its Baycol drug. The *Financial Times* quoted the German lawyer Michael Witt representing the German plaintiffs against Bayer, saying bluntly: "Bayer is the first to experience the U.S.-German tensions [over war on Iraq]. The industry can now see what the Chancellor has brought them."

Major European firms are also having rough sledding this Winter. Allianz and Munich Re, the two giant insurance companies, according to reports, accelerated the European stock market plunge in late February, as the falling DAX triggered them to engage in a new round of forced stock sales, in order to protect their portfolios. In Switzerland, Swiss Re, the world's second largest reinsurer, announced on Feb. 26 that it will have to cut dividend payments for the first time since the San



The maker of the Transrapid magnetic levitation train system—vital to the Eurasian Land-Bridge potential for global recovery—had its bonds downgraded to “junk” status in a Wall Street financial warfare move on Feb. 21.

Francisco earthquake in 1906. Investment bank *Crédit Suisse* will cut another 1,250 jobs after reporting a loss of 3.3 billion Swiss francs for 2002—the highest ever recorded by any European bank. And the huge Dutch food conglomerate *Ahold* had its stock evaporate on a leak that its U.S. subsidiary was committing gross financial fraud.

That such calamities are not only on the continent, was indicated on Feb. 25 when the British bank *Abbey National* announced its first full-year loss since it was founded in 1849.

A ‘Bad Bank’

In another emergency move, *Deutsche Bank* proposed the establishment of a publicly financed “bad bank,” which would buy up the “problem loans” that private German banks had made to the weakening *Mittelstand*, small and middle-sized industrial companies.

The *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* on Feb. 23 revealed more details on the Feb. 16 emergency summit in the Chancery, which had also included the top managers of *Deutsche Bank*, *Dresdner Bank*, *HypoVereinsbank*, *DZ-Bank*, *WL-Bank*, *Allianz*, *Munich Re*, and *Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW)*. According to unnamed participants, *Deutsche Bank* CEO *Josef Ackermann* proposed that German banks should set up a new entity, a “bad bank,” into which the banks would transfer all their problem loans—about 7 billion euros or more. This supposedly could prevent large write-offs which would further erode the banks’ core capital. The scheme would require the government to guarantee the problem loans. The most first participants of the plan to clean up their credit portfolio would supposedly be *Dresdner Bank*, *Commerzbank*, and *HypoVereinsbank*. The head of *DZ-Bank*, which is in a very precarious state as well, welcomed the proposal.

Ackermann claimed that *Deutsche Bank* itself would not need to participate in this operation. *Dresdner Bank* has al-

ready set up an “Institutional Restructuring Unit” (IRU), into which it has transferred 17 billion euros of its problem loans, and ultimately plans to put up to 30 billion euros of loans and assets into this new unit.

The newspaper described the proposal as “unprecedented” in post-war German banking history. Top bankers in the German financial center, Frankfurt, denounced the plan as an admission that German banks are in a disastrous situation.

ThyssenKrupp Financial Warfare Case

A crucial indication of the geopolitical warfare complicating the economic depression, emerged on Feb. 21 when the large “blue chip” industrial and export firm *ThyssenKrupp* was downgraded to full “junk-bond” status. *Standard & Poor’s (S&P)* announced that it had cut the long-term credit rating of Germany’s largest steel producer by two notches at one blow, from “triple B” to *BB+*, a rating that belongs to “junk” territory. *ThyssenKrupp* stocks, in the first hours after the news broke, plunged by 7%; the risk premium on its corporate bonds almost doubled from 2.4% to 4.7%. Many investment funds in the world are not allowed to hold junk bonds, and will now be forced to sell off *ThyssenKrupp* corporate bonds. Any new bond emission by the company would now require the promise of much higher interest rates.

ThyssenKrupp has become the first European company to be hit by a new policy at *S&P* regarding pension liabilities. *S&P* recently decided to strike out at all corporations that do not follow Anglo-Saxon orthodoxy in financing pension obligations. According to this model, a corporation has to cover future pension obligations by setting up special funds invested into stocks or bonds. Most German corporations still stick to “pay-as-you-go” pension systems, backing up special pension reserves by fixed assets such as real estate and machines. In early February, *S&P* targetted a list of 12 European companies which the new policy threatens with a downgrade—but notably, it has not downgraded U.S. firms from *General Motors* on down, which have notoriously overstated and underfunded their pension funds throughout the 1990s.

ThyssenKrupp management “strongly” criticized the *S&P* decision and described it as “incomprehensible.” Since the last *S&P* rating in 2001, the company’s pension obligations—about 7 billion euros—have not changed at all. At the same time, *ThyssenKrupp* has reduced its net debt from 7.2 billion to 4.9 billion euros. The management said it might take legal actions against the *S&P* decision, and would not cut down on planned investments.

ThyssenKrupp is part of the consortium building the *Transrapid* magnetic levitation transportation system in China and Germany. This system (see *EIR*, Jan. 10, 2003), inaugurated on New Year’s Eve in Shanghai, is vital to the entire *Eurasian Land-Bridge* development strategy by which, uniquely, Europe, Russia, China, and India can drive a recovery from the deepening world depression.

Pro-American Germans Oppose Iraq War

by Rainer Apel

Following the two mass protests in Germany against an Iraq war—the Munich peace march of 35,000 on Feb. 8 and the nationwide day of protest of 500,000 in Berlin and 250,000 in many other cities on Feb. 15—there has been a shift in the public debate away from the simplistic view that “Bush wants Iraqi oil,” to a more profound look at the unsavory marriage between monetarist economics, global geopolitics, and war designs that motivates the war party. The LaRouche movement in Germany has played an important role in bringing about this shift, through massive leafletting at the demonstrations, focussing public attention on the organized crime-linked “chicken-hawk” factions in Washington and Israel, and on Lyndon and Helga LaRouche’s policies for a solution to the global strategic and economic crisis.

When Angela Merkel, the chairman of Germany’s opposition Christian Democratic Union (CDU), who supports the war drive, appeared at Georgetown University in Washington on Feb. 25, she was met with LaRouche Youth Movement organizers with a banner that read, “Angela Go Home! Americans and Europeans Want Development and Not War! LaRouche in 2004.” A German youth visiting Washington from Berlin intervened after her speech, informing her that Vice President Dick Cheney’s chief of staff, Lewis Libby, was the lawyer for Russian mafia front-man Marc Rich, and that the Cheney-Wolfowitz crowd had been pushing a doctrine of pre-emptive nuclear war for more than a decade. Merkel tried to dismiss the challenge with the dubious statement that “one needs to deal with politicians in power”; but the many German journalists on the scene were fascinated, filming and interviewing the LaRouche organizers. A news clip on the intervention was broadcast, at least, on northern Germany’s N-TV on Feb. 26; this, in a country where the media blackout of LaRouche has been almost total.

Departing from the chicken-hawk line that opposition to the war equals “anti-Americanism,” there is increasing mention now in the German media of the fact of enormous resistance to the war in the United States itself.

For example Walter Mixa, chief Catholic military chaplain of the German Armed Forces—who definitely is not anti-American and has many American friends—reported after a tour of the United States in mid-February, that he had met a lot of skepticism about the war, notably among military people he had talked to at military bases like that at El Paso, Texas. The views of a senior retired officer of the German Army, quoted by the Paris-based *International Herald Tribune* (without



At Georgetown University in Washington, German camera crews film LaRouche organizers rebuffing Christian Democrat leader Angela Merkel, who came to Washington hoping to curry favor and overturn German opposition to an Iraq war. German television news showed a LaRouche youth organizer from Berlin confronting Merkel.

giving his name) on Feb. 20, can be taken as typical of many German professional soldiers who have, throughout their careers, been on the side of the United States. “You Americans have been telling us for 60 years that we must never go to war,” he said. “Now you attack us because Germany doesn’t want to go to war.”

It is worth noting that protesters at the mass demonstrations in Germany included many people who would, under other circumstances, never have even come close to the usual left-wing peaceniks they were marching together with this time.

Social Democratic Chancellor Gerhard Schröder is backed in his anti-war stance by many Germans who would at “normal” times never have voted for his Social Democratic Party. Thus, while the CDU’s Merkel wrote in a pro-Bush commentary for the Feb. 20 issue of the *Washington Post*, that Schröder “does not speak for all Germans,” it is certainly the case that Schröder speaks for many more Germans than Merkel does.

What Schröder said in his special address to the Bundestag (parliament) on Feb. 13, reflected what a vast majority of Germans think. He said: “The prime task of international policy is the prevention of war. That is our orientation mark. No realpolitik nor any security doctrine must lead us into clandestinely getting used to view war as kind of a normal means of policy. And even as the last resort of conflict solution, the use of military force is confined to strict limitations. The exception is, notably, self-defense against an imminent armed attack, or Security Council-mandated defense against an imminent, grave threat to international peace. In this sense, in a process lasting several centuries, international law has been formulated. The Charter of the United Nations is based on this principle of a ban on violence.”

Schröder added that there is nothing anti-American in that, as the foundation for this development of international law and policy has been laid by the United States itself, under President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, almost 60 years ago. “The core of this process is the principle to put the strength of law in the place of the right of the stronger,” Schröder emphasized. The majority of renowned German experts on international law agree with that, as numerous interviews over recent weeks have shown.

Prof. Udo Steinbach, director of the renowned German Oriental Institute, made two notable presentations at an event of the Atlantic Academy of Rhineland-Palatinate in Ingelheim on Feb. 17. He pointed out that the anti-colonialist policy of FDR in the Mideast and Persian Gulf regions prior and during World War II has increasingly been driven back by other currents in U.S. policymaking, especially since the current U.S. President took office in January 2001. The issue of Iraq became much more than just some matter of an “unfinished 1991 agenda” that George W. Bush had inherited from his Presidential father, Steinbach said. Scenarios that had been worked out before, for geopolitical control of the entire extended region from eastern Africa to the western borders of China, via the Mideast, Persian Gulf, South and Central Asia, became the official U.S. agenda after the younger Bush took office. Iraq is just a convenient target in this context, Steinbach said. The real strategic game is for control of that entire part of the world; and there, Iran, which has a much larger economic, population, and military potential, is much more of an “enemy” for the neo-imperialist geopoliticians such as Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, Defense Policy Board Chairman Richard Perle, and Zbigniew Brzezinski. Steinbach added that certain empire-minded circles inside the British establishment that have found a mouthpiece in Prime Minister Tony Blair, have joined the Wolfowitzers in their military mobilization, in the pursuit of nostalgic dreams about returning, in the Persian Gulf, to strategic positions which they were forced to quit in the late 1960s.

Over the last two weeks of February, this theme of broader Anglo-American geopolitical scenarios has been taken up in numerous radio and other media interviews by leading German politicians. For example Ludger Volmer, former assistant foreign minister, made the point in several interviews that objective number one in the present anti-war campaign is, naturally, to stop the war against Iraq; but objective number two is to drive back the geopolitical designs that go far beyond Iraq.

Such statements are an indication that the U.S. Presidential campaign for 2004 has begun also in Germany, now. And, as many Germans under “normal” circumstances would never have supported Chancellor Schröder, are doing so now, many Germans will also become highly interested in Lyndon H. LaRouche, as the only real alternative to the Bush team. The news coverage of the LaRouche Youth Movement is an unmistakable sign in this direction.

Brazil

Lula About to Slam Into Soros’ ‘Wall of Money’

by Dennis Small

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva probably doesn’t regard his first 60 days in office as President of Brazil as much of a honeymoon. After campaigning against the International Monetary Fund’s neo-liberal economic policies, he nonetheless has capitulated to each of the IMF’s demands, one by one: raise interest rates; promote Central Bank autonomy; pass legislation limiting labor rights; reform the pension laws; slash government spending to raise the “primary budget surplus” from 3.75% to 4.25% of GDP.

Yet Lula’s plight—and the price that Brazil is already paying for it—is nothing compared to the nightmare that will hit him by the middle of this year, in the form of an explosion of the public debt bomb. As the accompanying article documents, Brazil’s gross public debt now totals 1.1 trillion reals (which, at the current exchange rate, amounts to about \$320 billion). About 39% of that debt is short term (maturity of less than a year), most of which has to be either paid off or rolled over this year. Estimates are that up to 200 billion reals, or about \$60 billion, come due before July 1, 2003, and Brazil’s creditors have made it clear that they intend to use the mid-year crunch to exact concessions that are incomparably greater than what Lula has so far acceded to. Under the strain, Lula’s Workers Party (PT) will shatter, and a full-blown institutional crisis—similar to that which engulfed neighboring Argentina in 2002—will follow shortly.

The conundrum facing Brazil is the direct result of a policy proclaimed in late 1998 by mega-speculator George Soros, that a “wall of money” had to be issued to roll over Brazil’s foreign debt bubble, which was then threatening to explode, along with other equally insolvent components of the world’s \$400 trillion speculative bubble. That policy has been implemented from 1999 to the present, leading to the generation of a hyperinflationary expansion of the speculative bubble, which is now beginning to implode.

Lula, in a word, is about to run headlong into Soros’ “wall of money.”

None of these facts seem to be on Lula’s radar screen, however. Rather than address the issue, Lula has preferred to look the other way, and hope that somehow or other, things will work out. He continues to speak longingly about how Brazil has to lower interest rates and achieve economic growth. And leading members of the Lula cabinet complain that things are worse than they expected during the campaign.

Will Lula wake up and reverse course, at the point the banks provoke a showdown in mid-2003? That question still cannot be answered, because the political battle inside Brazil over economic policy is far from settled.

There are, however, political forces in Brazil who are already quite clear about the nature of the problem, and what needs to be done about it. This is the case with Dr. Enéas Carneiro, Lyndon LaRouche's friend who was just elected to Brazil's Congress with the largest number of votes in the country's history. Dr. Enéas used his historic, first address to the Congress on Feb. 18, to draw the battlelines.

Enéas: 'Time To Declare Brazil's Economic Independence'

"Exactly 14 years ago, I wrote the 'PRONA Manifesto,' in which I warned the Brazilian population about the dangers of the neo-liberal winds which had begun to blow here in the Southern Hemisphere. . . . In almost all corners of the world, the fashionable word became globalization. The world was transformed into an immense casino where, at the simple touch of a computer key, fabulous fortunes were transferred from one point to another on the planet, at the speed of light, without there having to be any corresponding wealth in the real, or physical world.

"Whoever dared to speak of the sovereign nation-state immediately earned the epithet of troglodyte, dinosaur, or something similar to a being from a more primitive era. . . .

"Our public debt grew from 87.8 billion reals in December 1994 (25.13% of GDP) to the astounding figure of 1.1 trillion reals in December 2002 (80.94% of GDP). . . . I now assert, that is the central issue from which all others flow. This is the real cancer that eats away at the bowels of our nation.

"I am profoundly uncomfortable at the discussion of superficial issues. . . .

"In 2002 the astronomical amount of 114 billion [reals] was paid out. . . . I ask you, how is it possible to survive a hemorrhaging of this amount? How can you talk of the need to attain a fiscal surplus of this or that amount, when it is publicly recognized that the payment of that monstrous sum in interest is to feed the vultures who thrive only on speculation? How can you still consider cutting budgets if you don't have the courage to say 'enough' to this criminal process in which the economy of the Brazilian people is bled to the last drop? . . .

"The entire national productive system loses in this obscene game. In reality, the only winners are those who participate in the speculative process, who have behind them the international financial system. . . . This is the central question, gentlemen. Everything else is a waste of time, is secondary. . . .

"Today, for my first time from this rostrum, into which I was thrust by the will of more than 1.57 million voters, expressed at the polls, I say to you here, as I have always said at every opportunity, and in every place, inside Brazil and

abroad, that it is not possible for us to continue being harnessed to this model of submission to the hegemonic powers. It is time to say 'enough' to that putrid, infected, and nauseating model, which is driving our people into slavery. It is time to declare Brazil's economic independence!"

What Follows Brazil's 'Great Expectations'?

by Adriano Benayon

The author is a Brazilian analyst who holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Hamburg, Germany. He is currently a professor at the University of Brasilia, and is a former diplomat and consultant to the Federal Senate. He wrote this article exclusively for EIR.

With the elections held at the end of 2002, the vast majority of Brazilians ousted a government that, for eight long years, had presided over the most dramatic deterioration of every aspect of the economic, political, and social life of the country. Great expectations were placed upon the opposition candidate Lula da Silva, to change course and build a recovery. Has he? Will he?

Year after year, Brazil has been looted by interest payments. Not only on account of the foreign debt, which affects mainly private companies, but because of the public domestic debt, 40% of which is pegged to the dollar, although technically denominated in the national currency, the real. The devaluation of the real in 2002 by more than 52% gave a windfall to the holders of indexed notes. On top of the exchange rate variation, they received interest ranging from 12% to 16% per annum.

The "basic" rate of the Central Bank is only a reference for overnight interest on public securities not indexed to the dollar. That rate averaged 20% per annum during 2002. Toward the end of the year, it had been raised to 25% by the outgoing Cardoso government. The new government headed by President Lula da Silva not only approved that increase; it raised it by a further 0.5%, to 25.5% during January 2003.

By comparison, only Turkey and Poland are estimated to have higher real interest rates than Brazil, which is understandable, since those two economies have also been stifled by International Monetary Fund (IMF) conditionalities. Third place is impressive enough; but the real facts are even worse. Brazil's effective interest rate was much greater than the basic official rate taken into account in the statistics. There are two reasons for this:

1. The stratospheric yield of the dollar-indexed securities, due to the devaluation; and



Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (left), after campaigning against the International Monetary Fund, is implementing all of its policies. But the debt crisis he faces is about to get much worse, thanks to the IMF and megaspeculator George Soros' (right) "wall of money" policy.

2. Sizable spreads were added to the basic rate on the other bonds and notes. In all, the effective cost of the Brazilian domestic debt in 2002 amounted to nearly 45%, that is, more than double the basic rate. This means that Brazil was not third, but actually first in that dubious honor, even allowing for a yearly inflation from 12% to 22.8%, according to various official indices.

The strain on the economy resulting from the incredible interest costs is heightened by endless budget cuts imposed in order to pay the interest bill. To welcome a new IMF visit, Lula's Ministers of Finance and Planning announced that the goal for the primary budget surplus would be raised from 3.75% to 4.25% of the GNP. This accountants' concoction measures the budget surplus, *excluding* interest payments—i.e., it measures how much money can be ploughed back into payment on the debt. Nevertheless, the debt continues to climb all the time, as the *primary* surplus and interest costs steadily increase.

Gross public debt jumped to 1.132 trillion reais (\$320 billion, at a rate of 3.4 per dollar) at the end of 2002, from 886 billion reais (\$250 billion) a year earlier. *Net* public debt grew to 881 billion reais (\$249 billion). The difference between *gross* and *net* is that the latter subtracts out the amount owed to the federal government by the various states. But because the states are all clearly insolvent, the gross public debt figure

should be viewed as more relevant than the net one. Moreover, the Central Bank itself holds nearly 300 billion reais (\$80 billion) in Treasury securities, which public accountants do not include in the official debt. The money supply, however, has been increased by a corresponding amount.

The maturity of this debt makes things even worse. At the end of 2002, the Treasury acknowledged that short-term securities grew to 39% of the total, and were estimated to be almost \$200 billion. Over half of the total is due this year.

Tax Burden

Brazil was awarded another third place in the world, for the size of its tax burden, which rose to 35.5% of the GNP in 2002. Because multinational and other big corporations are undertaxed, Brazil's middle class certainly qualifies for the distinction of suffering the greatest tax burden in the world, of more than 55% of their gross income (indirect and other taxes included). Perhaps the greatest tragedy is that the vast majority of those taxes are used to pay for interest on government expenditures. So, Brazil has become an unprotected protectorate, where people not doomed by unemployment, work to pay tribute to the banks and multinational corporations. Besides being unable to meet the ever-growing tax burden, local businesses and citizens, already in financial trouble, are further squeezed by interest rates of as much as 60-120%

per annum.

The Lula government as a whole might be considered less monolithic than its predecessor, but to date, it has been largely compliant with the wishes of the international financial community (bank creditors and the IMF). It started with the appointments of Antonio Palocci as Minister of Finance, and of Henrique Meirelles as president of the Central Bank. The former, an ex-leftist physician, has no other credentials than the fact that he was mayor of Ribeirão Preto (300 kilometers from São Paulo), where he showed leanings toward privatization, and allegedly offered tenders for public services tainted with irregularities. The latter is a banker retired from the Bank of Boston. His campaign to be a Congressman from the state of Goiás was unusually expensive, and was described by some as a “purchase.” Once named to be Central Bank head, Meirelles resigned his Congressional seat.

Central Bank ‘Autonomy’

Immediately after being appointed by Palocci during a New York trip, and before his appointment was approved by the Brazilian Senate, Meirelles did not hesitate to declare his intention—attributed to the Lula government—to propose amending the Constitution to make the Central Bank independent from the government, a long-standing IMF demand. The result of such an amendment would be to establish fixed terms for the board of directors, so that they could not be removed, even should the President realize that the monetary and credit policy of the country must be changed. This alignment with the IMF and the defiant display of authority by Meirelles are illustrated by the fact that he confirmed in their posts all the incumbent Central Bank directors from the outgoing Cardoso administration.

If approved by the Congress, the “independence” of the Central Bank would deprive President Lula of the power to define economic policy for Brazil—that is, would be tantamount to resignation. The words “independence” and the more euphemistic “autonomy,” are misleading, because the decisions of the Central Bank, if not determined by the interests of the nation, are bound instead to serve the interests of the international and other big banks operating in Brazil. The fact of the matter is, that these interests have been defining Central Bank policy for a long time. The reversal of that condition is long overdue. And yet the new government is not only adhering to the status quo, but is intentionally pleasing the bankers and the IMF, to the point of trying to make it a permanent condition, sanctioned by the Brazilian Constitution.

Unemployment and Interest Rates

How long will it take for Brazil to follow the path of Argentina? Not long, if one realizes that more than 60% of the economically active population is not earning enough to feed itself, its children, and its senior citizens. Unemployment has already reached 20% in the industrial city of São Paulo, the largest and richest urban area of the country. There is

probably another 20% in disguised unemployment. More IMF austerity and budget cuts under the Lula regime, together with interest rates approaching genocidal levels, mean that collapse isn’t far down the road.

In the foreign accounts, there was a significant increase in the trade surplus (goods), to more than \$12 billion in 2002, thanks entirely to a collapse in imports, which resulted mainly because disposable income is shrinking, and, secondarily, the devaluation of the currency. That surplus contributed to lessen the current account deficit to \$8.5 billion, which may be temporarily covered by foreign direct investment.

How might the economy unravel? 1) Absurdly high interest rates produce worsening impoverishment, which in turn means shrinking productive investment, so that even privileged foreign capital will shun it. 2) The current account deficit is constantly fed by imports of overpriced and even fictitious services by the subsidiaries of multinational corporations (through remittances of profits reaped from the captive domestic market and foreign trade operations). That deficit in the last six years has totalled \$145 billion. 3) As soon as “doubts” about the country’s ability to meet its foreign debt payments begin to snowball, the banks will drive up Brazil’s “country risk” rating, forcing domestic rates unimaginably high, and the national currency through the floor.

In the face of this looming reality, the government has attached itself to the same IMF prescriptions that have led to past crises. Its “reform” agenda is in fact nothing but an IMF agent: raise taxes, cut social security, gut protective labor legislation.

As long as the current economic policy is carried out, Lula’s so-called “Zero Hunger” program has not the slightest chance of meeting the needs of Brazil’s poor. The number of those poor should be calculated as at least 65% of the population, and growing daily, spurred on by each new fulfillment of Lula’s IMF-scripted “goals.”

Providing \$1 a day for Brazil’s 120 million hungry people would cost 150 billion reais (\$43.8 billion), which amounts to more than 10% of the GNP. Besides being clearly insufficient to alleviate the poverty in Brazil, that amount would be better employed in public works to build and improve urgently needed infrastructure and to enhance productivity through technological improvements. This, in turn, would have a multiplier effect on income and employment, providing the people with both security and dignity.

Is that \$43.8 billion a lot of money? Taken by itself, yes, but in fact it’s a paltry sum for a country that is wasting multiples of that amount—about 25% of its GNP—on the unproductive expense of interest payments. Compare 10% of GNP with 25% of GNP, just in terms of interest rates paid by the government. An additional impressive amount is being disbursed as interest payments by private firms and individuals, which should be added to determine Brazil’s current interest bill.

Who says Brazil is a poor country? If it becomes so, it will be clear where the fault lies.

Major Airlines Will Go Bankrupt Without LaRouche's Re-Regulation

by Anita Gallagher

American Airlines, the largest airline in the world, will follow United, the world's second-largest carrier, into bankruptcy by May, if it fails to gain \$1.8 billion in wage and benefit cutbacks from its unions, according to an official of its pilots' union.

American's cash will run out by May 25, a website for members of the Allied Pilots Association said, based on losses of \$5 million per day. Even \$1.8 billion in givebacks might not be sufficient to avert bankruptcy, and if the negotiations take longer than two months, American's chances of bankruptcy are "100%," the official said. Capt. John Darrah, president of the 13,500-member Allied Pilots Union, denied that the leak was the union's official position, but acknowledged American faces "an extremely difficult situation."

The only difference between bankrupt carriers and those still in the black, is simply the amount of cash reserves they have left to lose.

Thus, it is clear that there is no "business model" that would work: no amount of labor givebacks, capacity cuts, or pension nullification that would make the airlines break even. The only thing that will work is financial reorganization of the entire economy on the Franklin Roosevelt model, and re-regulation of the airlines—as Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche stated in an Aug. 24, 2002 webcast. The alternative, LaRouche said, is the collapse of the United States as "a unified, efficient national economy." Or, as LaRouche told a town meeting in Pine Bluff, Arkansas on Feb. 23 (see *National*), the financial collapse is beyond what anyone will admit, but the good news is, there's a way out, if we do things differently.

Iraq War Means No Airlines

The price of jet fuel has increased by 50% since December, mainly because of fears of a war with Iraq. After labor, fuel is the second-highest expense for the airlines. Even financial analysts warn that an extended war with Iraq, or another "terror attack" that would be attributed to that war, could pull the plug on the airline industry. In 1991, Eastern Airlines shut down *two days* after the United States started its air attack on Iraq, and within ten months of the end of that war, Midway Airlines and Pan American Airways folded. Because of its shaky credit rating, United has been unable to buy any long-term fuel contracts, known as "hedges."

This is the backdrop against which United must meet monthly cost-cutting targets set by its Debtors-in-Possession, the first of which occurred on Feb. 28. United has been outperforming the cost-reduction plan since its Dec. 9 bankruptcy filing, so, as the London *Financial Times* put it, "They have a cushion of a couple hundred million." But, if there is a protracted war, they would "start burning through it."

Even without war, the performance targets for United become progressively steeper. Under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, United has only until March 15 to negotiate voluntary givebacks worth \$2.56 billion annually from its unions; if the unions do not agree, United will file a "1113" motion, permitted in corporate bankruptcies, to nullify all its current labor contracts.

The unions, which own 55% of United because of their bailout of the firm in 1993, do not appear to be close to accepting these cuts. The pilots and flight attendants fiercely oppose the proposed low-cost carrier—codenamed "Starfish"—which United wants to hive off to compete with the Southwest/Jet Blue model, and which would pay far below current United pay scales.

Doug Hacker, United's executive vice-president for strategy, told employees in Denver in late February, "The core of our problem is that virtually all of our routes on the global route network lose money." Cost-cutting alone would make about 70% of United's routes profitable, and the low-cost carrier would bring the remaining 30% to breakeven, Hacker said, according to the *Denver Post*.

Other "unthinkables" being considered by United are sale of its Pacific routes (Hawaii and Asia), as well as closing three (Los Angeles, Denver, and Washington-Dulles) of its five hubs (Chicago and San Francisco would remain open), United Senior Vice President Gregory Taylor testified on Feb. 24 in Bankruptcy Court. Without Pacific travel, much of its Denver and Los Angeles business would evaporate. The Pacific routes are considered the "crown jewels" of United, having some of the highest load factors in its route system; in addition, United grew from Hawaii routes, and provides—with 25% of U.S. mainland travel capacity to Hawaii—more than any other airline.

All the airlines are lined up like lemmings, ready to jump off the same cliff. Northwest Airlines, the fifth-largest carrier, is demanding that its pilots reopen their contract two years ahead of schedule and take a 20% pay cut (rolling back their wage scales to pre-1996 levels), as part of a plan to stop its losses with \$1-1.5 billion in cost cuts.

All these disastrous plans and the cost-cutting number-crunching accompanying them, are being put forward as part of testimony in United's hearings in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Chicago, U.S. Airways' bankruptcy hearings in the Eastern District of Virginia, and perpetual giveback negotiations at every other airline. None will work alone, or in combination. Instead of finding a way out by "doing things differently," as LaRouche said in Pine Bluff, this is just so much fiddling while Rome burns.

Kolkata: Mother Teresa's Haunt

by Ramtanu Maitra

A recent visit to Kolkata—which was earlier known as Calcutta—makes it amply clear what went wrong with India's development over the last three decades in particular. Teeming with millions of poor, unskilled people, many of whom are living on the decayed pavements of the city, Kolkata epitomizes the negligence of its leaders and the acceptance of poverty by the people in general. The most striking feature of Kolkata is its dilapidated look. Huge brick buildings, which were once built with great architectural care, have long lost their shine. Then wide and sturdy walls have become the home of plants and trees. It is only a matter of time before these once magnificent buildings come down in rubble.

But the most astonishing thing about this city—founded by the British East India Company and dubbed by India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, as a "Dead City" in the 1950s—is that no one really cares. People eat, sleep, and live their entire lives on the city's dirty pavements, and few take notice of them. The state government of West Bengal (Kolkata is the state capital) had long been the single most important bastion of the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M), and yet, poverty in Kolkata grows by leaps and bounds. It is evident that the West Bengal Communists, much like the Communists of the rest of India, have little interest in anything but to hone the mechanisms that would enable them to manipulate the system to stay in power. And, the CPI-M has proven that it has mastered the art of winning elections. It has been in power since 1977, and is seemingly in full control.

A Not-So-Old Town

In 1690, Job Charnock, an agent of the British East India Company, came to the bank of the Ganga River, known as the Hooghly River before it falls into the Bay of Bengal, to set up a commercial outlet for the company. Enticing the ruling Mughal nawab of the undivided province of Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa with the alleged financial benefits of doing commerce with the British, Charnock secured a site that was protected by the Hooghly River on the West, a creek to the north, and a lake (currently called the Salt Lake) a few miles to the east. He also took lease of three villages—Sutanuti, Govindapur, and Kalikata—with the aim of establishing a trading post of the British East India Company.

Subsequently, the town built around those three villages became a bone of contention between the Mughals and the British East India Company. Mughal Nawab Siraj-Ud-Dul-lah, the last independent nawab of Bengal, captured the city in 1756. A year later the British recaptured the city with a military force under the leadership of an East India Company clerk, Robert Clive. Thereafter, Gen. Warren Hastings was chosen as the first Governor General of India, and Calcutta, as the British named the city, became the capital of British India in 1772.

Calcutta continued to be the center of British control in India. The city prospered, as it became the conduit through which India's wealth was exported to strengthen the British Empire. Bengal supported the colonials, providing them initially with the clerks who served the British trading firms, then the lenders of capital, and finally, with a host of British-educated Bengali academics who welcomed the British education, judiciary, and culture. The Bengalis vied with each other for the attention of the ruling British.

Later, a section of the nationalist Bengali academics and social reformers gave leadership to the anti-British political forces. But by the mid-1930s, the leadership for the independence of India had slipped out of the hands of the Bengalis and was firmly in the hands of Mohandas Gandhi, Motilal and Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, et al. Long before this time, in 1912, the Empire had moved the British Raj capital to Delhi, probably with an eye to secure India's western borders with Afghanistan, as well as the northern borders of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir.

But, during the entire period from 1757 to 1912, when the colonial British power dominated the region, Calcutta remained the Empire's leading seat of power in Asia.

Calcutta, with its port, had been a major source of support for British operations in Southeast Asia. In those days, Calcutta had the best education system in India (Calcutta University, at one time, extended from Rangoon in Burma in the east to Lucknow, in the United Province—now Uttar Pradesh, in the west—a span of more than 1,000 miles), and it also provided the British with a well-developed engineering capability. With tea gardens in the north, engineering facilities, the capability to fabricate and build bridges and railroads in and around Calcutta, and jute mills up the Hooghly River, Calcutta was the hub of industrial activities in the British Raj.

The Bloody Partition

The partition of India by the departing British rulers in 1947, and the Hindu-Muslim riots which broke out in a most vicious form, first in Calcutta a year before, had perhaps the single most adverse impact on the city. The eastern half of Bengal became East Pakistan, and in 1971 it became the independent nation of Bangladesh, with its capital at Dhaka. Calcutta became the capital of West Bengal. As millions poured in from East Pakistan to the truncated Bengal, now



The Communist Party whose government has run Kolkata (Calcutta) for 25 years, holds a mass demonstration there in January. The Party's grip on the original British East India Company city in India remains tight, while poverty is its actual ruler. Once magnificent buildings have gone back to nature.

known as West Bengal, the refugees travelled by railroad en masse to Calcutta. The city, ill-prepared to absorb the influx, did not provide the needy refugees adequate shelter and homes. It was then that the refugees began to spread themselves all over the city's railroad stations and the surrounding streets.

The failure of the Congress Party, then in control of the state, to restore dignity to the hapless, uprooted families, led to the steady erosion of its political power in the state, and consolidated a more militant Communist party. The CPI-M, a breakaway from the Communist Party of India, took control of the state power in 1977, and has not loosened its grip since.

The poverty began to show in its most abject form following the partition. As the refugees poured in from East Pakistan, Calcutta's infrastructure fell apart. Meanwhile, the neglect of rural Bengal by the Congress Party leaders brought in a wave of new migrants, displaced farm families and laborers, into the already-crowded city. Another wave of migrants were the poor Bangladeshis, who began to come to West Bengal beginning in the 1980s. These Bangladeshis, however, did not converge in Calcutta, but moved west of West Bengal. Many settled in the Muslim-majority districts of West Bengal along the India-Bangladesh border.

The poverty of Calcutta got major international attention through the social work of Mother Teresa. In 1948, then-Sister Teresa, born and raised in Macedonia's Catholic Albanian community, came across a half-dead woman lying in front of a Calcutta hospital. From that point on, she dedicated her life to helping the poorest of the poor in Calcutta, thus

earning her the name "Saint of the Gutters." In 1952, she founded the order called the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, dedicated to serving the poor. That devotion toward the poor won Mother Teresa worldwide respect and the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.

What Further Damage Was Done

The CPI-M, which came to power in West Bengal backed by the rural poor and the refugees from East Pakistan, saw little advantage in helping to rebuild Calcutta. Instead, it concentrated on propping up the poor agricultural community. Its objective, based mostly on electoral calculations, was to stay in power, and it calculated, correctly, that it would do so by investing in rural areas. The CPI-M also took a leaf out of China's Cultural Revolution (1967-78), and adopted an anti-intellectual posture. As a result, Calcutta University was undermined and the facilities that used to generate capital were also weakened. However, long before the CPI-M came to power in 1977, it had been, during 1969-72, a part of a coalition government, the United Front, and West Bengal's engineering industries were already in deep trouble. The rise of a militant Communist movement, and the welcome mat laid out to the businessmen and the manufacturers by other Indian states, prompted capital flight from West Bengal. The Congress Party, which had degenerated by the end of the 1950s, did little to stem the rot, and worsened the political environment by blaming the Communists for all the state's problems.

A 2001-02 study prepared by a group of economists based on 1997-98 data, indicates the source of West Bengal's, as well as Kolkata's, growing poverty. The study points out that

the facts of the last 20 years about the relative position of West Bengal industry, were self-evident. In 1980-81, West Bengal produced 9.8% of India's industrial output. In 1997-98, the share was 5.1%, up from a low of 4.7% in 1995-96. Organized sector employment actually declined in West Bengal during 1980-97; in particular, employment in the organized private sector went down from 1.084 million to 0.799 million.

A similar pattern shows up in West Bengal's contribution to foreign trade. In 1985-86, the Kolkata airport and port handled about 10% of the imports and exports from the country, while in 1998-99 that fraction was around 4%. Or, to take a measure of the vibrancy of trade, in 1999-2000 the value of checks cleared in Kolkata was just 6% of the value in Mumbai (formerly Bombay), compared to 38% in 1980-81. Even in the mid-1960s, West Bengal was the second most industrialized of the larger states. By 1995-96, in terms of the share of industry output, West Bengal was a long way down in the list, behind such smaller states as Karnataka and just ahead of Uttar Pradesh, another economically backward large state. Moreover, the significance of low-productivity manufacturing activities is diminishing, because of fierce competition from cheap imports. Small and medium-sized enterprises are going through tough times, and only a few are investing in new projects. The attraction of "greenfield" investments is waning, and, lacking interest on the government's part to change the trend, mergers and acquisitions are emerging as an attractive investment route.

What makes these numbers even more striking is the fact that this industrial meltdown happened during a period of relative peace and political stability in the state after the turbulent 1960s and the unstable 1970s. According to a report on "Crime In India 1997," West Bengal was 30th among 32 states and union territories in terms of the India Penal Code (IPC) crime (this category includes almost all crimes against persons and private property), and Kolkata was 23rd among the 23 largest cities. Moreover, this was a period when incomes and, therefore, demand, were growing throughout India. In West Bengal, per-capita gross state domestic product grew at 2.6% per annum in the 1980s and an impressive 5% in the 1990s. Most remarkably, all this happened in a period when the industrial growth rate in the country as a whole accelerated. The growth of industry value added in India was 7% in the 1980s and 6.7% in 1990s, compared to 5.5% in the 1960s and 1970s.

Inheriting a Problem and Doing Nothing

West Bengal's problems are many. To begin with, it was straddled with very old manufacturing companies at the time the CPI-M came to power. The state was already hampered with poor infrastructure. A recent study puts West Bengal 14th among Indian states in 1997-98 in an index of infrastructure, as compared to its No. 4 position in 1971-72. The index comprises (a) roads, railways, ports, (b) irrigation, (c) elec-

tricity, (d) telephone, (e) loan-deposit ratios of banks, and (f) tax collection of the state government. In each of these categories, West Bengal has fallen below the national average, whereas in 1964-65 it was first or second.

These facts suggest that the poor infrastructure has been a key factor in the decline of West Bengal's industrial performance relative to the rest of the country. Poor roads delay shipments and raise transport costs. Delays in getting perishable goods to market can make production entirely worthless. A case study about a failed mini-steel plant in Purulia in a recent look at industrial problems in eastern India, by Sudip Choudhury and Anindya Sen, says that each year the plant paid an additional 2.5-3.0 million rupees for transportation. The liquidation value of the plant itself was only 8.2 million rupees. West Bengal's road density per capita is far below India's average.

Electricity is another key input to production. The report mentions that many production centers in West Bengal became unviable simply because they got less than the promised amount of electricity from the West Bengal State Electricity Board. Some claim that the power situation in West Bengal is now less dire, but much of the apparent improvement is a result of de-industrialization. Moreover, the power situation is reportedly much worse outside the metropolitan district of Kolkata.

The third area of infrastructure is communications. While in the past this had been a major bottleneck, there are indications that the authorities are ready to pay adequate attention to this sub-sector.

This brings us to the last of the factors emphasized in a World Bank-Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) study—the availability of skilled personnel. During the last two decades, West Bengal has fallen behind a number of other states in educating the young. In 1993-94, the West Bengal primary school enrollment for children aged 5-9 was 51.7%, below the national average of 52.1%, and it ranked 10th among the 15 major states. A recent central government report puts West Bengal third, after Sikkim and Bihar, among all states in percentage of students who drop out before reaching the secondary school level.

There are, of course, many relevant measures of labor skill. Exact statistics are hard to come by, but a very large fraction of Kolkata's middle-class families now have one or more children living outside of West Bengal. There is ample evidence which shows that a large fraction of graduating students in West Bengal leave the state and look for employment elsewhere.

Another view is given by looking at the data on migration. A striking fact about the last two decades is that migration into Kolkata has slowed to a trickle, when migration into Delhi and other cities has exploded. There was a time when young engineers and other professionals from southern India would come to Kolkata for better opportunities. That trend, however, has entirely reversed.



Close to 3 million of Kolkata's inhabitants dwell on its sidewalks without homes, with only a few feet of space for all activities of life. On the left, a family's "home"; on the right, laborers from rural areas of West Bengal, who live on the sidewalks for a part of each year.

A Bankrupt State

The years of non-activity and running down of the old manufacturing facilities and infrastructure have affected the state's economy. West Bengal is now a bankrupt state. Recent newspaper reports suggest that West Bengal's expenditures in three areas—salaries, pensions, and interest payments on past loans—in the current fiscal year alone amounted to 110% of its total revenue. As a result, the government will have to borrow not only to fund any development programs, but also, according to a report in the British *Daily Telegraph* on May 30, 2002, to pay its wage and pension bills. West Bengal has resorted to overdrafts with the Reserve Bank of India central bank—as many as 134 times during 2000-01. During the past year, only the states of Bihar, Kerala, Manipur, Orissa, and Uttar Pradesh had to resort to more overdrafts.

The underlying reason for West Bengal's financial distress is that it has created a retarded economy, in which revenues are increasingly falling short of operating expenditures. The revenue deficit (that is, the gap between operating expenditures and revenues) in West Bengal rose from 3.0% to 6.7% of net state domestic product (NSDP) between 1990-91 and 1999-2000. By contrast, the corresponding ratio of aggregate revenue deficits to the aggregate NSDP across all Indian states was 0.9% in 1990-91, and 2.9% in 1999-2000. Moreover, West Bengal had the single largest revenue deficit among all states in 1999-2000.

As a result of the growing revenue deficit, the corresponding fiscal deficit (which adds loans and capital expenditures to the revenue deficit) in West Bengal has risen from 4.9% in 1990-91 to 9% of NSDP in 1999-2000 (whereas the average of all states went from 3.3% to 4.8% during this period). It is becoming clearer every day that the state of West Bengal will soon run out of lenders. Unless the state invests to rebuild its manufacturing and infrastructure, the poverty visible on the pavements of Kolkata will soon swamp the state.

The danger signals have already been raised, but the

government in West Bengal has ignored them. CPI-M's strength, and a large part of the state's economic growth over the last decade, was driven by the expansion of rice production based on the use of high-yield varieties and availability of water for irrigation. But now, most places suited for the high-yield rice varieties have already made the switch, and there is clear evidence that at least in some agricultural zones, the process has probably gone too far. In these zones, measures have not been taken to replenish the water table. In essence, the scope for further expansion of diesel tube-wells and canal irrigation seems to be relatively limited. The state has had occasion to buy extra water from Bihar over the last years. The switch to high-yield varieties can continue for a few more years, but with 60-70% of acreage already converted, it will not be for long. It is therefore no surprise that the growth rate in rice production has slowed significantly. Cereal production rose by 28% in the five planting seasons between 1985-86 and 1990-91, but in the two successive five-year periods that followed, this growth rate fell to 14% and 11%, respectively. Similarly, the growth of total agricultural output in West Bengal fell from a high of 15% and 16% (during 1985-86 to 1990-91, and 1990-91 to 1995-96, respectively) to 9% during in the five years between 1995-96 and 2000-01. Indeed one might expect, in the absence of further innovations, that agricultural growth in West Bengal is heading where other successful states, such as Punjab and Haryana, have ended up—on a plateau of close to zero growth.

That is not to say that there is no further scope for improvements in rice productivity. Rice yields in West Bengal are still considerably below those in some other rice-producing states, such as Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. They are also low compared to neighboring countries. For example, the rice yield per hectare in West Bengal in 1999-2000 was about 2.2 tons, while China's was 4.1 tons, Indonesia's was 2.9 tons, and Taiwan's and Vietnam's was each 2.8 tons.

José Rizal and the Challenge Of Philippines Independence

by John D. Morris

The story of the Philippines' national hero, Dr. José Rizal, and his family, is representative of the courageous spirit and moral intellect, the sublime quality of leadership, that makes possible the emergence of an independent nation from colonized, disunited, or economically looted territories. Rizal's life and works, like those of Mohandas Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore in India, and Sun Yat-sen in China, catalyzed anti-colonial politics in Asia during the latter years of the 19th Century. José Rizal is rightly referred to as "the First Filipino," and to this day, he stands as a challenge to his countrymen still struggling to overcome the legacy of four centuries of Spanish imperialism and 100 years of American occupation and control.

Rizal can be classed as a universal genius. He dedicated himself to the education of his countrymen. In pursuit of this task, he mastered languages, wrote poetry, and investigated many scientific fields outside of his formal training as an ophthalmic surgeon. He travelled widely, wrote extensively on many subjects, and even translated Friedrich Schiller's *Wilhelm Tell* and Hans Christian Andersen's *Fairy Tales* into Tagalog, a native language of the Philippines. His crowning achievement would be the two novels that he wrote while in Europe. These Spanish texts, *Noli Me Tangere* and *El filibusterismo*, would unleash a series of incidents which would overthrow Spanish occupation, and lead to the recognition of the Philippines as a nation.

However, the singular act of Rizal that gave birth to this new nation, was his martyred death.

Rizal and the Spanish Legacy

In 1521, when Spanish ships led by Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan arrived in the Philippine Archipelago, they met a peaceful and friendly population that had skill in shipbuilding, agriculture, mining, and textiles. Trade was

being transacted with Japan, China, and other parts of the South Pacific, and a system of weights and measures governed their relations. However, the region soon to be known as the Philippines was not a nation. There were people of related language cultures—Tagalogs, Bisayans, Pampangos, Ilokanos, Bikolanos, and others—who came to call themselves Filipinos, but this was only to denote their geographical origin, not any "national" loyalty.

The process of colonialization of the Philippines in the wake of Spanish conquest in 1542, and the introduction of European culture and religion, had its blessings and curses. There was occupation and oppression, but also dialogue and development. Paradoxically, it would be Spain's provincial and religious administration that created the potential for a nation. Relations between Spain and the Philippines made the latter an Asian aspect of the European battle, instigated in Italy at the Council of Florence in 1439, to establish the principle of a sovereign nation. Thus, the humanist traditions of the Italian Renaissance began to take root in the Philippines, despite the oppressive aspects of Spanish colonial rule. This would be the basis of the Filipinos' subsequent struggle against the international feudal financial oligarchy, to which they made a profound contribution.

The stage for this drama, that was to unfold in the Philippines during the second half of the 19th Century, was set in the bloody struggle for power in Europe in the wake of the revolutionary defeat of the British by the American colonies, and the establishment of the United States under a republican constitution. In 1812, a new Spanish constitution was framed at Cádiz, a center of liberal and anti-monarchist agitation, which attempted to define a more progressive and democratic Spain, even as Napoleon's army was being expelled from their territory. Under this constitution the Filipinos were to be represented in the Spanish Cortes, where it was hoped



José Rizal (left), inspirer of Philippine independence, was a political leader, doctor, linguist, artist, and writer who was himself inspired by the works of the “poet of freedom,” Friedrich Schiller.

that some of the abuses in colonial administration and church practice in the Philippines would be redressed.

Lorenzo Alberto Alonzo was one of the delegates who assembled in Manila to elect a Philippine Deputy to the Cortes in Madrid under this new Spanish constitution. Alonzo would become better known as the maternal grandfather of the man celebrated as the Philippines’ national hero, Dr. José Rizal.

At the time of Rizal’s birth in 1861, the leadership of the Manila Diocese temporarily fell, because of the death of Archbishop José Aranguren, into the hands of Father Pedro Peláez, a Spanish *mestizo* who had risen to the position of *vicar capitular*. Peláez was at the center of reformist circles within the Church, who acted to open it to more participation of native clergy, and led the fight against successive royal decrees which handed parishes over to the religious orders. The political and financial power of the Franciscan, Dominican, Augustinian, and Recollect friars would be a crucial issue in the life of Rizal.

Rizal’s family, the Alonzo y Mercado, were in a unique position to play a role in this struggle. His parents were of Malay and Chinese heritage, and both sides of the family were wealthy and well educated. Their home in Calamba, Laguna Province, contained one of the largest private libraries in the Philippines. They socialized with the leading members of society, and sent their sons to the best schools.

In 1872, the crisis in the country came to a head. A mutiny of native soldiers at the Cavite Barracks, 30 miles from Manila, precipitated a national crackdown on the leaders of the reform movement. Dozens of activists and businessmen were exiled from the country, and three priests, Fathers José Burgos

(a pupil of Father Peláez), Mariano Gómez, and Jacinto Zamora, were subjected to a show trial, found guilty, and executed publicly by garrote in the fields near Manila. This injustice had a personal impact on the Mercado y Alonzo family, because their eldest son, Paciano, was a student of Father Burgos at the prominent Jesuit Ateneo school in Manila.

Right on the heels of this event, Rizal witnessed his mother and uncle become the victims of legal vengeance. The vindictive wife of his uncle succeeded in pressing charges which alleged that they were plotting to kill her. A corrupt prosecution led to them being incarcerated for two and one-half years. Such was the character of the courts and society dominated by an increasingly desperate Spanish chauvinist elite.

The Path to Confrontation

When young José himself left home to attend the Ateneo in Manila, he was a physically slight, but mentally precocious child. His brother insisted that he adopt the name Rizal in order to avoid the obvious stigma that the Alonzo y Mercado name had received from Paciano’s association with Father Burgos, and the family’s prominence in the native community. Despite this precaution, Rizal was a living challenge to the illusions of Spanish racial superiority that dominated the minds of the Spanish colonials. Imbued with scripture by his devout mother, and a love for Tagalog poetry and song, Rizal excelled in his studies, and cast the mold of intellectual independence and nationalism that would lead him on the path to confrontation with the Catholic Church and the Spanish establishment.

Of this period in 1879, Rizal wrote, “My second year as a boarder [1876-77] was like the first, except that in that time there had been a great development of my patriotic sentiments, as well as an acute quickness of perception.”

In the following year, 1878, his poem, “A la juventud filipina,” took the prize offered in Manila for the best poem by an Indio or mestizo.

Rizal went on to study at the Dominican University of St. Thomas, but his studies suffered as he became politically isolated by adversaries among the faculty and clergy who demanded that he assimilate to their system. In a similar way, his older brother, Paciano, was denied a degree from the same school. The brothers decided that the only path left to José was to continue his studies in Spain—advice that echoed the suggestion of Father Burgos that intelligent Filipinos pursue their education abroad. Without the consent of his parents, whose condemnation he feared, Rizal accepted the sponsorship of his brother and uncle to relocate in Europe. The relationship between Paciano and José, where the elder brother committed himself to take care of the family while Rizal furthered his education and dedicated his life to his country’s cause, reflected a conscious patriotic conspiracy to advance a republican movement in the Philippines.

‘Filibusterismo’

Once in Spain, Rizal studied ophthalmic medicine at the Central University of Madrid, inspired to do so by his mother’s loss of sight due to cataracts. Additionally, he pursued a degree in Philosophy and Letters, and studied art and fencing. In the three years of study in Madrid, Rizal demonstrated himself to be an outstanding student, receiving honors in many subjects, as well as passing his medical examinations. These were accomplishments never before achieved by a Filipino, and were rare even among the European students.

Yet, Rizal never lost sight of his primary goal in Spain, which is alluded to in the first letter that he received from his brother: “To my way of thinking the principal object of your going is not to perfect yourself in this career, but in other matters of greater usefulness or, which comes to the same thing, in that to which you are most inclined.”

From the beginning of his overseas activities, Rizal became deeply involved in the political life of the Philippine expatriate community. He wrote letters to the editors of leading newspapers and contributed articles to numerous Filipino publications, advocating justice for Filipino citizens and equality in representation before the Spanish Cortes.

A movement had grown up, organized mainly by students of the Filipino colony in Spain, which became known as the Propaganda Movement. It advocated their political interests, and fought to strengthen their identity and to defend their countrymen from detraction. As early as 1869, Manuel Regidor, a Spaniard who had been born in the Philippines, wrote articles and published books demanding reform in the Philippines. Later, Gregorio Sancianco, a Madrid attorney, wrote a

book entitled *El Progreso de Filipinas*, which profiled in depth the resources, finances, administration, and economic potential of the Philippines. They were joined by many others besides Rizal. There were the writers Pedro Paterno, Graciano López Jaena, Pedro de Govantes, Marcelo Hilario del Pilar (known as Plaridel); and the artists Luna, Hidalgo, Zaragoza, and Villanueva, among others. Although they did have allies in Spain, they faced continuous claims of disloyalty to Spain. They were charged with undermining the authority of the Church and other alleged seditious activity that all came under the charge of “*filibusterismo*.”

Rizal addressed the issue of *filibusterismo* from Spain in 1884, after a period of unrest in the Philippines: “In the Philippines, all those are *filibusteros* in the towns who do not take off their hats on meeting a Spaniard, be the weather what it may; those who greet a friar and do not kiss his sweaty hand, if he is a priest, or his habit, if he is a lay-brother; those who manifest displeasure at being addressed by the familiar ‘*tú*’ by anyone and everyone, accustomed as they are to show respect and to receive it; those who are subscribers to some periodical of Spain or of Europe, even if it treat of literature, the sciences, or the fine arts; those who read books other than the novenas and fairy-stories of miracles of the girdle, the cord, or the scapular; those who in the elections of the *gubernadorcillos* vote for one who is not the candidate of the parish priest; all those, in a word, who among normal civilized people are considered good citizens, friends of progress and enlightenment in the Philippines, are *filibusteros*, enemies of order, and, like lightning rods, attract on stormy days wrath and calamities.”

Rizal’s Exposition Medals Speech

In 1884, the Philippine community was overcome with joy as two native sons had won medals at the Madrid Exposition for their works of art. Juan Luna received a Gold Medal for his painting, “Spoliarium,” which depicts the broken bodies of gladiators being dragged out of the Roman arena. Félix Resurrección Hidalgo was given a Silver Medal for “Christian Virgins Exposed to the Mob.” At a dinner held in honor of the two painters, Rizal gave a stunning speech, which demonstrated the quality of his leadership in the Propaganda Movement.

“Spaniards and Filipinos were two peoples,” his speech started. “Two peoples that sea and space separate in vain, two peoples in which the seeds of disunion, blindly sown by men and their tyranny, do not take root.

“The patriarchal age is coming to an end in the Philippines; the illustrious deeds of the sons [of the country] are no longer accomplished within its boundaries; the Oriental chrysalis is breaking out of its sheath; brilliant colors and rosy streaks herald the dawn of a long day for those regions, and that race, plunged in lethargy during the night of its history, while the sun illuminated



The scene of José Rizal's execution by firing squad, ordered by Spanish authorities in the field of Luneta overlooking Manila Bay on Dec. 30, 1896. Rizal's death was quickly followed by the rebellion which drove the Spanish occupying forces into two small enclaves by 1898. The Rizal Monument on the Luneta is decorated for Rizal Day, Dec. 30.



other continents, awakes anew, shaken by the electric convulsion produced by contact with Western peoples, and demands light, life, the civilization that was once its heritage from time, thus confirming the eternal laws of constant evolution, periodic change and progress. You know this well and you glory in it; the diamonds that shone in the towns of the Philippines owe their beauty to you; she gave the uncut stones, Europe their polished facets. And all of us behold with pride, you the finished work, and we the flame, the spirit, and the raw material we have furnished. [cheers]

“The paintings of Luna and Hidalgo embodied the essence of our social, moral, and political life: humanity in severe ordeal, humanity unredeemed, reason and idealism in open struggle with prejudice, fanaticism, and injustice. . . .

“Just as a mother teaches her child to speak so as to understand his joys, his needs, his sorrow, so also Spain, as a mother, teaches her language to the Philippines, despite the opposition of those who are so short-sighted and small-minded that, making sure of the present, they cannot foresee the future, and will not weigh the consequences; like soured nurses, corrupt and corrupting, who habitually choke every legitimate sentiment and, perverting the hearts of the People, sow in them the seeds of discord whose fruit, a very wolf's bane, a very death, will be gathered by future generations. . . .

“Spain is wherever she makes her influence felt by doing good; even if her banner were to go, her memory would remain, eternal, imperishable. What can a red and yellow rag do, or guns and cannon, where love and

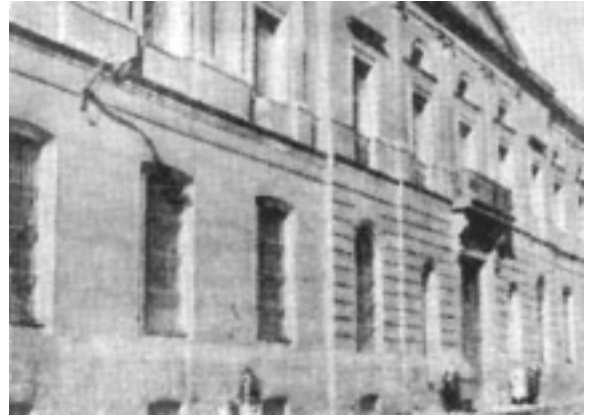
affection do not spring, where there is no meeting of the minds, no agreement on principles, no harmony of opinion? [prolonged applause].

“We have come here . . . to give tangible form to the mutual embrace between two races who love and want each other, united morally, socially, and politically for four centuries, so as to constitute in the future a single nation in spirit, duties, aspirations, privileges. [applause]

“I ask you then to drink a toast to our painters, Luna and Hidalgo, exclusive and legitimate glories of two peoples! A toast for those who have helped them on the arduous paths of art! A toast for the youth of the Philippines, sacred hope of my country, that they may follow such excellent examples. And may Mother Spain, solicitous and ever mindful of the good of her provinces, soon put in effect the reforms that she has long planned; the furrow has been plowed and the soil is not barren. A toast, finally, for the happiness of those fathers and mothers who, deprived of the affection of their sons, follow their courses with moist eyes and beating hearts from that distant land, across the seas and space, sacrificing on the altar of the common good the sweet comforts which are so few in the twilight of life, solitary and prized winter flowers blooming on the brink of the grave. [prolonged applause and cheers for the speaker]”

‘My Pen, the Only Tool I Had’

Rizal's speech was immediately published in the newspapers of Madrid, and not long after in the Manila press. Rizal's



Rizal and his older brother were both classically educated at the Jesuit Ateneo de Manila; José Rizal studied medicine, philosophy, and letters at Madrid's Universidad Central during 1882-85.

parents and family had long worried about the effect of his thinking and ideas. After the publication of this speech in the Philippines, many doubted that he would ever be allowed to return home. An exchange of letters between Rizal, Paciano and their mother encapsulates that fear.

Paciano Rizal to his brother, Nov. 5, 1884: "At first, I thought it was only an indigestion, and I gave her a laxative hoping it would cure her; that did not happen, however, and she stayed always in bed, weak, unable to eat or sleep, so that she had lost a lot of weight after a week. I was growing very anxious about her health when I observed her sighing now and again, and then I gathered that it was a spiritual rather than a physical trouble that ailed her; I asked Saturnina [their sister] to take her to her own house to amuse her with gaming, and this having been done, she recovered.

"You were the cause of this sickness and I shall tell you why. At the time there was a great deal of talk and comment about the speech you gave at the banquet for the Filipino Painters; some said you could never return; others said that it would be better for you to stay there; still others said that you had made enemies; and there were those who said that you had also lost friends but, in brief, all were agreed that it would not be good for you to come back. These gratuitous suppositions caused our mother great sorrow and made her ill."

Teodora Alonso to her son, Dec. 11, 1884: "You really do not know how sad it makes me feel whenever I hear about you from others in conversation; that is why I ask you again and again not to meddle in things that bring grief to my heart. . . .

"Now, what I truly want from you, my son, is first of all, not to fail in your duties as a real Christian, for this is sweeter to me than your acquiring great knowledge; sometimes knowledge is what leads us to ruin. Perhaps this will be my last letter to you, so remember it well for that is what I desire most.

"Your mother who wants to take you in her arms soon, and wants you to be a good Christian."

José Rizal to his mother, early 1885:

I am doing everything possible to please you. For more than a year now, and following Father's advice, I have tried as far as possible to withdraw myself and not to call attention to my person. I have been told to stop writing; well, I have put aside my pen, the only tool I had and one which I was beginning to handle not without skill, and if sometimes I have picked it up again it was because I was compelled to do so by very powerful reasons; and even then I did not use my own name, for love of that obscurity which I need.

If in spite of this I still have enemies, well, let them be. It is so difficult to live without sorrow, but misfortunes do not mean dishonor; misfortunes are welcome when they are the result of avoiding abasement and degradation. As long as we keep the esteem of those who know us, as long as our conscience is the friendly guide of our thoughts, what does the rest matter?

We have been born into a society whose political life is so out of joint that we can have no other prospect than to submit or to perish; our conscience must decide which is to be preferred. Let us then put our trust in God and in the sincerity of our purposes. If desiring and having desired the good brings misfortune as a reward, what are we to do?

The best legacy that parents can leave to their children is an upright judgment, generosity in the exercise of our rights, and perseverance in adversity. And a son pays the greatest honor to his parents with his honesty and good name; let the son never make his father tremble with indignation or with shame, and God will provide the rest. . . .

With regard to what you tell me about my duties as a Christian, I can tell you gladly that I have not for one moment stopped believing in the fundamental principles of our religion; my childhood beliefs have yielded to the convictions of youth which in time will take root in me; essential [beliefs] which do not resist examina-

tion and time should pass into the memory and leave the heart; I should not try to live on illusions and lies. What I believe now, I believe by reasoning, because my conscience can accept only what is compatible with reason. I can bow my head before a fact even though it be inexplicable to me, so long as it is a fact, but never before an absurdity or a mere probability.

For me religion is the holiest of things, the purest, the most intangible, which escapes all human adulterations, and I think I would be recreant to my duty as a rational being if I were to prostitute my reason and admit what is absurd. I do not believe that God would punish me if I were to try to approach Him using reason and understanding, His own most precious gifts; I believe that to do Him homage, I can do no better than to present myself before Him making use of His best gifts, just as in appearing before my parents I should wear the best clothes they have given me. If someday I were to get a little of that divine spark called science, I would not hesitate to use it for God, and if I should err or go astray in my reasoning, God will not punish me.

The Influence of Schiller

It isn't certain if Rizal's Masonic connections started at home through his mother's brother, José Alberto, but he quickly became involved in Masonic activity in Spain when he arrived in 1882. José Alberto had been in Madrid earlier during the regency of General Prim that ruled Spain after the abdication of Queen Isabel in 1868. He had been a friend of the General, and often recalled Prim's wisdom in advocating a constitutional monarchy as a step towards a Spanish republic. The philosophical war that Rizal came to represent was not new, and because of the dangers of confronting the oligarchical powers within the Spanish church and state, which were often unified in their efforts to suppress dissent, it should not be surprising that his circles were engaged in fraternal and clandestine associations. Besides individuals that were known to him for their scholarly or financial connections to the Philippines, these Masonic relations led Rizal to contacting other leading scientific and republican leaders of Europe, many who also shared the common paradox of being Catholic Masons.

These republican networks prepared Rizal for the next step in his education. In 1885, after receiving his degree, Rizal travelled first to Paris, to take internship with the leading eye surgeon in Europe, Dr. Louis de Weckert; and then on to study at the famous Augenklinik in Heidelberg, Germany. Besides his work at the clinic, his time in Germany was spent immersing himself in the language and culture. It is lawful that the influence of the German classics—especially the great poet of freedom, Friedrich Schiller—is evident throughout both of his novels. The following year in Leipzig, Rizal would translate Schiller's drama *Wilhelm Tell* into Tagalog, although it would not be published until 1907.

In Heidelberg, Rizal would finish writing and publish his first novel, *Noli Me Tangere*, a semi-autobiographical novel which portrays the social crisis in the Philippines. The title refers to the words of the resurrected Jesus to Mary Magdelene in the Gospel of John, translated as "Touch me not." Rizal opens *Noli* with an excerpt from Friedrich Schiller's poem, "Shakespeare's Ghost" (in a translation of Arnold Forster):

What! No Caesar upon your boards? No mighty
Achilles?
Is Andromache gone? Does not Orestes appear?
No, but there are priests and shrewd commercial
attachés,
Subalterns and scribes, majors enough of hussars.
But, I pray you my friend. What can such a laughable
medley
Do that is really great? Greatness, how can they
achieve?

This was followed by his dedication which situates Rizal's choice of the book's title:

To My Motherland

In the annals of human adversity, there is etched a cancer of a breed so malignant that the least contact exacerbates it and stirs in it the sharpest of pain. And thus, many times amidst modern cultures, I have wanted to evoke you, sometimes for memories of you to keep me company, other times to compare you with other nations. Many times your beloved image appears to me afflicted with a social cancer of similar malignancy. Desiring your well-being which is our own, and searching for the best cure, I will do with you as the ancients of old did with their afflicted: expose them on the steps of the temple, so that each one who would come to invoke the divine, would propose a cure for them. And to this end, I will attempt to faithfully reproduce your condition without much ado. I will lift part of the shroud that conceals your illness, sacrificing to the truth everything, even my own self-respect; for as your son, I also suffer in your defects and failings.

The Author, Europe, 1886

The plot of *Noli* follows the life of Juan Crisóstomo Ibarra, who returns to the Philippines after several years of study in Europe. He has the best intentions, but comes immediately into conflict with a society dominated by corrupted friars and complacent civil authorities. In a letter to a friend, Rizal discusses his goal in writing the book: "I have tried to do what no one has been willing to do; I have had to reply to the calumnies which for centuries have been heaped upon us and our country; I have described the state of our society, our life, our beliefs, our hopes, our desires, our laments and our grievances; I have unmasked the hypocrisy,

which, under the cloak of Religion, came among us to impoverish us.”

Rediscovering the Philippines' History

In 1887, Rizal arrived in Berlin. Through the introduction of his Austrian friend Ferdinand Blumentritt, Rizal became acquainted with Dr. Rudolf Virchow, Feodor Jagor, and Wilhelm Jöst. All of these figures had written about the Philippines. As a youth, Rizal had read the prophetic book concerning Jagor's travels to the archipelago. Dr. Virchow was not only a medical doctor and pioneer in cell biology, who founded the famous Moabit Hospital in Berlin, but was a Catholic political activist and member of the Reichstag.

Rizal returned to the Philippines in 1888 to deal with some of the not insignificant controversy generated by his book,

and to take care of family legal matters. His troubles grew quickly, and by the end of 1888 he left the country for Hong Kong, Japan, the United States, and, finally, England. In England, he stayed primarily to work annotating a rare 17th-Century history of the Philippines, *Sucesos de las Islas Filipinas (Events in the Philippine Islands)*, written by Antonio de Morga, an early Spanish explorer of the region.

Rizal designed this volume, with his commentary, to destroy the myth that art and science had not pre-dated Spanish influence in the Philippines. It documented native language culture and promoted the re-establishment of a Filipino national identity based on industry, trade, and craftsmanship. The book began to circulate widely in the Philippines, which alarmed the authorities because of its nationalist polemics. They derided what they considered its doubtful claims.

In Philippines, We Have a Mission

This is the address to the Labor Day 2002 conference of the International Caucus of Labor Committees and Schiller Institute, of Antonio Valdes, Jr., and Carlos Valdes, leaders of the LaRouche Society of the Philippines.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyndon LaRouche, Mrs. Amelia Robinson, members of the Schiller Institute, greetings from the Philippines.

As the world is now approaching her darkest hour, I feel truly blessed and honored to be amongst people with pure intentions, in an attempt to save civilization and humanity as a whole. Thank you for giving me this opportunity, once again, to be in the presence of the greatest minds and the noblest of hearts.

Up until about two decades ago, we were fortunate enough to have a glimpse of a rising economy. Some of our leaders had initiative and a foresight to develop infrastructure programs for power, transport, water, and other utilities. Unfortunately, their terms were cut short, and their programs were never followed. Since then, the economy has been crashing down.

José Rizal and Friedrich Schiller

As you all know, it's been a wild and crazy couple of years for us. You see, despite our love for the republican heritage, we'd rather resort to democratic methods of resolving disputes. In a span of three years, we've had two Presidents and Vice Presidents, three Defense Secretaries, three military Chiefs of Staff, three National Police chiefs, two Education Secretaries, two National Tax heads, and

two Foreign Secretaries; and the list goes on. See? Democracy works!

To give you an overview of the state of the economy today: For the past decade, the Philippine peso has devalued by over 100%. More than a quarter of the population have not experienced the basic necessity of running water. There is no efficient transport system within Metro Manila, and it gets worse in the outside provinces. All utilities have successfully been deregulated. The stock market is now worth only one-third of when it was at its highest. The peace and order situation has been deteriorating, giving you a sense of how the state has lost its ability to defend itself and its people, against internal (much less external) enemies. And finally, we consider our nation's most important resource, our people, are leaving the country in droves, hoping to find a better future abroad. With them, they bring the best minds and the best skills, and whatever glimmer of hope the Philippines was depending on for its development.

Oh, but one thing that hasn't changed, is our economic policy. But, we're working on that. It has been over a year now, since our organization was begun, and despite assorted moments of fun we've had building the movement, it has been a source of inspiration, education, and personal fulfillment for all involved.

Our involvement with the LaRouche movement has compelled us to look into our own history for Classical cultural traditions. The most notable intellectual link, resides in the writings and thoughts of our own national hero, Dr. José Rizal. Dr. Rizal was trained as an ophthalmic surgeon by leading specialists in Paris, Heidelberg, and Berlin. He was an artist and a poet, and by choice a scholar, an historian, a researcher, and a prolific writer. He wrote in Spanish, Tagalog, German, French, English, and Italian, and spoke a few other modern languages. In addition, he

Rizal's dedication to *Sucesos* is entitled, "To the Filipinos":

In the *Noli Me Tangere* I began the sketch of the present state of our fatherland; the effect which my attempt produced made me understand that before continuing to unveil to your eyes other succeeding pictures, I must first make known the past, so that it may be possible to judge better the present and measure the path which has been traversed during three centuries.

Born and brought up, as almost all of you, in the ignorance of our Yesterday, without an authoritative voice to speak of what we neither saw nor studied, I considered it necessary to invoke the testimony of an illustrious Spaniard who directed the destinies of the

Filipinos in the beginnings of the new era and witnessed the last moments of our ancient nationality. . . .

If this book succeeds in awakening in you the consciousness of our past, which has been blotted out from our memories, and in rectifying what has been falsified by calumny, then I will not have labored in vain, and with this foundation, tiny as it may be, we can all dedicate ourselves to studying the future.

The Issue of Violence: Again, Schiller

In January 1889, Marcelo del Pilar arrived in Barcelona from Manila where he had been a major figure in the political efforts to overthrow the power of the religious orders and the friars. He joined the newspaper *La Solidaridad* that had been started by Mariano Ponce and Pablo Rianzares. López Jaena

knew Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. He often referred to Cervantes, Schiller, Shakespeare, and Dante in his writings.

Curiously, and perhaps inevitably, Rizal was enamored of the writings of Friedrich Schiller. During his visit to Altdorf, Rizal was so inspired by Friedrich Schiller's *Wilhelm Tell*, that he translated it into Tagalog. In an article, entitled "The Philippines, A Century Hence," he forced Filipinos to look to the day, when they should have shaken off Spanish rule. He also speculated that the United States might one day think of acquiring the Philippines, but added that this would be against American traditions.

Rizal wrote: "I want to show those who deny us patriotism, that we know how to die for our duties and convictions." But, unlike his compatriots, who advocated armed revolution as a one-time solution, Rizal was also critical of the follies of man. He wrote: "I am most anxious for the liberties of our country. But I place, as a prior condition, the education of the people, so that our country may have an individuality of its own, and make itself worthy of liberties. Only love can work wonders. Only virtue can redeem. What is the use of independence, if the slaves of today, will be the tyrants of tomorrow?"

He continued, "I do not mean to say that our freedom must be won at the point of a sword. But we must win our freedom by deserving it, by loving what is just, what is good, what is great, to the point of dying for it. When a people reach these heights, God provides a weapon, and the idols and tyrants fall like a house of cards, and freedom shines within the first dawn." [applause]

History Is Built Through Ideas

The universal influence of Schiller was apparent, even in his moment of trial and death. The republic, however, was short-lived, because the United States of America, ironically, embarked upon its own colonial experiment.

While the Philippine Republic was consolidating its governance of the entire country, Spain ceded the Philippines to the United States for \$20 million.

Today, in the Philippines, much like in many parts of the world, the tradition which is based on culture and intellectual Renaissance, is all but gone: Asia and the rest of the world hangs in the balance. But, as in the past, mankind has been able to think itself out of its own predicament, producing geniuses that provide the necessary guidance and elucidation in the darkest of times. The Philippine LaRouche Society is named after individuals who choose to pull mankind out of its erotic fantasies, and into the realm of what makes us in the image and likeness of God. As all of you know, building a movement from scratch has been a rough, and often confusing journey, especially a movement committed to establishing a new, global Renaissance. But, as Lyn has often said, "A mass movement is not built through broad coalitions, but through ideas. Given the right and true ideas, one man is a mass movement by himself."

Our nation's history of fighting for freedom has always rested in the noble idea, that the Philippines has a unique mission in the world. So, despite a tough road facing our nation, and knowing that we are part of a global Renaissance movement, we will continue to have fun! Indeed, that is what leadership is all about: Just as the great minds of history inspired José Rizal and other ordinary citizens to become geniuses, so, too, inspired by Lyndon LaRouche, shall we labor to be worthy of being called "beings *imago viva Dei*."

And finally, as Schiller says, "I would not wish to live in a century other than my own, or to have worked for any other. We are citizens of our own age, no less than of our own state. We must, at the same time, be citizens of the world, and patriots of our nation."



A portrait of Rizal by Juan Luna, when both were expatriate Filipino leaders in Madrid in the early 1880s. Rizal's extraordinary speech at the Madrid Exposition of 1884, celebrating the artistic gold medals won by Filipinos—Luna, and Felix Hidalgo—stirred the entire expatriate community and was published in Madrid and Manila newspapers. Rizal trained himself in painting and sculpture; right, a small clay sculpture of Prometheus bound.

was the editor, and Rizal collaborated with articles and poems that he contributed from London, until he returned also to Spain. Del Pilar was also the official delegate to Spain of the Propaganda Committee in Manila. Del Pilar and his circle were highly political and active within political and Masonic layers. Eventually, Rizal broke with Del Pilar, deciding that he could no longer wait to return to the Philippines.

Rizal had always been troubled by the moral laxity within the Philippine expatriate community. Gambling, drinking, and indifference to the future of the Philippines provoked him to set an example and to demand a standard of conduct from his associates and countrymen. In the end, he became impatient with the political jockeying and pragmatic effort to curry favor in Spain. His evocation of destiny, and his perception of the sublime, are reflected in a response to news from Manila of legal harassment and arrests in 1889: "Though we must regret this [the arrests] as a private misfortune, we must applaud it as a general good. Without 1872 [the executions of Fathers Burgos, Gómez, and Zamora], there would not now be any Plaridel, or Jaena, or Sancianco, nor would the valiant and generous Filipino colonies in Europe exist; without 1872, Rizal would now be a Jesuit, and instead of writing the *Noli Me Tangere*, would have written the contrary. At the sight of those injustices and cruelties, though still a child, my imagination awoke, and I swore I would dedicate myself to avenge one day so many victims, and with this idea I have gone on studying, and this can be read in all my works and writings. God will one day grant me the opportunity to fulfill my promise. Good! Let them commit abuses, let there be arrests, exiles,

executions, good! Let destiny be fulfilled! The day on which they lay their hand on us, the day on which they inflict martyrdom on our innocent families for our fault, farewell, pro-friar government, and perhaps, farewell, Spanish Government!"

In 1891, Rizal departed from Madrid, and relocated in Ghent, Belgium. His second novel, *El Filibusterismo*, which he began when he was in England in 1889, was nearly complete. Since he had little money, the printing began section by section. Funds that he expected from the Propaganda Committee and from home never materialized. Facing near-starvation to publish what he could on his own, his problem was solved when a friend in Paris sent him the money to complete the project.

In his dedication to his second novel, Rizal wrote:

To the memory of the priests, Don Mariano Gómez (85 years old), Don José Burgos (30 years old), and Don Jacinto Zamora (35 years old). Executed in Bagumbayan Field on the 28th of February, 1872.

The Church upon refusing to degrade you, has placed in doubt the crime that has been imputed to you; the Government, by surrounding your trials with mystery and shadows, causes the belief that there was some error committed in fatal moments; and all the Philippines, by worshipping your memory and calling you martyrs, in no sense recognizes your culpability. In so far, therefore, as your complicity in the Cavite mutiny is not clearly proved, as you may or may not have been patriots, and as you may or may not have cherished



Rizal with members of the Propaganda Movement in Madrid during the 1880s; he later founded the Liga Filipina, providing leadership for the rights of Filipinos under Spanish rule. The inset shows Rizal's two novels, *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*, which had great impact on Filipino nationalists.

sentiments for justice and for liberty, I have the right to dedicate my work to you as victims of the evils which I undertake to combat. And while we await expectantly for Spain some day to restore your good name and to cease to be answerable for your death, let these pages serve as a tardy wreath of leaves over your unknown tombs, and let it be understood that everyone who without clear proofs attacks your memory stains his hands in your blood!

El Filibusterismo is a sequel to the first novel, but it has a different tenor. It is more philosophical, and there are a series of dialogues within and between events of the story which address poignantly the challenges that face the future of the Philippines. The central character of *Noli* returns in disguise, but instead of the idealistic Juan Crisóstomo Ibarra, the reader is introduced to Simoun, a dark and cynical figure vowing revenge and violence against a society that he believed could not be changed otherwise. In this way, Rizal intervened in a fundamental debate. Personally, he was known to oppose violence, but in the character of Simoun, he appears to advocate it.

The highlight of the story is at the denouement, when Padre Florentino comforts the dying protagonist, Simoun, paraphrasing Schiller's immortal Rütli Oath from *Wilhelm Tell*.

“ ‘According to you, then,’ feebly responded the sick man, ‘His will is that these islands—’

“ ‘Should continue in the condition in which they suffer?’ finished the priest, seeing that the other hesitated. ‘I don’t know, sir, I can’t read the thought of the Inscrutable. I know that He has not abandoned those peoples who in their supreme moments have trusted in Him and made Him the Judge of

their cause. I know that His arm has never failed when, justice long trampled upon and every recourse gone, the oppressed have taken up the sword to fight for home and wife and children, for their inalienable rights, which, as the German poet says, shine ever there above, unextinguished and inextinguishable, like the eternal stars themselves. No, God is justice, He cannot abandon His cause, the cause of liberty, without which no justice is possible.’ ”

Return and Repression

With *El Filibusterismo* published, Rizal sent almost every copy to Hong Kong, whence it was to be secreted in to the Philippines. He departed Europe from Marseilles on Oct. 18, 1891; but because of the harsh conditions imposed at home by Governor General Valeriano Weyler, Rizal travelled first to Hong Kong, where he was re-united with numerous expatriates and family members who had been exiled.

In November 1891, Weyler was replaced by Gen. Eulogio Despujol y Dusay. Despujol’s regime as Governor General was cause for optimism for Rizal, as there were significant reforms enacted, and corrupt officials were replaced and sent back to Spain. Rizal corresponded with Despujol to negotiate his return to the Philippines. Rizal’s return to Manila took place on June 26, 1892. The two men met to discuss Rizal’s plans and the status of Rizal’s family, which was still in exile. Despujol kept a close eye on Rizal’s activity, as there was tremendous pressure on him to maintain discipline in the country, despite the sympathy he might have had for Rizal.

For his part, Rizal had no intention of retiring. In re-establishing his political contacts, he promoted his idea for a national civic organization, which he called Liga Filipina. This open challenge became too much for Rizal’s enemies. Finally, an incident involving subversive handbills allegedly found

by customs officials in the baggage of Rizal's sister, served as the justification for a crackdown. The homes of leading propagandists and reformists were searched, and Rizal and others were sent into internal exile by the government.

Rizal was kept for the next four years in Dapitan, in southern Mindanao, isolated from all contact with persons active in the liberation movement. He spent his time teaching, writing, researching various projects, and practicing medicine. During this time, Rizal began a relationship with Josephine Bracken, the daughter of a patient who had travelled to Dapitan. They were unable to marry because the parish priest demanded that he retract his views on the Church. Since civil marriages were unknown in the Philippines at that time, Rizal took Josephine as his wife despite the Church.

Rizal may have thought that the focus of the movement had passed him by. His petitions to the government for liberty provoked no response, until finally his allies in the provincial government agreed to allow Rizal to volunteer as a medical doctor for the Spanish Army in Cuba, and the ban on his leaving the Philippines was lifted.

Civil War had erupted in Cuba during 1895, and Spanish rule was in jeopardy there. In the Philippines, the political crisis was escalating as well. Andrés Bonifacio, a 29-year-old warehouseman who had met Rizal in 1892, became the catalyst behind the recruitment of a guerrilla movement called Katipunan, out of the remnants of Rizal's Liga Filipina. Using Rizal's name and writings as inspiration, Bonifacio organized among the poor and working-class population. Bonifacio's call to arms contradicted Rizal's long-held rejection of violence as a means of social change, and attracted allegations that he was actually involved in the organizing of Katipunan.

The story of José Rizal's last days is tragic. In the midst of oppression and injustice, his friends and family again said goodbye to him as he prepared to leave for Cuba. On Sept. 2, Rizal was transferred to the *Isla de Panay*, a mail steamer, and the next afternoon it left the Bay of Manila for Spain. But before the ship was able to reach Spain, a military court in Manila issued indictments against him, and he was returned from Europe to stand trial.

As a prelude to the trial, a virtual state of siege was imposed over the country. There were mass arrests, and the Katipunan forces acted in open, violent defiance of the Spanish military. José's brother, Paciano, was tortured nearly to death in an attempt to suborn a confession implicating José in the rebellion. Still, Rizal maintained his opposition to violence, and wrote the following statement, entitled, "To Some Filipinos":

Countrymen:

On my return from Spain I learned that my name had been in use, among some who were in arms, as a war-cry. The news came as a painful surprise, but, believing it already closed, I kept silent over an incident which I considered irremediable. Now, I notice indications of the disturbances continuing, and if any still, in

good or bad faith, are availing themselves of my name, to stop this abuse and undeceive the unwary, I hasten to address you these lines that the truth may be known.

From the very beginning, when I first had notice of what was being planned, I opposed it, fought it, and demonstrated its absolute impossibility. This is the fact, and witnesses to my words are now living. I was convinced that the scheme was utterly absurd, and, what was worse, would bring great suffering.

I did even more. When later, against my advice, the movement materialized, of my own accord I offered not alone my good offices, but my very life, and even my name, to be used in whatever way might seem best, toward stifling the rebellion; for, convinced of the ills which it would bring, I considered myself fortunate if, at any sacrifice, I could prevent such useless misfortunes. This equally is of record.

My countrymen, I have given proofs that I am one most anxious for liberties for our country, and I am still desirous of them. But I place as a prior condition the education of the people, that by means of instruction and industry our country may have an individuality of its own and make itself worthy of these liberties. I have recommended in my writings the study of the civic virtues, without which there is no redemption. I have written likewise (and I repeat my words) that reforms, to be beneficial, must come from above, that those which come from below are irregularly gained and uncertain.

Holding these ideas, I cannot do less than condemn, and I do condemn this uprising—as absurd, savage, and plotted behind my back—which dishonors us Filipinos and discredits those who could plead our cause. I abhor its criminal methods and disclaim all part in it, pitying from the bottom of my heart the unwary who have been deceived.

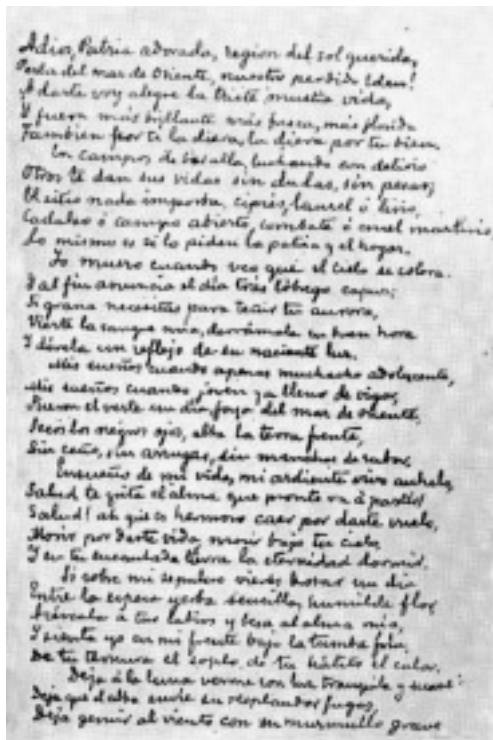
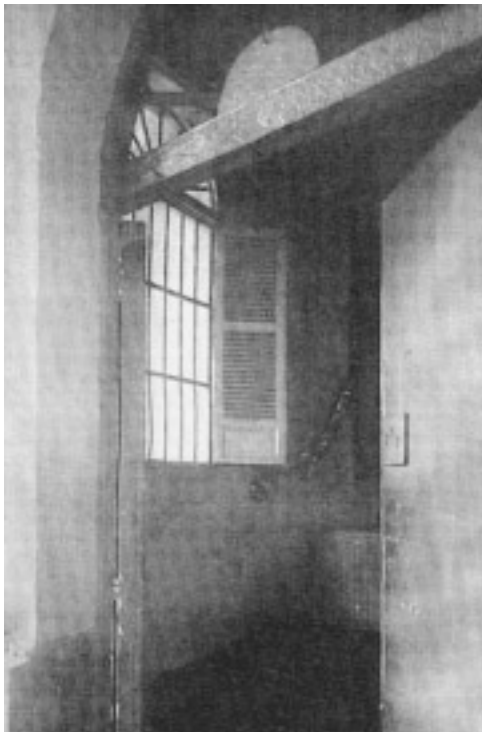
Return, then, to your homes, and may God pardon those who have worked in bad faith!

This statement was never to be publicly released. Nevertheless, Bonifacio openly denounced Rizal as a coward for his refusal to support the uprising, at the same time that he mobilized the Katipunan for an attempt to liberate Rizal in Manila!

The Martyrdom of Rizal

After a court-martial had been convened by the Judge Advocate of the Spanish Courts in Manila in late 1896, it was charged that Dr. José Rizal had founded an illegal society for the purpose of fomenting a rebellion, and that Rizal was responsible for the rebellion that had recently broken out in the Philippines. The charges were absurd, but Rizal's enemies would not be deterred by the law. The colonial powers were intent on crushing the nationalist spirit that he personified, even more than the rebellion itself.

After a two-week "legal process," Rizal was condemned



The cell in which Rizal was held at Fort Santiago between his railroad trial and his execution. At right, a page of the beautiful "Last Farewell" poem, which he smuggled to his sister.

to death by firing squad. His last days were filled with farewells to family and making amends with the Catholic Church in order to officially consecrate his marriage to Josephine Bracken, which had been prevented because of Rizal's apostasy and association with Freemasonry. The negotiations were undertaken by a number of Jesuit priests, many of whom were known to Rizal going back to his days at the Ateneo Municipal. According to the Jesuit account, Rizal expressed his wish to make his Confession. The Catholic Church, in the persons of Archbishop Nozaleda and Father Pío Pi, the Superior of the Jesuits, demanded that Rizal put his signature on a "retraction of his errors," which the Church claimed that he finally did.

The nature of Rizal's compliance is debated to this day. Over the years, he had engaged in extended correspondence defending his writings, both philosophically and theologically: in particular, the letters exchanged with Fr. Pablo Pastells, S.J. during his exile in Dapitan. In October 1892, Father Pastells had blamed Protestant influence for *Noli Me Tangere*, and Freemasonic influence for *El Filibusterismo*. The reply, while only a small excerpt of their in-depth correspondence, characterizes Rizal's attitude.

José Rizal to Fr. Pablo Pastells, S.J., Oct. 11, 1892:

Rizal a Protestant! Only out of respect for Your Reverence can I suppress the guffaw that rises inside me. Your Reverence should have heard my discussions with a Protestant pastor in the long Summer evenings in the lonely depths of the Black Forest (Germany). There, speaking freely, calmly, with deliberation, we dis-

cussed our respective beliefs in the morality of peoples and the influences on them of their respective creeds. A great respect for the good faith of the adversary, and for ideas which were necessarily poles apart due to the diversity of race, education and age, led us almost always to the conclusion that religions, no matter what they were, should not make men enemies of one another, but friends, and good friends at that.

From these discussions, which took place almost every day for more than three months, I think I got nothing more, if my judgment does not fail me, than a profound respect for any idea conceived with sincerity and practiced with conviction. Almost every month the Catholic parish priest of a little town on the banks of the Rhine came to visit [the Protestant pastor], and this priest, an intimate friend of the Protestant, gave me an example of Christian brotherhood. They considered themselves two servants of the same God, and instead of spending their time quarrelling with each other, each one did his duty, leaving it to their Master to judge afterwards who had best interpreted His Will.

On the morning of Dec. 30, 1896, the sentence of death against José Rizal was carried out on the Luneta, a field overlooking Manila Bay.

Rizal's Sublime Mission

His martyrdom had not been unexpected. On the eve of his final return home to his native land four years earlier in 1892, Rizal had written two letters that he left in the hands of



The United States took the Philippines from Spain during the Spanish-American War, which began in 1898. As in Cuba, the leaders of local forces seeking independence from Spain were disappointed the American intervention did not bring immediate independence.

his friend in Hong Kong, Dr. Márquez. They were marked, “To be opened after my death.” One was addressed to his “beloved parents, brother and sisters.” It read:

The affection that I have ever professed for you suggests this step, and time alone can tell whether or not it is sensible. Their outcome decides things by results, but whether that be favorable or unfavorable, it may always be said that duty urged me, so if I die in doing it, it will not matter.

I realize how much suffering I have caused you; still I do not regret what I have done. Rather, if I had to begin over again, still I should do just the same, for it has been only duty. Gladly do I go to expose myself to peril, not as my expiation of misdeeds (for in this matter I believe myself guiltless of any), but to complete my work and myself offer the example of which I have always preached.

A man ought to die for duty and his principles. I hold fast to every idea which I have advanced as to the condition and future of our country, and shall willingly die for it, and even more willingly procure for you justice and peace.

With pleasure, then, I risk life to save so many innocent persons—so many nieces and nephews, so many children of friends, and children, too, of others who are not even friends—who are suffering on my account. What am I? A single man, practically without family, and sufficiently undeceived as to life. I have had many disappointments and the future before me is gloomy, and will be gloomy if light does not illuminate it, the dawn of a better day for my native land. On the other

hand, there are many individuals, filled with hope and ambition, who perhaps all might be happy were I dead, and then I hope my enemies would be satisfied and stop persecuting so many entirely innocent people. To a certain extent their hatred is justifiable as to myself, and my parents and relatives.

Should fate go against me, you will all understand that I shall die happy in the thought that my death will end all your troubles. Return to our country and may you be happy in it.

Till the last moment of life I shall be thinking of you and wishing you all good fortune and happiness.

The second letter was addressed “To the Filipinos.” It read:

The step which I am taking, or rather am about to take, is undoubtedly risky, and it is unnecessary to say that I have considered it some time. I understand that almost everyone is opposed to it; but I know also that hardly anybody else comprehends what is in my heart. I cannot live on seeing so many suffer unjust persecutions on my account; I cannot bear longer the sight of my sisters and their numerous families treated like criminals. I prefer death and cheerfully shall relinquish life to free so many innocent persons from such unjust persecution.

I appreciate that at present the future of our country gravitates in some degree around me; that at my death many will feel triumphant, and, in consequence, many are wishing for my fall. But what of it? I hold duties of conscience above all else; I have obligations to the

families who suffer, to my aged parents whose sighs strike me to the heart; I know that I alone, only with my death, can make them happy, returning them to their native land and to peaceful life at home. I am all my parents have, but our country has many, many more sons who can take my place and even do my work better.

Besides I wish to show those who deny us patriotism that we know how to die for duty and principles. What matters death, if one dies for what one loves, for native land and beings held dear?

If I thought that I were the only resource for the policy of progress in the Philippines, and were I convinced that my countrymen were going to make use of my services, perhaps I should hesitate about taking this step; but there are still others who can take my place, who, too, can take my place with advantage. Furthermore, there are perchance those who hold me needed and my services are not utilized, resulting that I am reduced to inactivity.

Always have I loved our unhappy land, and I am sure that I shall continue loving it till my latest moment, in case men prove unjust to me. My career, my life, my happiness, all have I sacrificed for love of it. Whatever my fate, I shall die blessing it and longing for the dawn of its redemption.

The postscript announced, "Make these letters public after my death."

The Farewell

The final poem that he had composed in the days before the execution was written down and hidden in an alcohol burner that Rizal gave to his sister. She found the poem after his death.

My Last Farewell

Farewell, dear Fatherland, clime of the sun caress'd,
Pearl of the Orient seas, our Eden lost!
Gladly now I go to give thee this faded life's best,
And were it brighter, fresher, or more blest
Still would I give it thee, nor count the cost.

On the field of battle, 'mid the frenzy of fight,
Others have given their lives, without doubt or heed;
The place matters not—cypress or laurel or lily white
Scaffold or open plain, combat or martyrdom's plight,
'Tis ever the same, to serve our home and country's
need.

I die just when I see the dawn break,
Through the gloom of night, to herald the day;
And if color is lacking my blood thou shalt take,
Pour'd out at need for thy dear sake,
To dye with its crimson the waking ray.

My dreams, when life first opened to me,
My dreams, when the hopes of youth beat high,
Were to see thy lov'd face, O gem of the Orient sea,
From gloom and grief, from care and sorrow free
No blush on thy brow, no tear in thine eye.

Dream of my life, my living and burning desire,
All hail! cries the soul that is now to take flight;
All hail! And sweet it is for thee to expire;
To die for thy sake, that thou mayst aspire;
And sleep in thy bosom eternity's long night.

If over my grave some day thou seest grow,
In the grassy sod, a humble flower,
Draw it to thy lips and kiss my soul so,
While I may feel on my brow in the cold tomb below
The touch of thy tenderness, thy breath's warm
power.

Let the moon beam over me soft and serene,
Let the dawn shed over me its radiant flashes,
Let the wind with sad lament over me keen;
And if on my cross a bird should be seen,
Let it trill there its hymn of peace to my ashes.

Let the sun draw the vapors up to the sky,
And heavenward in purity bear my tardy protest;
Let some kind soul o'er my untimely fate sigh
And in the still evening a prayer be lifted on high
From thee, O my country, that in God, I may rest.

Pray for all those that hapless have died,
For all who have suffered the unmeasur'd pain;
For our mothers that bitterly their woes have cried,
For widows and orphans, for captives by torture tried,
And then for thyself that redemption thou mayst gain.

And when the dark night wraps the graveyard around
With only the dead in their vigil to see,
Break not my repose or the mystery profound,
And perchance thou mayst hear a sad hymn resound;
'Tis I, O my country, raising a song unto thee.

And even my grave is remembered no more,
Unmark'd by never a cross nor a stone,
Let the plow sweep through it, the spade turn it o'er
That my ashes may carpet the earthly floor,
Before into nothingness at last they are blown.

Then will oblivion bring to me no care,
As over thy vales and plains I sweep;
Throbbing and cleansed in thy space and air
With color and light, with song and lament I fare,
Ever repeating the faith that I keep.

My Fatherland ador'd, that sadness to my sorrow
lends;
Beloved Filipinas, hear now my last good-by!
I give thee all: parents and kindred and friends,
For I go where no slave before the oppressor bends,
Where faith can never kill, and God reigns e'er on
high!

Farewell to you all, from my soul torn away,
Friends of my childhood in the home dispossessed!
Give thanks that I rest from the wearisome day!
Farewell to thee, too, sweet friend that lightened my
way;

Beloved creatures all, farewell! In death there is rest!

—translation by Charles Derbyshire

'Evils That Must Be Cured Radically'

The execution of Rizal began the final chapter of Spanish occupation. After the death of Bonifacio, Emilio Aguinaldo would take command of the Revolution. A generation of youth bred on the polemics of the Propaganda Movement and specifically motivated by the ideas of José Rizal rose up to defeat the Spanish Army. After first being exiled to Hong Kong, Aguinaldo returned to the Philippines with the help of the United States, after the Spanish-American War broke out in April 1898. Before the American Army arrived, the Filipinos under Aguinaldo had driven the Spanish off the countryside into two enclaves at Cavite and Manila. The First Philippine Republic was proclaimed in June 1898 at Malolos with Emilio Aguinaldo as President.

When the American land forces finally arrived to force the surrender of the Spanish, the Filipinos were betrayed by the United States. Instead of independence, which the revolutionaries had been led to believe would be granted by the United States, the Treaty of Paris between Spain and the United States declared the Philippines to be American Territory. Aguinaldo and the generation of Rizal, who had wanted American collaboration in their liberation from Spanish rule, then opened a two-year military campaign against U.S. occupation. Finally in March 1901, after many of his leading commanders had been taken by the Americans, Aguinaldo himself was captured.

To the credit of the United States, Emilio Aguinaldo was not exiled or executed. Rather, he was tapped by the Americans to lead the Filipinos in restoring civilian government.

The Filipino national identity is not bound to the legacy of Rizal alone. Rizal was an *ilustrado*, of the educated class, but the success of Bonifacio and the Katipunan demonstrated his appeal among the downtrodden and dispossessed. Without Rizal, there would not be a Philippine nation, but the success of the revolution did not depend on him alone. According to Rizal, all sectors of society had their role to play in a true republic. He believed in a peaceful transformation of society, but in an article in *La Solidaridad* entitled, "The Philippines



Emilio Aguinaldo led the military rebellion which began at the period of Rizal's execution, and had effectively defeated the Spanish forces when Dewey's fleet took the Philippines. Expecting an alliance with America, Aguinaldo instead was hunted and captured by American forces. But he was shortly freed to take a leading role in the Philippines, which became independent five decades later.

a Century Hence," he foretold what he saw as the actual future dynamic of the process.

We also said that this transformation will be violent and fatal if it proceeds from the ranks of the people, but peaceful and fruitful if it emanates from the upper classes.

Some governors have realized this truth, and, impelled by their patriotism, have been trying to introduce needed reforms in order to forestall events. But notwithstanding all that have been ordered up to the present time, they have produced scanty results, for the government as well as for the country. Even those that promised only a happy issue have at times caused injury, for the simple reason that they have been based upon unstable grounds.

We said, and once more we repeat, and will ever assert, that reforms which have a palliative character are not only ineffectual but even prejudicial, when the government is confronted with evils that must be cured radically. And were we not convinced of the honesty and rectitude of some governors, we would be tempted to say that all the partial reforms are only plasters and salves of a physician who, not knowing how to cure the cancer, and not daring to root it out, tries in this way to alleviate the patient's sufferings or to temporize with the cowardice of the timid and ignorant.

'We Await You, O Youth!'

The personality of Dr. José Rizal is still a burning issue in the Philippines today. He is acknowledged as the National Hero, yet small minds and weak hearts echo the petty criticism of Rizal's enemies. The Catholic Church still stings from his challenges; the self-proclaimed defenders of the poor decry his comfortable upbringing; and the advocates of violence condemn his pacifism. Time is the test of all great historical figures, and try as his detractors might, they cannot deny that Rizal united and uplifted the Filipino people uniquely. He gave a positive identity and a universal mission to all Filipinos by his words and by his deeds. He began making sacrifices and commitments very early in his life, not simply out of love for his country, but for the sake of

humanity and posterity.

Though only 35 years old at his demise, Rizal was already immortal in his pursuit of justice and liberty. He went to his death not knowing that in death, he would give birth to a new nation; but he did so as an example of the necessary risk that must be taken to guarantee that such institutions are founded, defended, and perpetuated. Can there be any greater reason to live?

As much as José Rizal believed in education and non-violence, by having Padre Florentino paraphrase Schiller's clarion call for "limits to a tyrant's power," from the Rütli Oath in *Wilhelm Tell* in his *El Filibusterismo*, Rizal spoke volumes about the moral and intellectual tradition that he held up for his countrymen. Rizal's hope for the future is punctuated by Padre Florentino at the end of that same final soliloquy:

"Where are the youth who will consecrate their budding years, their idealism and enthusiasm to the welfare of their country? Where are the youth who will generously pour out their blood to wash away so much shame, so much crime, so much abomination? Pure and spotless must the victim be, that the sacrifice may be acceptable! Where are you, youth, who will embody in yourselves the vigor of life that has lift our veins, the purity of ideas that has been contaminated in our hearts? We await you, O youth! Come, for we await you!"

Bridge Across Jordan

by Amelia Platts Boynton Robinson

From the civil rights struggle in the South in the 1930s, to the Edmund Pettus Bridge at Selma, Alabama in 1965, to the liberation of East Germany in 1989-90: the new edition of the classic account by an American heroine who struggled at the side of Dr. Martin Luther King and today is fighting for the cause of Lyndon LaRouche.

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The Human Race Says No, At the Brink of Iraq War

by Michele Steinberg and William Jones

Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche, who has catalyzed international resistance to a new Mideast war, was a guest of honor at the Kuwait National Day Celebration in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 26. Arriving at the Willard Hotel for the reception, LaRouche was met and escorted by a welcoming committee of Kuwaiti military and diplomatic representatives. Attendees were soon buzzing over the news from London just hours earlier, that Tony Blair's pro-Iraq war policy had suffered the worst parliamentary rebuke within a Prime Minister's governing party in the history of the House of Commons.

Already, by the time LaRouche arrived at the reception room, there was a long line of people waiting to shake hands with the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Washington and his wife. The American statesman was taken past the waiting line directly to the Ambassador. With cameras rolling and flashing, the Ambassador and his wife immediately turned to LaRouche to tell him how honored they were by his attendance. He was then escorted into the reception hall, leaving many of the guests in line—victims of years of blackout and slander of LaRouche in the American media—wondering exactly who it was, being given this VIP treatment.

The next VIP guest of the evening to be met by the delegation was Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, who appeared to much press fanfare and gawking, but did not remain more than a few minutes before leaving. There was another flurry of activity when District of Columbia Mayor Anthony Williams came to read a proclamation from the city on Kuwait.

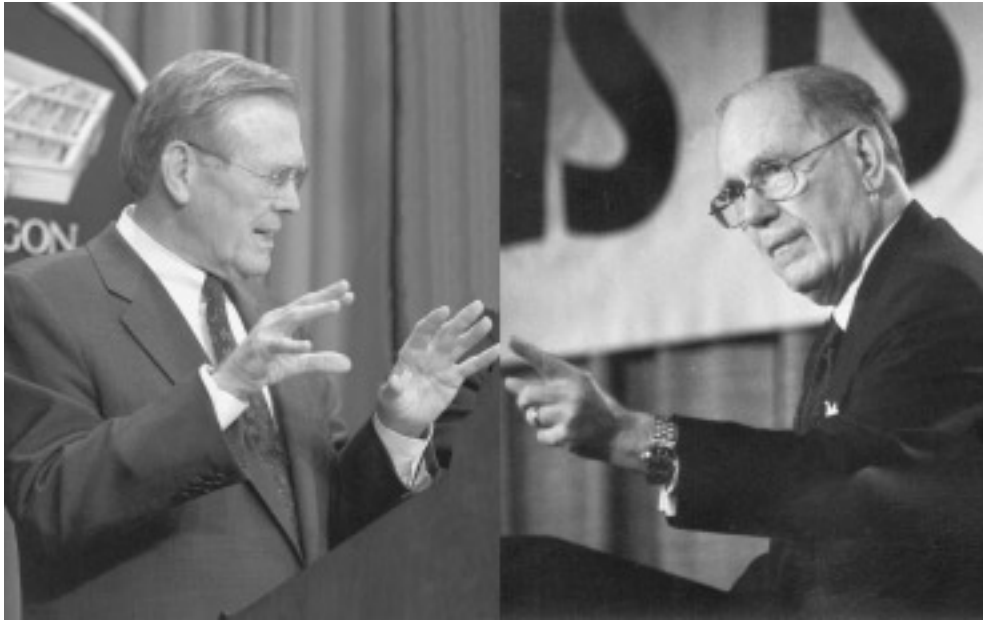
The irony of having LaRouche, America's best-known champion of peace, as a guest of honor at the same event as Rumsfeld, the advocate of pre-emptive war on Iraq—including nuclear strikes against non-nuclear countries—was not lost on the attendees. Rumsfeld is one of those in the Adminis-

tration who believes that the United States can—and *should*—wage a unilateral war outside the UN. The reality reflected at the Kuwait National Day event was precisely what LaRouche had specified to 750 people at the Presidents' Day conference of the Schiller Institute: The entire human race has spoken out against an imperial war on Iraq since the Feb. 14 UN Security Council (UNSC) session in New York. In Washington, LaRouche was told privately by diplomats that his fight inside the United States and inside the Presidency to stop the imperial war was like "a ray of light into the darkness," appreciated throughout the world.

Dangerous Hours

LaRouche insists that the only way to be optimistic about the chance to stop an Iraq war is to fight unceasingly to stop it—and he *is* optimistic. He cautions that it is an extremely dangerous situation because of the fanaticism of the neo-conservative imperial group in the Bush Administration, but, the war can still be stopped. Indeed, an escalated pace of diplomacy, in the last 72 hours preceding the March 1 report on Iraq by UN chief weapons inspector Dr. Hans Blix, shows that the commitment to a peaceful outcome is gaining ground. Tens of millions of demonstrators turned out in cities around the world on Feb. 15; and nations representing *billions* of citizens in Asia, Africa, Europe, and South America have come out against the Iraq war.

From Pope John Paul II, who has called for an international day of fasting for peace on March 5, Ash Wednesday; to the 114 nations of the Non-Aligned Movement, meeting in Kuala Lumpur; to Africa's 52 nations joining in a French-Africa declaration for a peaceful solution to the Iraq crisis; to the 15-nation European Union; to the joint declaration of the African Union, representing all the countries of Africa; to the individual statements to the UN Security Council of belea-



The possibility that the world's mobilized opposition can still stop an Iraq war, was focussed in the irony of a Washington embassy reception whose VIP guests were Lyndon LaRouche, leader of statesmanship against "pre-emptive war," and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, its most obvious proponent.

guered nations seeking peace; to the unprecedented opposition to the war from British Prime Minister Tony Blair's own Labour party; to the joint statements by Russia's President and Germany's Chancellor, and by Russia and China's foreign ministers, the message is the same: "War is not inevitable."

That worldwide opposition is reported here and in accompanying articles filed from *EIR*'s international offices and correspondents. This *EIR* report is a vital service, especially for the citizens of the United States who hear George W. Bush and his administration's war-mongers dismiss the global opposition to the war as "just another opinion," and claim that the United States can go to war unilaterally.

At the UN at the end of February, a German-French-Russian proposal for an aggressive timetable of UN inspections was gaining far more support than the U.S.-U.K. war resolution. Russia, China, and France have the ultimate weapon, a UN Security Council veto, but whether they will avail themselves of this last resort is an open question. If they abstain from using their veto powers, but there is no nine-vote (required) majority, then, the *Washington Post* mooted, this would be bad news for Washington. The paper cited a senior U.S. official saying, under those circumstances, "the administration will make a 'tactical decision' as to whether it is better to proceed to war with no vote at all." The resolution might even be withdrawn; but while Washington claims that option, Tony Blair does not.

Members of the anti-war coalition have redoubled their diplomatic efforts, to ensure that there be no majority at the UN for the war resolution. On Feb. 26, in Moscow, where German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder had gone on short notice to meet President Vladimir Putin, the two issued a joint statement saying that it is unacceptable that a resolution be

passed that would automatically give the right to start a war. Also on Feb. 26, Russia and China opposed war: In a joint communiqué, the two countries' Foreign Ministers, Igor Ivanov and Tang Jiaxuan, said they "reiterate their determination . . . to promote a political solution to the Iraq issue and believe war can and should be avoided." They demanded that "all the UN member states should respect and safeguard the authority of the UN Security Council." In France, a Feb. 26 debate in the National Assembly resulted in majority support for continuing inspections, not war.

War Challenged Throughout Third World

The leadership of Germany, France, and Russia has given voice to nations from Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Ibero-America. Very important was the Franco-African summit in Paris, during which a clear and unanimous rejection of war was voted up. Then, on Feb. 24-25, the Non-Aligned Movement's (NAM) summit meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia issued a toughly worded, resounding "no" to any military aggression against Iraq, and a supplementary statement condemning Israel's assault on Palestinian territories, and violations of UNSC resolutions. A meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), which took place in Kuala Lumpur at the NAM conclusion, also moved in this direction against war. A full meeting of the OIC is about to convene in Qatar.

The Non-Aligned Movement "welcome the decision by Iraq to facilitate the unconditional return of, and cooperation with" the UN inspectors, while they "welcome and support all other efforts exerted to avert war against Iraq and call for the persistent continuation of such efforts based on multilateral as opposed to unilateral actions." Another achievement by NAM, taken in cooperation with Germany, which held the UN Security Council rotating presidency in February, was to

expand the debate on Iraq in the Security Council. After South Africa (which holds the current NAM presidency) requested a wider debate allowing non-Security Council members to present testimony, Germany agreed, giving rise to daily showings of opposition to the war. Of the 50 nations testifying from Feb. 18-20, only a handful supported the insane axioms of the drive for war.

Two countries having a key logistical role in a possible U.S. war—Qatar and Turkey—came out strongly for a peaceful resolution, and giving more time to inspections. Qatar, the command headquarters for the U.S. military in the Gulf, announced on Feb. 19 that it had called for a summit meeting of the OIC in Qatar to discuss “reaching a peaceful solution.” Adding a shocker, Qatar’s UN envoy said, “we would like to set on the record” that Qatar notes and objects to the double standard set at the UN by the United States regarding Israel. Qatar said, “Resolutions must be implemented by Israel, which possesses an arsenal of nuclear weapons,” and the UN should “subject the Israeli nuclear installations” to the inspections of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Iran, always cited by the warhawks as the proof that “Iraq attacks its neighbors,” told the Security Council that “the prospect of another destabilizing war in our immediate vicinity is a nightmare scenario of death and destruction . . . a catastrophe . . . beyond imagination.” Asserting that the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq War gave Iran unique authority to speak on the issue, envoy Javan Zaria added, “one outcome is almost certain: Extremism stands to benefit enormously from an uncalculated adventure in Iraq. The prospect of appointing a foreign military commander to run an Islamic and Arab country is all the more destabilizing and only indicative of the prevailing illusions.”

Exit Strategy

There is no question that the war may still be prevented. Virtually the entire world’s population, and most governments, oppose it. Inside the United States, opposition continues to spread, where more than 120 city councils and county governments have passed strong resolutions opposing the war, including Los Angeles on Feb. 21. In the Senate, Robert Byrd (D-W.V.) and Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) introduced a resolution to rescind the October 2002 vote by Congress that gave Bush the okay to attack Iraq. In addition, authoritative voices besides LaRouche, notably the Pope, are seeking a “face-saving exit strategy” for President Bush, to stop a war at this late hour. None other than Zbigniew Brzezinski, one of the original authors of imperial policy of the Rumsfeld-Cheney crew, came out against unilateral war in the *Washington Post* on Feb. 19, warning that a forced regime change in Iraq “may be purchased at too high a cost to America’s global leadership,” and that “Iraq does not represent a global security threat.” The United States should give the UN inspectors “several months” to complete the work, Brzezinski said.

In an interview with *Time* on Feb. 16, French President

Jacques Chirac declared that Bush “would have two advantages if he brought his soldiers back. I’m talking about a situation, obviously, where the inspectors say now there’s nothing left—and that will take a certain number of weeks. . . . If Iraq is stripped of its weapons of mass destruction and that’s been verified by the inspectors, then Mr. Bush can say two things: first, ‘Thanks to my intervention, Iraq has been disarmed’; and second, ‘I achieved all that without spilling any blood.’ In the life of a statesman, that counts—no blood spilled.”

There are other indications of a shift. The Washington website *Capitol Hill Blue* reported on Feb. 20, that some Bush Administration strategists are urging the President to look for an “exit strategy” from a “no-win” situation where the United States does not have the UN Security Council votes for its resolution. Republican Congressional leaders are also said to be telling Bush privately that he is losing support in Congress for a go-it-alone war. “The President’s war plans are in trouble, there’s no doubt about that,” an adviser to House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) was quoted. “Some Republican members want a vote on military action and some of those say they would, at this point, vote against.”

Facing Global ‘No War,’ U.S. Plays ‘Monopoly’

by Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

At a Schiller Institute conference in Washington on Feb. 15, Democratic Party Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche warned that within the next two to three weeks, the decision whether to wage war against Iraq would be made in that city against a backdrop of a changed world, where the “overwhelming majority of the human race” has spoken—directly or indirectly—to say that the war against Iraq “shall not happen.” He referenced the outpouring of tens of millions of people onto the streets of the world’s major cities that day, and the stunning opposition at the UN Security Council on Feb. 14, when Secretary of State Colin Powell delivered his second pro-war speech.

LaRouche’s projected timeframe was confirmed by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during a visit to Berlin on Feb. 18, when he told press: “The U.S.A. gives [Saddam Hussein] two to three weeks. Saddam must realize this.” Mubarak added that although the inspections should be allowed to continue, “there must be a limited time” established. Egyptian diplomatic sources confirmed to *EIR* that Mubarak’s statements were closely coordinated with the Bush Administration.

Within these parameters, the United States and U.K.,

along with Spain, presented a second resolution to the Security Council on Feb. 24. The carefully worded text, worked out in consultation with Spanish Prime Minister José María Aznar, as well as Prime Minister Tony Blair in Britain and Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi in Italy, did not explicitly contain a declaration of war, but de facto established the *casus belli*. The resolution proclaims “false statements and omissions” in the Iraqi report on its weapons programs; asserts “the threat Iraq’s non-compliance with Council resolutions and proliferation of WMD [weapons of mass destruction] and long-range missiles pose to international peace and security”; and in its key conclusion, states: “under Chapter VII of the UN Charter” (which authorizes military action) the Security Council: “1: *Decides* that Iraq has failed to take the final opportunity afforded to it in resolution 1441. 2: *Decides* to remain seized of the matter” (emphasis added). The world’s political leaders recognized that if the resolution were to be approved, the United States and U.K. would consider it *carte blanche* for military action.

There is no guarantee that the new resolution will pass, however. On the contrary, the international opposition to military action has continued to expand since the Feb. 14 Security Council session. As soon as the new resolution had been presented, a memorandum drafted by France, and co-signed by Russia, Germany, and China, also was delivered to the Security Council. In it, the three veto powers and Germany asserted that a new resolution is unnecessary. Stating that the inspections had yielded results, it laid out a plan for step-by-step disarmament, setting clear guidelines for every aspect of the process. The memo proposes that on March 7, the inspectors present a plan, defining priorities and a timeframe for disarmament. Further reports on their progress should follow every three weeks, and a conclusive evaluation should be made in four months, i.e., in early July. The memo clearly states that the military option can be only the last means.

French President Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder had met on Feb. 24, immediately after the new U.S.-U.K. resolution was presented. Chirac said: “We see no reason in this context to change our logic, which is a logic of peace, and to switch to a logic of war.”

The Grand Bazaar

Considering that Syria will vote against the new resolution, and Germany will likely abstain, the U.S. and U.K. hope for a simple nine-vote majority, while preventing France, Russia, and China from exercising a veto. It has become a matter of armtwisting, bribing, and intimidating the governments in the UN Security Council. Led by Colin Powell, top U.S. diplomats have been travelling to Security Council member nations, while President George W. Bush himself is heavily engaging in direct and phone diplomacy. Walter Kansteiner, Undersecretary of State for African Affairs, made visits to the capitals of the three African nations in the Security Council, Angola, Guinea, and Cameroon. Powell met with

the top Chinese leadership, in hopes of getting a commitment against a veto. On his way to Asia, Powell called the foreign ministers of Chile, Mexico, and Bulgaria, to persuade them to vote “yes.”

At what price? According to a Feb. 21 summary in the London *Times*, the carrots being offered include the following: Mexico is promised improved immigration regulations; Bulgaria should get U.S. support for entry to the European Union and increased military cooperation with NATO; Africa (Angola, Guinea-Conakry, Cameroon) are promised development aid and increased international status; Chile, a stronger hand in talks on U.S. trade tariffs; and Russia is offered guarantees on \$10-12 billion of Iraqi debt, as well as possible oil contracts. Beijing, visited by Powell on Feb. 24, is vulnerable on its exports to the U.S. markets.

Nothing else compares to the fantastic agreements being offered to Turkey, which are supposed to *appear* to include tens of billions of dollars in loans and aid; access to cheap Iraq oil; and permission to invade northern Iraq with U.S. forces and take control of some part of it, an act which could easily be a “war within the war” between Turkey and the Kurdish forces. But such a “deal” is suicidal for Turkey, its economy, its desire to enter the EU, and its stability. Despite weeks of this “monopoly game,” as of Feb. 27 Turkey’s parliament still would not vote to allow the U.S. military forces—waiting just offshore in Navy ships—to enter Turkey for the war.

The big stick is also being wielded. Undersecretary of State Marc Grossman reportedly said in Mexico City, “Any country that doesn’t go along with us will be paying a heavy price.” As reported by the *Washington Post* on Feb. 25, the American lobbying thrust is that the only issue is “whether council members are willing to irrevocably destroy the world body’s legitimacy by failing to follow the U.S. lead.” This is according to senior U.S. and diplomatic sources. And, Undersecretary of State John R. Bolton, “told the Russian government that ‘we’re going ahead,’ whether the council agrees or not, a senior Administration official said.”

The French publication *Canard Enchaîné* on Feb. 26 cited one French diplomat who said, “It is hard to imagine the crusading spirit that reigns at the Pentagon and White House,” referring to the pressure tactics being deployed at the UN. It cites the case of Pakistan, saying that Washington has threatened to take sides with India in the Kashmir conflict, if Islamabad is not forthcoming. More plausible is a warning embedded in a *Washington Post* lead editorial on Feb. 25, to the effect that if President Musharraf does not toe the line, he could be out. Musharraf has been called personally by President Bush on the matter and visited by U.S. CENTCOM chief Gen. Tommy Franks.

The veto powers have not been given a slightly more cordial treatment. On Feb. 25, U.S. Ambassador to France Howard Leach stated in a television interview, that a French veto would be considered an “unfriendly act.”

Revolt Against Blair Explodes Across U.K.

by Mark Burdman

As British Prime Minister Tony Blair constantly repeats his intention for war against Iraq, side by side with the Bush Administration, the revolt against his war policy grows, by leaps and bounds, throughout the population and institutions of Great Britain. Whether this national rebellion will be strong enough to topple Blair in the immediate days ahead is not clear, but it may well be intense enough to force him to opt out from the war drive, at the risk of being heaved out of office for having dragged Britain into an insane and unpopular war.

The most dramatic expression of the mood of revolt occurred in the House of Commons, during the seven-hour debate on Iraq policy on Feb. 26. When the government put forward a resolution to support Blair's policies, but couched in such anodyne terms as to make it seem like he was just implementing the intent of the United Nations, *more than 120 Members of Parliament of Blair's own Labour Party* voted against the resolution. Even more telling, was that when an amendment was put forward stating that "the case for war is not yet made," 199 MPs, well more than one-third of the House, voted for it. This included 121 Labour dissidents, but also 13 MPs from the opposition Conservative Party (whose leadership fully backs the Bush Administration, on Iraq) and 52 Liberal Democrats, as well as MPs from the Scottish National Party, Welsh Plaid Cymru, and other parties.

The headlines of the next day's British papers said it all. The pro-war, Rupert Murdoch-owned *Times* headlined, "Labour Mutiny Leaves Blair Out on a Limb: Case for War Rejected in Biggest-Ever Government Rebellion," and commented that this was "the biggest revolt against any governing party in Parliamentary history." Accompanying this was a cartoon showing Blair and Foreign Secretary Jack Straw lying bloodied on the floor of the House of Commons, with anti-war signs strewn all around. The Labour-linked *Guardian* headlined, "Rebels' Vote Stuns Blair: Biggest Ever Revolt Against a Government," and commented, "Tony Blair's Iraqi war strategy was shaken to the core." An accompanying front-page article was headlined "Parliament Has Seen Nothing Like It . . .," quoting Oxford academic and constitution expert David Butler, "There has been nothing remotely comparable in the past 100 years."

Indeed, the British House of Commons has rarely seen such emotive and substantive interventions, on a matter of world-historical importance. The opposition went far beyond the 30-40 Labour anti-war stalwarts who vote against wars

with some regularity, but extended to Labour centrists and former Blair Cabinet ministers. One of them, Chris Smith, was the co-sponsor, with former Conservative Party Minister Douglas Hogg, of the amendment. He warned the Commons, that "the timetable for war appears to be determined by the decisions of the President of the United States, and not by the logic of events." Former Health Minister Frank Dobson, a Labour moderate, told the gathering, "I am simply not convinced, that all-out military action in Iraq can be justified at this time, and on the scale envisaged." He then accused the United States of "beginning to behave like a maverick state," and warned that an Iraq war would be a boost to the "right-wing United States unilateralists, who think that the new world order should consist of them issuing the orders."

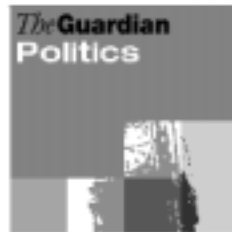
Other prominent Conservatives joined in, including former Agriculture Minister John Gummer and former Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke. The latter is particularly crucial, as he is, behind the scenes, making a bid to replace the hapless, pro-war Iain Duncan-Smith, as Conservative Party leader.

The day after the debate, *EIR* spoke to Labour MP Tam Dalyell, longest-serving MP (Father of the House of Commons), and the most persistent opponent, in the House, of a new Iraq war. He stated that Blair will be in "endless trouble," if he persists in pushing for war, and that the new element in the situation, will be increasing questioning from the British military services, about "why we should risk our lives, for such an unpopular war." According to Dalyell, "The significance of what happened yesterday is that this was the biggest dissent, in British Parliamentary history, from a governing party. A lot of it has to do with the growing feeling that America and Britain are looking for excuses for war, while Iraq seems to be trying to avoid a war."

Dalyell emphatically agreed with Lyndon LaRouche, that this war "is not inevitable, and can be stopped." In his view, what is now extremely important, is that there be maximal publicity, throughout the United States, of the resistance to the war in Britain. He said it would be extremely important, if matters come to that point, that Russia, France, and China combine, to veto any new United Nations resolution authorizing war, and stand firm against any U.S. threats of reprisals, in response to a veto.

Echoing Dalyell's sense of what impact the Feb. 26 Parliament events might have transatlantically, Liberal Democrat leader Charles Kennedy affirmed that the fact that the Blair government "has failed to persuade a third of the House of Commons . . . sends a potent signal to the government of both Britain and the United States."

Alan Simpson, an MP from the traditional "Old Labour," made a vital point, which indicates what is happening on a national level. While charging that "we appear to produce dossiers of mass deceptions" and insisting that Cabinet ministers listen to "our other allies," like France and Germany, who assert that "we need inspections, not invasions," Simpson stressed that the war rhetoric of the Blair government and its



Rebel vote stuns Blair

121 Labour members vote against war
• Biggest ever revolt against a government
• Tory support helps save PM

Michael White, Patrick Wintour and Nicholas Watt
Thursday February 27, 2003
The Guardian

As of his “unprecedented rebuke” in the House of Commons on Feb. 26, Tony Blair was still refusing to budge from his pro-war stance. But BBC pointed out that Blair “must have” the second UN resolution, or “he will have laid down his political life for President George Bush.”

supporters had created a “real low point” in British politics. Indeed, “it marks a sense of the disconnect of this House from the society we claim to represent.”

That so many MPs did come around to oppose Blair’s war policy reflects a massive anti-Iraq war mood in the British population, exemplified by the Feb. 15 outpouring of some 2 million in the streets of London, against the war, as well as tens of thousands demonstrating in Glasgow and Belfast. Since then, as confirmed to *EIR* by Dalyell and others in Britain, a growing number of Blair loyalists within the Labour Party have been facing procedures of “de-selection” from their home constituents, which means that they are being replaced, or threatened with replacement, because of their pro-war position. In one case, a Labour official faced his constituency at a local gathering of 150 people, and found himself the only person in the room, who supported the rush to war against Iraq!

Papal Meeting Backfires

But given the power of elite structures in the United Kingdom, what is even more threatening for Blair, is the intensity of opposition to war being expressed by senior elements of this establishment, in the spheres of religion, military, diplomacy, and intelligence, and extending into the monarchy itself, as indicated by recent reports that royal heir Prince Charles is opposing the Bush-Blair policy.

From the domain of religion, a joint statement of opposition to a new war was issued on Feb. 21, by Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, the head of the Church of England (whose Supreme Governor is Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II) and Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O’Connor, head of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. This immediately preceded the rebuff Blair received, in Rome on Feb. 22, from Pope John Paul II, during their 15-minute meeting. This has knocked the props out from Blair’s pompous efforts to portray himself as the arbiter of morality on the planet, and to portray aggression against Iraq as a “just war,” in traditional

Christian terms. After his rebuff at the Vatican, the *Times* ran a biting cartoon, showing him approaching God, who is angrily pointing his finger at the British Prime Minister, and exclaiming, “This is not the time for a leadership challenge!”

At the Vatican, the Holy Father was reportedly distressed, not only by Blair’s pro-war arguments as such, but by the British Prime Minister’s attempt to usurp the prerogative of the Pope, as a leading moral-spiritual spokesman in the world. Additionally, according to the *Mail on Sunday* on Feb. 23, the Vatican was “angry” at the decision by Blair’s 10 Downing Street to suppress all public reportage of the contentious nature of the meeting, and at the arrogant lectures by Blair aides to Vatican representatives about how to handle the British press. An irate Vatican spokesman told the paper: “We have our own way of doing things. We were not going to let them tell us what to do.”

Notably, Vatican spokesman Joaquín Navarro-Valls put out a terse statement on the meeting between the two men, emphasizing the Pope’s insistence that an Iraq war be avoided. On Feb. 23, the Pope further distanced himself from Blair, in his Sunday Angelus, when he called on the major religions to work together to avoid war, and called on people of all faiths to fast for peace, on March 5, Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent.

The *Mail on Sunday* summed up, that the Blair initiative to meet and convince the Pope, had “backfired.”

Thatcher Aides Break Ranks

As for military and diplomatic elites, what is perhaps most breathtaking is the intensity of opposition to the war among former aides to Conservative Prime Ministers Margaret Thatcher (1979-90) and John Major (1992-97). This is especially so, as Her Barrenness continues to rave and rant for war.

Of the former Tory government officials who have spoken out against the present war plans, almost all were actively involved in the 1991 Gulf War:

- Lord Wright, who, from 1986-91, was Permanent Undersecretary of State and Head of the Diplomatic Service, in which positions he effectively ran the Foreign and Commonwealth Service, on a day-by-day basis.

- Sir Michael Quinlan, from 1988-92, Permanent Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Defence, who ran the MOD on a day-to-day basis.

- Lord Hurd, from 1989-95, Foreign Secretary.

- Lord Bramall, from 1982-85, i.e., the period beginning with the conflict known in Britain as the “Falklands War,” Chief of the Defence Staff, thereby head of all the British Armed Forces.

- Maj. Gen. Patrick Cordingley, Commander of British Forces during the 1991 Gulf War.

- Sir Harold Walker, from 1990-91, Ambassador to Iraq, before and during the the Gulf War.

During the last week of February, Cordingley, Hurd, and Walker all issued strong critiques of Bush-Blair Iraq war plans.

Will Scandals Topple Blair?

As for the British intelligence services, MI5 and MI6, informed sources tell *EIR* that leading figures in those agencies are “furious with Blair,” especially after the recent caper, in which the British government, during the week of Feb. 3, released a “Dossier on Iraqi Deception,” claimed to be based on intelligence agencies’ efforts, but actually mainly derived from a plagiarized academic’s 2002 study on Iraq, published in a disreputable Israeli journal, in which the academic had used information that was 12 years old.

One continental Europe-based British source told *EIR* on Feb. 25: “For the first time since 1945, the intelligence services are against a war that Britain is supposed to fight. They are looking for a way to punish Blair, after what Blair did to them. MI6 and MI5 are furious at Blair. You must understand, these people are extremely egoistic. But now, they face the ultimate humiliation—of looking like fools, before the French secret services. What could be worse, in their eyes?”

He and other sources stress that such furious intelligence professionals may contrive now, to come up with one or more scandals, to topple Blair, if he persists on the war course. There are a wide range of scandals that have already received public attention, or are capable of soon erupting.

The most high-profile of these is the “Cheriegate” scandal, which was the subject of a one-hour broadcast on BBC-TV. This involves, primarily, Tony Blair’s wife Cherie’s involvement with Peter Foster, a convicted con-man, used for buying private Blair real estate, but also involves Cherie’s implication in a strange “New Age” network, centering around her personal guru Carole Caplin, Foster’s girlfriend.

Otherwise, investigators are looking into allegations that present or former Blair Cabinet ministers have been involved in pedophilia; indications that Blair intimates have been engaged in illicit money-laundering activities with fellow war

supporter Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi; allegations that Blair has received substantial personal bribes, to join with the United States in war with Iraq; and assertions of repeated Blair/“New Labour” political favors to leading Labour contributors.

As one London source stated on Feb. 25: “Scandals are the way that the powers-that-be usually ease a Prime Minister out of power in this country. Such a move against Blair, is a possibility.”

Emergency Moves

Under such conditions, Blair and his entourage may take drastic action, in the direction of declaring a national emergency, militarizing the country, and crushing all dissent, under wartime conditions. Some weeks ago, they had unleashed such a process, perhaps as a test run for something sinister later, with a non-stop barrage of reports of imminent terrorist threats, and high-profile arrests of alleged terrorists—none of which amounted to anything.

Now, the British Treasury, the day before the Feb. 26 Parliament debate, released a “Green Paper,” affirming that the Treasury, together with military units, may move in to take over all City of London financial operations under conditions of “emergency,” “extreme situations,” and “economic meltdown.”

One City of London source said that two factors have prodded the Blair entourage to make such an extraordinary move. One is their typical “management of psychology,” in this case, to engineer “a mood for war,” and to “create an emergency atmosphere,” in a population that is reluctant, skeptical about, and/or opposed to this war. The other, is that British financial elites may be aware of an imminent risk of “systemic financial meltdown,” caused by the collapse of the deeply troubled insurance sector, or by sensational news that may soon break about the damage caused by recent waves of corporate bond defaults, the extent of which damage has been covered up, until now, by clever accounting tricks.

The plunge toward an insane war, and the danger of systemic financial collapse, are integrally related. The only sane way to deal with these, is by preventing the insane war, and carrying out the “New Bretton Woods” global reorganization proposed by Lyndon LaRouche. Blair himself is committed to the course of lunacy. But it is to be hoped, that the extraordinary developments now occurring in Britain, will stop him in his tracks. This, in turn, may deter Bush from war.

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Africa Unites Against Iraq War

by David Cherry

“There is an alternative to war,” says the terse statement of the 22nd Heads of State Conference of Africa and France, issued on Feb. 20 in Paris. It states, “The use of force, which entails serious risks of destabilization of the region, for Africa, and the world, should only be a last resort.” Of Africa’s 53 nations, all but Somalia were represented there by a head of state or government.

South African President Thabo Mbeki told the French daily *Le Monde* on Feb. 22 that the Franco-African summit’s declaration was a reaffirmation of the one issued by the African Union (AU) summit in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia on Feb. 3. But it was also, he said, a response to “a request of the three African countries currently on the UN Security Council: Angola, Guinea, and Cameroon. Each of them came to me to get the African position on Iraq clarified,” before the AU summit. Afterwards, he said, “I told them, ‘You asked for a mandate and you got one. Now stick to it.’ Today, things are even more clear cut, because we have reaffirmed this position in a plenary meeting” at the Franco-African summit.

Le Monde asked, “Are the three countries bound by this common position?” Mbeki answered, “They represent the African continent and must therefore express to the Security Council what Africa as a whole has decided.”

There is also a mandate behind the mandate: It is the mandate of certain knowledge, on the part of a significant number of African leaders, that an Anglo-American invasion of Iraq will “deliver a deadly blow,” in Mbeki’s words, to billions of impoverished people, most of them far from Iraq, because of the war’s effects on the world economy, starting with a skyrocketing oil price. The consequences are far more serious than anything U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney and the chicken-hawks can threaten or promise. There is, therefore, much passion behind the laconic words of the Paris declaration, throughout Africa.

Across Africa, Rejection and Anger

Dr. Jibril Muhammad Aminu, Nigeria’s outgoing ambassador to Washington, spoke against war with unusual frankness—unusual for someone who still represents his government—in an interview in Washington published at www.allAfrica.com on Feb. 14.

The events of 9/11, Ambassador Aminu said, “made people sympathize very much with the U.S. But we don’t under-

stand how this has been translated into war against Iraq. . . . You have a feeling that people are digging . . . to find excuses.” Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, he said, calls the Palestinian freedom fighters “terrorists” and finds great sympathy in the United States with the idea that his struggle against the Palestinians is equal to America’s, or the world’s, struggle against terrorism. “That doesn’t really sell very well with us. . . . Now they have advanced that you have to ‘pre-empt’ in order to stop terrorism from aligning itself to a rogue state with weapons, finding evidence of a relationship between Iraq and al-Qaeda. These things worry people! Whatever the UN people say—the inspectors . . . or the Secretary-General—is all just brushed aside. . . .

“If you go to Nigeria, you will find many people admiring the United States. . . . But you will also not find anybody sympathizing with the American position on Iraq.”

Across Africa, rejection and anger take their various forms. President Paul Biya of Cameroon expresses his “complete adherence” to the decisions of the Paris summit. Angolan Ambassador to the UN Ismael Martins speaks of the terrible consequences of such a war for the entire world, and favors the French-German-Russian approach. Fradique de Menezes, President of São Tomé and Príncipe, who prefers his country’s status as a U.S. client state, opposes the war, and says so. President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe asks, in addressing the Non-Aligned Movement, why should the United States determine whether Iraq builds nuclear weapons? As part of the massive demonstrations against the war in South Africa, Christians and other non-Muslims attend Friday prayers at one of Johannesburg’s largest mosques.

The Ugandan people’s recent lesson in identifying terrorism is symbolic of what Africans are learning all across the continent. Twenty organizations in Kampala planned an anti-war demonstration for Feb. 18, but it was called off at the last minute, “after police warned organizers they would be held responsible for utterances that would upset relations between Uganda and the U.S.,” according to the African Church Information Service (ACIS) on Feb. 24.

The intensity of opposition to the war in Uganda is so great, said ACIS, that U.S. Ambassador Jimmy Clocker complained that Kampala was nearer to Baghdad than it was to Gulu district in northern Uganda, where the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) has been launching attacks. Here’s the lesson: In 2001, the State Department put the LRA on its list of terrorist organizations, where it belongs. For years, the LRA has sought to overthrow the Ugandan government and set up a government “based on the Ten Commandments.” Toward this end, it butchers Ugandans by the thousand, or burns them alive in their thatched huts, forces young boys to join in this bestiality, and takes their sisters for sexual playthings. But since late January, Ambassador Clocker and the State Department have been insisting that the Ugandan government must enter a “dialogue” with the LRA!

The Pope Leads Diplomacy for Peace

by Claudio Celani

As it was in the days of the Cuban Missile Crisis, Vatican diplomacy is again at the center of efforts to keep world peace. Eyewitnesses reported (see *EIR*, March 26, 1999, “The Man You Can Trust”) how, during those days of October 1962, Pope John XXIII played an important role in bringing the two adversaries—the American and the Soviet governments—to reach an agreement that saved world peace and allowed both sides to “save face.” There is no doubt that John Paul II is working with the image of his predecessor John XXIII in mind, as is evident from the Pope’s World Peace Day message on Jan. 1, 2003, in which he compared the 1962 crisis that brought the world to the brink of thermonuclear war, with the current threat deriving from the “world disorder.”

In that message, the Pope recalled John XXIII’s response to the threat 40 years ago, in the peace policy of his encyclical *Pacem in Terris* (*Peace on Earth*). John Paul II called for a new “constitutional form” of cooperation among nations based on natural right. No room must be allowed, he said, for arbitrary unilateral action, “pre-emptive war”; otherwise the world will plunge into anarchy.

The Pope’s collaborators report that he sees the current peace mission as the most important task of the last period of his pontificate. Thus, Vatican diplomacy has been fully mobilized after the last meeting of the United Nations Security Council, as an indispensable component of the Franco-German-Russian-Chinese-African opposition to war.

The Vatican’s strategy is to build the seemingly impossible dialogue between the two “enemies,” the Bush Administration and the Iraqi government, exploiting the tiny window offered after the latest report from the UN weapons inspectors. The aim is to build an “exit strategy” with concrete proposals which would be seen by both sides as an acceptable compromise, where both George W. Bush and Saddam Hussein could say, “We saved world peace and avoided suffering to our people.”

Hostility From Washington

On Feb. 9, the Pope and his collaborators were the first to learn, from visiting German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, about the Franco-German proposal for a “strengthened inspections” plan. The Vatican’s “Mr. Mission Impossible,” Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, was sent to Baghdad for an hour-and-a-half meeting with Saddam Hussein, and declared that the Iraqi leader “now is willing to avoid the war.” The two may have discussed proposals from Rome, as Saddam Hussein

decided to meet Etchegaray only after his Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz met the Pope. In 1962, it was the Vatican which proposed that the United States should remove its missiles from southern Italy in exchange for the Soviets’ withdrawal of theirs from Cuba.

Cardinal Etchegaray declared that he came out of his meeting with Saddam Hussein with “concrete results.” Immediately, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan flew to Rome and heard, in the presence of the Pope, a detailed report by the Cardinal. The next task was to convince the United States government. Vatican sources confess that they hardly see a channel they can speak to. The Vatican is frustrated by public statements from National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, who criticized the Pope’s peace efforts. Nothing like this had happened before. White House hostility had also been manifested through an initiative by Jim Nicholson, ambassador to the Holy See and former Bush fundraiser, who organized a public conference in Rome for neo-conservative Michael Novak, to defend the pre-emptive war doctrine as “consistent” with Catholic doctrine. Once in Rome, Novak had a meeting with Secretary of State Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, and Archbishop Renato Martino, chairman of the *Justitia et Pax* Commission, but he impressed his interlocutors only through his “apparent lack of will to listen,” as a Vatican source told the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera*. Ambassador Nicholson and U.S. Ambassador to Italy Mel Sembler, brought State Department policy planner Andrew Erdmann to Rome to address an audience of diplomats, aristocrats, bankers, prelates, and Italian government officials, assembled in the salon of Countess Elvina Pallavicini, the acknowledged head of Rome’s “black nobility.”

Facing such hostile activity, the Holy See wonders whether Washington has a secret agenda, a geopolitical game in which the Iraq war is only the first step. A commentary by Radio Vaticana director, Father Pasquale Borgomeo SJ, on the same day the Pope was meeting Kofi Annan, said that Washington seems to consider diplomacy a “waste of time,” international law “just one big obstacle,” and the United Nations “a club of sophists.”

The Pope hopes that the course of American policy can still be changed. But the difficulty remains, what are the next moves for Vatican diplomacy? In this context, the traditional channel represented by the Italian government has threatened to collapse. Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi left for London and Washington on Jan. 29, with a mission to move Bush and Blair closer to the European position, but switched sides, signing the “declaration of eight” European countries backing U.S. unilateral action. But after patient reconstruction work, especially through the Christian Democratic component of the government, Berlusconi made a partial course correction. On Feb. 18, after the Pope-Annan meeting, a public ceremony gave the opportunity for a meeting between a Vatican delegation led by Cardinal Sodano and an Italian government delegation.

Andreotti Confronts Rice

If the Italian government rejoins ranks, this will offer one important instrument to the Vatican efforts; as usual in the past, all resources of Italian diplomacy will add a “second leg” to the Vatican ones. An indication of the new course came on Feb. 19, at the foreign policy debate in the Italian Senate, where Berlusconi’s government accepted an amendment presented by Sen. Giulio Andreotti, committing the government to seek a Parliament vote on decisions on the Iraq issue to be taken by the UN Security Council.

Former Prime Minister Andreotti, who is very close to the Vatican, addressed Condoleezza Rice’s interview with the Italian magazine *Panorama* on Feb. 3, in which Rice had compared what she called the Pope’s current “inaction,” with appeasement towards Hitler. Rice’s statements were seen as an endorsement of the well-known slander against Pope Pius XII. In a rare exercise of directness, Andreotti blasted Rice’s statements: “You cannot call a disrupter those who, like the Pope, due to his magisterium, speak out compromisingly for peace. There has been a bestial statement—allow me to use this term—by the U.S. National Security Advisor, who said that the Vatican is behaving as usual: It is acting as it did with Hitler.”

Whatever the course of the events will be in the next two weeks, the Pope and his collaborators are ready to undertake any step, including a direct approach with George W. Bush. On Feb. 22, the Pope received British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who had been publicly criticized just the day before by the leaders of both the Catholic and the Anglican Churches in Britain. The aim of their meeting was to explore possible differences between Blair and Bush, and also to better understand what really is on Bush’s mind, through his staunchest ally. After the meeting, it was leaked that the Pope is considering a letter to Bush to be delivered by Cardinal Etchegaray. Another option, a visit to Baghdad by Kofi Annan, needs U.S. approval. Cardinal Etchegaray has already been sent to Haiti, on a “stand-by” mission, ready to fly to Washington should a meeting with Bush or Colin Powell be organized.

Eventually, the Pope is ready to undertake a new trip. Where? To Central Asia, his collaborators say, indicating that Iraq is not the issue, but rather the “Great Game” for the control of the Eurasian continent. That is where the next front is, and there one must concentrate efforts to prevent a Clash of Civilizations. In the meantime, the Pope has launched another spectacular action: He called for a day of fasting, for March 5, which is also Ash Wednesday, “for the cause of peace, especially in the Middle East.” The Pope addressed his call to all believers in God: “It is a duty for all believers, whatever the religion to which they belong, to proclaim that we will never be able to be happy, [if we are set] one against another. . . . Never can the future of humanity be ensured by terrorism and the logic of war.”

Reporting the Pope’s call, the Vatican daily *Osservatore Romano* ran on its front page, twice, the word “never” in giant letters: “NEVER Terrorism and NEVER War”

Sharon Forms New War Government in Israel

by Dean Andromidas

The death of former Israeli Ambassador Shlomo Argov on Feb. 23, was a poignant reminder of how dangerous Israel’s current prime minister is. It was the attempted assassination of Argov on June 3, 1982 which gave Ariel Sharon the pretext to launch the bloody war in Lebanon.

Argov was left paralyzed and bedridden for the rest of his life when an assassin from the Abu Nidal terrorist organization shot him in the head. Months after the attack, as it became clear that Sharon had deceived the Israeli government in invading Lebanon, Argov, from his hospital bed, denounced the fact that his shooting was used as an excuse for the invasion of Lebanon. “Israel cannot get entangled in experiments or hopeless military adventures,” Argov said. “If those who initiated this war in Lebanon had envisioned the scope of this adventure, it could have saved the lives of hundreds of our best young people.”

On the day Argov died, Sharon signed agreements to form a new government coalition that promises to be even more brutal than his previous one. It is a government he will not have to deceive, if he wishes to be “entangled in experiments or hopeless military adventures.”

The Most Extremist Elements

The new coalition includes Sharon’s Likud, the National Religious Party (NRP), and the National Union. The latter two are considered the “settlers’ parties,” representing the most fascist and extremist elements within the settlers’ movement. The fourth partner is the Shinui party, which claims to be a “secular” party; it gave up all of its principles to jump into Sharon’s cabinet. Sharon and his supporters among the war party in Washington had hoped to re-establish the “unity government” with the Labor Party; but its chairman, Amram Mitzna, refused to be a figleaf for Sharon’s war plans.

The Prime Minister’s spin-doctors claim he has formed a “center-right” coalition, with the NRP and National Union on his right, the Shinui on his left, and himself in the center. In reality, this government is the furthest right in more than a decade.

The NRP was founded as a relatively moderate religious Zionist party, but in the last decades it has become a Messianic extremist party. It is led by the fascist Effi Eitam, a retired brigadier general who has a reputation for his brutality against the Palestinians, and who hopes to become Israel’s new Benito Mussolini. Eitam is infamous for his proposal that the Sinai, which is part of Egypt, become the new Palestinian



Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and two of his coalition partners: NRP party leader and would-be Mussolini of Israel, Effi Eitam (inset, top); and Shinui party leader Yosef Lapid (inset, bottom). Sharon has formed a government that will ensure that a peace process will be impossible.

state. By giving the NRP the Housing and Construction Ministry and the Welfare Ministry, Sharon has made it clear that he will be expanding the settlements as fast as he can.

The National Union is even more extreme than the NRP. It comprises three smaller parties, the most important being Moledet and Yisrael Beitenu. The former is led by Rabbi Benny Elon, considered to be among those responsible for the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin—Amir Yigal, Rabin's assassin, claims he was inspired by the preachings of Elon and other extremist rabbis. Moledet's official policy is "transfer" for the Palestinians—not to the Sinai as Eitam suggests, but to Jordan. It is a policy that parallels Sharon's plan for ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian lands. Prior to leading Moledet, Elon was the chief rabbi at the infamous Ateret Cohanim Yeshiva. Its goal is to destroy the mosques on the al-Haram al-Sharif, in the center of Jerusalem and Islam's third-most holy site, in order to rebuild Solomon's Temple. It is widely recognized that if this project were to be successful, it could set off World War III.

Yisrael Beitenu is led by the rotund Avigdor Lieberman, who once said that the solution for securing Israel's right to exist would be to "bomb Cairo and Tehran." Lieberman is a Russian emigré who counts among his good friends and financial supporters Russian Mafiya bosses Michel Chernoy and Gregori Lerner. The latter was recently released from an Israeli prison, where he served seven years after pleading guilty to a \$70 million bank fraud. Lieberman is considered a loyalist of former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, for whom he served as Cabinet secretary. Lieberman left the Likud and formed his Russian emigré party in order to build support for Netanyahu in the Russian community. Living in

one of the West Bank settlements, he is militantly opposed to the creation of a Palestinian state.

The Shinui party is led by Yosef "Tommy" Lapid, who is considered a right-wing opportunist. Shinui went from being a marginal party with five Knesset (parliament) seats to becoming the third-largest party with 15. Lapid was a former TV personality and cookbook author who founded the party because of his hatred for the ultra-orthodox religious parties, many of whose members are Sephardic Jews. Exposing his own racism, Lapid often says he hates "Levantine culture," be it Jewish or Arab. Shinui is a party of lawyers, accountants, and the upper middle class, with a platform calling for secular reforms and separation of religion and state. Although Lapid vowed never to join a government

with a religious party, he entered the government with Sharon and Eitam in return for five Cabinet seats. Lapid has proven he will do everything Sharon asks him to do.

The militant right-wing of the Likud has been enormously strengthened now that the party has in the last elections gone from 19 to 40 seats in the 120-seat Knesset. Moreover, thanks to Sharon's son Omri, it is filled with Israeli mafia bosses, whose strong-arm tactics and recruitment of criminals and other corrupt elements helped double the number of Likud members. Meanwhile, Netanyahu's supporters have also been strengthened. Well aware of Netanyahu's popularity among the chicken-hawks in the Bush Administration, Sharon has given Bibi's faction some of the top Cabinet posts: Netanyahu was named finance minister, and he will be responsible for economic talks with the United States. Silvan Shalom has been given the Foreign Ministry. Yisrael Katz, who is twice the size of Sharon, has been named agriculture minister, a post very important for the settlements. Sharon also named Bibi supporter Tzachi Hanegbi as public security minister. Hanegbi has a reputation as one of the most corrupt members of the party, and he has come under police investigation more than once. By putting him in charge of the Israeli police, Sharon hopes Hanegbi will sabotage the six police investigations being conducted against himself and other Likud members.

Another figure Sharon has promoted is Nathan Sharansky, the Russian refusenik. After his Russian emigré party, Yisrael b'Aliya, won only two Knesset seats in the last election, Sharansky brought the party into the Likud. For Sharon, Sharansky has two very important connections. One, is to the Russian Mafiya and business tycoons who wield considerable influ-

ence in Russia. The other, more important one, is Sharansky's connection to U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney, whose door is always open when he travels to Washington.

Peace Process Is Impossible

The Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* declared in a Feb. 28 editorial that Sharon formed a government that would ensure that a peace process would be impossible. "All the declarations about a Palestinian state are meaningless beside the appointment of NRP Chairman Effi Eitam as housing and construction minister. In the past Eitam has voiced vehement opposition even to the evacuation of illegal settlement outposts. . . . The agreements with NRP and National Union should serve as a clear sign that Sharon's goal is not to get out of the territories in order to resume talks with the Palestinians. The alliance with Shinui has no power to hide the new government's true face. It is a government without diplomatic tidings, resting on a coalition with the ideological right to whom any idea of compromise is foreign. All the rest is nothing but transparent camouflage."

In the four weeks Sharon spent forming this new government, the Israeli military killed no fewer than 56 Palestinians, including women, children, and old men. Palestinian President Yasser Arafat charged that those responsible for the murder of Yitzhak Rabin are in Sharon's new government.

Despite heavy pressure to form a unity government with Sharon, Labor Party Chairman Amram Mitzna kept his electoral promise and refused to enter the government. Mitzna had held three meetings with Sharon, in which Sharon was said to have "promised" everything Mitzna was asking for. But when Mitzna demanded a written agreement, Sharon refused, making it clear that he was lying through his teeth.

Mitzna told a meeting of the Labor Party's executive council on Feb. 23, "I have no doubt that the prime minister prefers agreements between him and Effi Eitam. The National Religious Party's positions are more appropriate for him. That's no surprise. In his second term, Sharon won't make any historical breakthrough like [Prime Minister Menachem] Begin [who signed a peace treaty with Egypt]. . . . Those who intend to reach a peace agreement must make clear how they intend to do so. They cannot hide behind promises for 'painful concessions' that nobody knows how painful they will be. Those who plan to make peace should have preferred a coalition with the Labor Party and not the NRP."

"As for Shinui," Mitzna said, "in their passion to hook up with Sharon and his government, Shinui didn't even take time out for a breath. If the speed Shinui was driving into the Sharon government was measured, they would have been arrested for speeding."

According to one of his senior advisers, Mitzna is determined to keep his electoral promises, including the one to revive a Rabin-like peace policy through negotiations with the Palestinians, in effect a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, and to address the economic crisis. Nonethe-

less, Mitzna has become the target of a major operation within the Labor Party to oust him as leader. This opposition is led by Shimon Peres, who apparently will do anything, including destroying the Labor Party itself, to get back into Sharon's government. In the previous government Peres served as Sharon's foreign minister, covering for his brutal policies.

Peres is getting his orders from the same Washington circles as is Sharon. During the elections, Peres met with Mark Rich, a convicted fraudster linked to the Russian Mafiya. Rich's attorney, Lewis Libby, is the chief of staff for Vice President Cheney. Peres also met with American billionaire Michael Steinhardt, who is one of the chief financial backers of Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.). Their message to Peres, and Sharon, was to form an unity government and do everything possible to destroy Mitzna.

For the last four weeks, Peres has been holding secret negotiations with Sharon through Peres' attorney, Ram Caspi. The Caspi family have long been cronies of Peres, and the Caspi law firm, one of Israel's most prominent, is represented in the United States by Kenneth Bialkin. Bialkin is a former chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and is the attorney for the same circle of billionaires to which Steinhardt and Rich belong. When Jonathan Pollard was arrested in 1985 for spying for Israel, Caspi was part of the "damage control" team that went to the United States.

Caspi is also the attorney for Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, the number-two man in the Labor Party, who has been cooperating with Peres to undermine Mitzna. Ben-Eliezer was defense minister in Sharon's last government and is responsible for the bloody military operations ordered by Sharon. Peres, Ben-Eliezer, and several other Labor Party leaders who had been ministers in Sharon's previous government, are all conspiring to oust Mitzna. Some say they are doing this in cooperation with Sharon.

Israel's Political and Economic Collapse

A senior adviser to Mitzna told *EIR* that without the Labor Party, Sharon's government could fall within a year. According to the latest poll, no less than 62.6% of Israelis believe the government will not last more than two years, and only 19.1% think the government will serve out its full four-year term.

Under Sharon, Israel faces political and economic collapse. If Sharon launches a regional war under the shadow of a U.S. war against Iraq, Israel is finished. Even if a war is forestalled, Israel's economy continues to collapse. The same poll showed that 46.8% of Israelis believe that Sharon will fail to solve the economic crisis.

Sharon's government has no solution for the economic crisis. Only hours before Sharon presented his new government to the Knesset, a 48-year-old Israeli farmer killed himself because he could not pay his debts. He was not the first farmer to commit suicide, and he will not be the last.

An American 'Posse' Heads for Philippines

by Mike Billington

On Feb. 19, a senior official at the U.S. Department of Defense, on condition of anonymity, revealed to the press that the United States was preparing to send 3,000 Special Forces, Marines, and support troops into the southern islands of the Philippines, to engage in combat with the Abu Sayyaf terrorist gang. A total of 1,700 ground troops were to be joined by others aboard two ships offshore, loaded with Cobra attack helicopters and Harrier jets—a small-scale invasion force. The operation was to begin Feb. 24. The problem is that the operation—the only American combat mission in the world after Afghanistan—is entirely illegal under the Philippines' Constitution!

The unnamed Defense official was also quoted by the *New York Times* claiming that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was backing down on “the scope of an operation that had already been agreed upon in private”—a statement which could only be intended to destabilize the Philippines President whether she had, in fact, made such an agreement, or not. Such underhanded diplomacy is the stuff of “dirty tricks.”

When the story hit the headlines on Feb. 20, the Philippines went into an uproar. Ignacio Bunye, spokesman for President Macapagal-Arroyo, told the press that the anonymous U.S. official was lying: “He is a loudmouth,” Bunye said. “Please write that. He doesn't know what he's talking about.” White House spokesman Ari Fleischer confirmed that the “leak” was accurate! Bunye then threatened to cancel the planned U.S.-Philippine training exercises altogether: “I can assure you, there will be no joint military exercises if the U.S. insists on a combat operation—the President [Macapagal-Arroyo] wanted a military exercise that is in accordance with the Constitution.”

Even the leading establishment newspaper in the Philippines, *The Inquirer*, went ballistic, recognizing that the “pre-emptive strike” doctrine pronounced by the Bush Administration last year could soon be coming to the Philippines. “The disclosure can mean only one thing,” read the *Inquirer's* Feb. 23 editorial. “The cowboys in the White House will wage their war on terror any which way they want, and the rest of the world, their so-called allies included, be damned. . . . In other words, the White House—and the U.S. Defense Department under tell-it-like-it-is Secretary Donald Rumsfeld—has rounded up a posse, and it is time to ride.” In fact, on Jan.

27, at a meeting in Washington of the American Enterprise Institute, Richard Perle, head of the Defense Policy Board and a spokesman for the “chicken-hawks,” described the “coalition of the willing” he and his ilk are preparing for a strike on Iraq, and others, in the following terms: “The coalition of the willing is really a posse riding out of town to get the miscreants.”

The Inquirer also sensed that someone in the American Administration was out to discredit the Philippines government: “Leaking the news in a way that pulls the rug from under the Macapagal administration's feet, is to send an unambiguous message to its allies here and around the world: If you can't solve a problem, we'll do it for you, regardless of what you think.”

Enter Rumsfeld

The Philippine Secretary of Defense Gen. Angelo Reyes was initially more evasive, saying only that any presence of U.S. troops would be within the Constitution, then flying to Washington to meet Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, who has been demonstrating personality disorders increasingly similar to those of Dr. Strangelove. Last year, soon after Secretary of State Colin Powell travelled to the Philippines and assured the government that the United States had no intention to establish a permanent military presence in the Philippines, Rumsfeld invited General Reyes to the United States to form a “Defense Policy Board,” a civilian-to-civilian institution to oversee U.S.-Philippine military relations. Perhaps not coincidentally, this is the same name as Richard Perle's Board, one of the primary planning centers for the civilian chicken-hawks at the Pentagon who are notorious for promoting utopian imperial schemes, often behind the backs of the traditional military.

The new Rumsfeld-Reyes board strengthened the chicken-hawks' hold over American Philippines policy, at the expense of the uniformed military and the more sensible Powell at the State Department. *EIR* warned at the time that such a separate line of command could be used to run a destabilization of the Philippines, of the sort being seen today.

The question must be asked: If this utterly undiplomatic declaration of an illegal war, by an unnamed Defense official, was done without the approval of President Macapagal-Arroyo, is there an effort to undermine her authority? The United States has directly sponsored the overthrow of two governments in the Philippines in the past two decades. Is another “regime change” in the cards, whose end would be to have the Philippines again become a staging area for U.S. military operations in Asia?

It is of note that the leading advocate in the U.S. Administration for war and regime change in Iraq, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, has recently been bragging of his personal role in the U.S.-run 1986 coup d'état against Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos—a coup which left the country in the hands of the International Monetary Fund,



“Leaks” and actions from Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and other “chicken-hawks” in his Pentagon, have destabilized the government of Philippines President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo—perhaps intentionally.

which proceeded to loot the economy into its current state of utter poverty and near bankruptcy. Wolfowitz even uses the coup against Marcos as a model for the removal of Saddam Hussein. Is Wolfowitz the “anonymous Defense Department official” who launched this destabilization?

Further evidence of such a plan was published in the *Wall Street Journal* on Feb 25. The *Journal*, which has outspokenly promoted the utopian policy for a new American Empire, ran an editorial demanding that the U.S. military be unleashed in the Philippines, without “being asked to undertake a dangerous mission with their hands tied” by such niceties as Philippines Constitutional law.

Even more revealing, was the *Journal’s* report that they had placed a call to the former head of the police in the Philippines, Sen. Panfilo “Ping” Lacson (who until recently was damned in the American press as a crony of deposed President Joseph Estrada). Senator Lacson supposedly told the *Journal* that “any support from the U.S. is welcome here,” and that getting American troops “more involved in eliminating terrorists . . . is the only way [the people] can lead peaceful, safe lives in the future.” President Macapagal-Arroyo, they complain, is subject to intimidation by those who oppose the American military operations on their soil, and, they point out, Lacson is “a leading opposition candidate for President in next year’s election.”

Another Moro War?

The official target of the U.S.-Philippine “exercise” is the Abu Sayyaf, a kidnapping and terrorist gang made up of a few hundred drop-outs from the Islamic separatist movements

which have long battled for the independence of Mindanao. The Abu Sayyaf had direct al-Qaeda connections in the mid-1990s, but those have long been severed, and all political or religious aspirations replaced by those of a criminal kidnapping gang. Nonetheless, the Philippines recently obliged the United States by claiming that there is an Iraq connection to the Abu Sayyaf, based on a reported phone call from one of the gang to the Iraqi Embassy in Manila! This was played widely in the American press.

More seriously, however, the Philippines Army has, over the past month, renewed full-scale military operations against one of the leading Moro separatist groups, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which operates across the region. If the United States engages in combat against the Abu Sayyaf, it could easily spread to the long-standing armed political movements like the

MILF, and start United States policy down the “slippery slope.”

There is a long, ugly history to U.S. operations in Sulu, the island off Mindanao which is the target of the American operation. “It’s like committing suicide,” said Sulu Congressman Hussein Amin, “given the historical background of Sulu against the U.S. colonization way back in the 1900s.” Gov. Parouk Hussin of the Autonomous Region in Mindanao told *The Inquirer* that the people in Sulu “have not forgotten their horrible experience” under U.S. occupation, when thousands of Tausigs, the local ethnic group in Sulu, were killed by American soldiers.

Defense Secretary General Reyes, on his way to Washington, stopped in Hawaii to meet with the head of the Pacific Command, Adm. Thomas Fargo, on Feb. 26. After the meeting, Reyes announced to the press that Americans will not be allowed to engage in “offensive combat operations” on Philippine soil, and even indicated that the “we would rather hold deployment” of the exercise “until after the final agreement on exactly the size and shape is reached.”

Of course, if we look at the current U.S. drive to buy supporters for an Iraq invasion with multibillion-dollar promises, we must assume that General Reyes will be subjected to further armtwisting and bribes when he reaches Washington. But even if the popular outcry against the breach of the Philippine Constitution and national sovereignty prevents the U.S. military operation from proceeding as announced, it may be that the political damage has already been done, and that more “empire-compatible” leaders are being groomed, to force President Macapagal-Arroyo to acquiesce or step aside.

Anti-U.S. Taliban Ready to Strike

by Ramtanu Maitra

The death of Afghanistan's Minister for Mines and Industries, Juma Muhammad Muhammadi, in an air crash on Feb. 24 off Pakistan's coast after taking off from Karachi, typifies the problems that beset the Afghan transition government under President Hamid Karzai. It also warns of the inability of the United States troops and allied forces to restore security in Afghanistan.

Juma Muhammad Muhammadi, a World Bank official and an American citizen, is the third high-ranking minister killed in the last year since the U.S.-backed Karzai government took control of Kabul after the withdrawal of the Taliban forces from the Afghan capital. In February 2002, Karzai's Tourism Minister, Abdul Rehman, was assassinated at Kabul airport. In July, Haji Abdul Qadir, the Vice President, was shot dead in an ambush in Kabul.

A Likely Assassination

There are concerns that assassins might have killed the minister. On Feb. 22, Muhammed Muhammadi had held talks in Islamabad on a multibillion-dollar gas pipeline project that would link Turkmenistan and Pakistan via Afghanistan. At the meeting, ministers and officials from the three countries had agreed to invite India to participate in the \$2.5 billion gas line project, despite New Delhi's hostile relations with Islamabad. Muhammadi, who was keen to develop and modernize the mining industry of his war-ravaged country, was travelling to see the mining techniques and the technology being employed by the Chinese.

It has been reported that the crash took place on a clear day. This was second crash in Pakistan in less than a week. On Feb. 21, a Pakistan Air Force Fokker F-27 turboprop carrying Air Chief Marshal Mushaf Ali Mir, his wife, and several senior officials crashed on a hill 30 kilometers from the north-western town of Kohat. The Air Chief's death was attributed to the low visibility caused by stormy weather.

The deaths of the three senior Afghan Cabinet ministers have not been the only indications that no pro-American leader is any longer safe in Afghanistan. President Karzai, who survived an assassination attempt in the city of Kandahar last Summer, has surrounded himself with U.S. Special Forces personnel, who provide the innermost core of his personal security. There is no doubt that seething anger within the ethnic Pashtoon community, who felt humiliated by the U.S. over-lordship in the process of driving out the Taliban,

is growing, and Washington has no real will to soothe their nerves.

On Feb. 17, the United Nations warned its staff in Afghanistan to beware of terrorists who might try to kidnap them, a UN source told the media. The warning from UN security officials said that "Arab groups" or supporters of former Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar—a vocal opponent of the government—could try to kidnap the staffers in Kabul on Feb. 19, a UN official told the press. The warning was lifted later, but it shows the security situation now in Afghanistan.

Similar worries have been expressed by the German troops who have taken over the leadership of the International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) from Turkey since mid-February. According to the German news weekly *Der Spiegel* of Feb. 17, the United States "has practically ceased" its efforts to capture Osama bin Laden, ostensibly the number-one enemy vis-à-vis the 9/11 attack on the United States, and redeployed "all Special Forces units" for an attack on Iraq. *Der Spiegel* claims the U.S. decision has left the German Special Forces practically alone in Afghanistan.

In fact, since the Karzai government took over the reins of Afghanistan—helped by the same pro-Iraq war crowd within the U.S. Defense Department—Afghanistan has remained divided. The United States, depending heavily on Pakistan, sought control over the Pashtoon land which borders Pakistan to the east, and the adjacent major cities of Kabul, Jalalabad, Kandahar, and Khost. The tragedy is that the U.S. and allied troops have not succeeded in mustering control over any city other than Kabul, and the Pakistani support to gain control of the Pashtoon land remains as elusive as ever.

Internecine Warfare

The security situation along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border has deteriorated sharply. President Karzai on Feb. 23 urged his compatriots to help U.S. soldiers track down suspected terrorists in southern Afghanistan. He asked U.S. forces to take extra precautions to avoid civilian casualties, and to take "special care" before launching their operations to be sure their intelligence is correct. Karzai made the remarks to a group of village elders from the southern Baghran district of Helmand province, the scene of U.S. air and ground assaults on suspected Taliban hideouts in the mountainous area in mid-February, a statement from his office said. The elders had come to the capital to complain about alleged deaths of several civilians in the assault. The U.S. military said it could not confirm any civilian casualties and that the fighting took place away from populated areas. Meanwhile, reports are pouring in daily about attacks on U.S. and ISAF installations. On Feb. 26, more than a dozen rockets rained down on the main American Bagram air base, north of Kabul.

Iranian radio reported on Feb. 24 that two Afghan warlords are now involved in a full-scale war against each other in the Faryab province bordering Iran. The fighting began

after an Afghan Interior Ministry delegation arrived to replace Gov. Mohammad Saleh Zari. Hindukosh news agency cited Gen. Abdul Sabur, an official from the Mazar-e Sharif military corps—which is allied with Jamiat-e Islami—as saying forces loyal to Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum initiated the battle when they attacked troops led by Abdul Rasul, a commander loyal to Jamiat-e Islami. Sabur said the fighting ended on Feb. 23. Zari is believed to be loyal to Dostum. In late January, five people were reported killed and an undisclosed number injured in fighting that took place between rival commanders in Faryab province.

Two recent events indicate that Washington may find it increasingly difficult to rely on Islamabad on terrorism issues. Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) reported on Feb. 10, 2003 that a new group of terrorists, calling itself Tanzim al-Fatah Afghanistan, has begun to operate from Chaman, Pakistan, on behalf of the Taliban and al-Qaeda, against the U.S. and allied forces based in eastern and southeastern Afghanistan. The group has published a document, in the form of an Islamic *fatwa* (legal opinion), calling upon the believers not to cooperate with the U.S. and ISAF troops. The edict said, “Muslims who help the United States and Britain in killing thousands of Taliban and Arab mujahideen [al-Qaeda, ostensibly] do not remain Muslims any more, and their murder is allowed.” The report indicates that the document might have been issued under the guidance of Hekmatyar (see *Profile*), who had earlier called for a full-fledged *jihād* against the American forces in Afghanistan.

On Feb. 17, a message, allegedly signed by the Taliban supremo Mullah Mohammad Omar—who has escaped the American dragnet in Afghanistan along with bin Laden—was circulated along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. It said that 1,600 “prominent scholars” from Afghanistan have “unanimously” stated that it is the duty of every Muslim to wage *jihād* against U.S. forces in Afghanistan and warned that if anyone “helps the aggressive infidels and joins their ranks under any name or task, that person deserves execution,” the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press reported. The message ordered all Afghans who cannot participate in the *jihād*, to separate themselves from U.S. forces in Afghanistan and from President Karzai.

Concern Expressed Around the Region

The Americans, on the other hand, want to convey to the world that the situation is well under control and that the Taliban and al-Qaeda are on the run. But unlike earlier, when the Pentagon was keen on conveying the image of its “total victory,” the mood is somewhat different now. According to Col. Roger King, the U.S. military spokesman at the Bagram air base outside Kabul, there are “probably several hundred” Taliban and al-Qaeda forces around Afghanistan and “maybe a larger number” over the border with Pakistan.

Washington claims that one of the major successes of its diplomacy in Afghanistan is in getting the Germans and the

Netherlands to take over leadership of the ISAF from Turkey on Feb. 10. However, it is a matter of conjecture how long this good luck will hold. Both Germany and the Netherlands said on Feb. 21 they might pull their troops out of the ISAF, if tensions in Iraq spark anti-Western sentiment, RFE/RL reported. German Defense Minister Peter Struck said his country might withdraw its forces if a war in Iraq escalates tensions in Kabul. Joining him was Dutch Foreign Ministry spokesman Bart Jochems, who said his country also has plans to withdraw its troops if anti-Western sentiment threatens troops in Kabul, where the ISAF operates.

Two other major nations, India and Russia, that are directly involved in sorting out the Afghan imbroglio, have expressed concern over the resurgence of the Taliban and al-Qaeda in Afghanistan and are willing to render all-round support to the Karzai government to prevent a comeback of the extremist forces. “We cannot but feel concerned that forces bent on destabilization are still active inside and outside Afghanistan,” Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said after two and a half hours of talks with Indian External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha, in Moscow on Feb. 21. “It would be a great tragedy for Afghanistan and the international community if extremist forces came back to power in that country. Russia and India have done a lot to ensure that the Taliban and al-Qaeda are removed from power and we intend to continue our cooperation with other countries to support the Karzai government in its efforts to stabilize the situation in the country.”

Opium and Politics

Despite the growing animosity among Afghans against the Americans and other foreign troops, Washington is pressing on with its old concept of exercising pressure and handing out money. Vis-à-vis Pakistan, the American policy is a replica of that for dealing with the Pashtoon warlords in eastern and southeastern Afghanistan.

Following the ouster of the Taliban from Kabul, Americans were given Washington’s promises of an Afghanistan which would be free of narcotics—not overnight, but over a period of time. But on the ground, the situation is entirely different. This year Afghanistan will have a bumper poppy crop. This Winter Afghanistan has experienced rain and snow; it is expected that even the farmers who could not grow poppy last year because the land was parched, would grow poppy again this year. President Karzai is expected to request they not grow poppy, but such a request would not go far.

More important, what the Americans must know is that the use of poppy money to build a “loyal militia” in favor of the United States is back in vogue in the country. This was the way Afghans, and criminals from Arabia and Maghreb countries, were co-opted by the U.S. intelligence services to fight the Soviet Union in the 1980s. Americans looked aside then, and now it is happening again. The game is to use these poppy-money-rich Afghan warlords to fight the Taliban and

al-Qaeda. In essence, U.S. intelligence is again involved with the drug cartel, to make Afghanistan the largest poppy-growing country in the world.

However, the failure of Washington's policies will not be acknowledged. Instead, what will be seen is the lowering of the boom on Pakistan. The Feb. 24 *Washington Post's* lead editorial blamed Pakistan's President Gen. Pervez Musharraf for not curbing the terrorists who are hurting America's and President Karzai's interest in Afghanistan. President Musharraf, who has received billions of American dollars since 9/11 for providing help to the absurd U.S. policy in Afghanistan, is now again accused of harboring terrorists. The editorial was used to issue a stern warning that if Pakistan does not support the United States in the impending war against Iraq, President Musharraf would be removed. U.S. Rep. Frank Pallone (D-N.J.), who belongs to the pro-India camp, has already demanded sanctions against Pakistan.

Profile

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar: U.S.'s New Terrorist

On Feb. 19, the U.S. government announced that because of his terrorist activity, the United States is designating Gulbuddin Hekmatyar as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist under Executive Order 13224.

Meet America's Former Best Friend

Soon after 9/11, the greatest evil that trod this Earth was Osama bin Laden, a former friend and collaborator of the United States. In those days, dozens of press briefings were held by U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to tell the American people how the U.S. dragnet was going to ensnare this evil Yemeni-Saudi. All that has been forgotten, but the situation in Afghanistan has not changed much. What was needed was another bogeyman, and who could better fit the description than Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the bearded engineer from Kabul University who did much to humble the Russians at a time when that was what the United States wanted?

But, Hekmatyar, like bin Laden, has worn many turbans over the years. He is a Pashtoon warlord, former Afghan prime minister, a fundamentalist religious fanatic, and a homicidal thug. Washington liked him a lot once, but does not like him any more. The largest battle in Afghanistan in recent months, in the mountains near Spin Boldak on Jan. 27, pitted U.S. forces against guerrillas "most closely aligned with the Hezb-i-Islami movement, which is Hekmatyar's military arm," according to U.S. military spokesman Col. Roger King,

the Feb. 10 Pakistani *Daily Times* reported. The death of nine minibus passengers in an explosion near Kandahar on Jan. 31, was also attributed to Hezb-i-Islami. It has been widely alleged that Hekmatyar, who has been sighted in six Afghan provinces in the last three months, has linked up with the Taliban supremo Mullah Mohammad Omar and remnants of the Taliban and al-Qaeda, the Feb. 9 *Boston Globe* reported. This is plausible, although one must also note a history of sour relations between the Taliban and the warlord.

Hekmatyar was not always on the wrong side. During the 1980s, he received fully 90% of the CIA-supplied funds doled out via Pakistan's Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) to the mujahideen Islamic warriors, according to Ahmed Rashid, author of *Taliban*. These funds amounted to some \$500 million per year throughout the 1980s, matched by equal sums from other enthusiastic mujahideen patrons acting in close cooperation with the United States and Saudi Arabia.

Closest CIA Cooperation

Hekmatyar became a star following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in late 1979. Hezb-i-Islami played a leading role in the Islamic *jihad* against the pro-Soviet regime, and so naturally, Hekmatyar went on the U.S. payroll. Sheikh Omar Abdul-Rahman, convicted of responsibility for the first attack on the World Trade Center in 1995, helped the CIA establish contacts with Hekmatyar. Meanwhile the latter's forces in the Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan continued a *jihad* against the Maoists, who were also playing a significant role in the anti-Soviet resistance. Hekmatyar wanted to ensure that the opposition was thoroughly religious and anti-communist in character. So in November 1986, in Peshawar, Pakistan, Hezb-i-Islami forces assassinated Dr. Faiz Ahmad, founder and leader of the Maoist Afghanistan Liberation Organization, and ten other key ALO members.

The next year, according to the Revolutionary Association of Women of Afghanistan (RAWA, a secular, anti-fundamentalist organization rooted in the Maoist movement), Hezb-i-Islami was complicit in the assassination of RAWA founder Meena in Quetta, Pakistan. But to the CIA, everything about Hekmatyar was kosher. So close was his CIA cooperation that he even, at their request, launched rocket attacks from Afghanistan against the Soviet republic of Tajikistan in 1987, Rashid wrote.

In June 1993, following the mujahideen victory over the last government installed by the Soviets, Hekmatyar became Prime Minister of Afghanistan, serving under the new President, Burhanuddin Rabbani. But he broke with the government in the Fall, and in January 1994, in alliance with Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum (the warlord who presently controls much of northern Afghanistan), laid siege to Kabul. In two months, 4,000 residents of Kabul (which had been an island of stability and prosperity during the pro-Soviet period) were killed, 21,000 were injured, and 200,000 were forced to flee the city.

FARC Narcos Goad Bush To Invade S. America

by Gretchen Small

It was the classic act of a provocateur: On Feb. 13, South America's largest narco-terrorist force, the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia), shot down a small U.S. airplane engaged in anti-drug surveillance over the jungles of southern Caquetá province. On board were one Colombian and four American civilians working as defense contractors for the U.S. Southern Command. The FARC executed the Colombian and one of the Americans on the spot, and took the other three Americans hostage.

Lest anyone think this was an initiative by some local FARC commander, the FARC cartel's command issued communiqués taking responsibility for downing the plane, and announcing that they had taken the Americans as "prisoners of war. . . . The lives and physical integrity of the three 'gringo' officers in our power" would only be guaranteed, if the Colombian government re-established "a large demilitarized area" in the region, and released hundreds of FARC jailed terrorists, they demanded.

The execution and kidnapping marked the first strategic hit against U.S. military advisers in Colombia by the FARC command. Former peace adviser to the Colombian government Vicente Torrijos said the obvious: The FARC's use of the Americans to pressure for a prisoner exchange "would indicate that they are doing everything possible to push the United States into an escalating military intervention."

As the FARC escalated, so did its allies in the government of the insane Hugo Chávez in neighboring Venezuela. On Feb. 17, the bodies were found of three dissident soldiers and a girl who were seen being kidnapped on Feb. 15, when they left the Plaza Francia in Altamira, Caracas, where Chávez's military opponents have been camped out since October 2002. The Chávez-controlled police admitted that the four dead had been bound, gagged, and tortured before being executed, but dismissed out of hand that there could be any "political motive" behind the killings.

Three days later, Venezuela's political police, the DISIP, burst into a Caracas restaurant at 1:00 a.m., where Carlos Fernández, head of the national business association Fedecamaras, was dining with other businessmen. Firing their weapons into the air, the DISIP arrested Fernández. Charges brought against him include civilian rebellion, sabotage, treason, and incitement to crime, allegedly because of his role in

the coup attempt against Chávez in April 2002, and the national civic strike this past December-January. An arrest warrant was also issued for the head of the Venezuelan Labor Federation (CTV), Carlos Ortega, who promptly went into hiding. These were followed by arrest warrants issued Feb. 26 against six former managers of the state oil company, *Petróleos de Venezuela* (PdVSA), who led the continuing strike against that company.

The provocations, calculated to drive the already-hysterical opposition camp into a frenzy, play into the hands of the opposition's radical neo-conservatives. The so-called "Democratic Bloc" of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and leaders of the Merchant Marine's "People of the Sea" used this to step up their nationwide organizing for a Pinochet-style military "solution" to the Chávez problem, in which they would have the United States intervene.

Chávez followed up with a diatribe against foreign protests over the Fernández arrest, using his weekly "Hello, President!" TV marathon Feb. 23, to warn the United States, Colombia, Spain, and Organization of American States Secretary General César Gaviria to stop "meddling" in Venezuelan affairs. Singling out Colombian President Alvaro Uribe Vélez, Chávez suggested he might break relations with his Colombian neighbor. Two days later, bombs exploded at the Colombian and Spanish embassies in Caracas, shattering walls and windows, and injuring four people. Had the explosions not occurred at 2:00 a.m., casualties would have been higher. Leaflets defending Chávez's "Bolivarian Revolution" were found at the scene, signed by the Bolivarian Liberation Front (BLF), a Venezuelan off-shoot of Colombia's FARC, previously known to operate along their border.

'Here We Come!'

Whether the BLF was actually responsible, or this was the action of an unidentified "Third Force" deployed to further chaos in the polarized situation, is not known. However, it should be clear to even the most naïve, that the actions of the FARC-Chávez combo benefit no one but the neo-conservative imperialists running rampant in the Bush Administration. Nor did the Washington nuts pass up the opportunity handed to them. President George Bush informed Congress on Feb. 20 that he was activating his right to waive the Congressionally mandated cap of 400 U.S. troops deployed to Colombia at any one time. Pentagon sources reported a day later, that another 150 U.S. Special Forces were being deployed to "assist" Colombian troops in the search-and-rescue effort.

Three Congressmen—Virginians Tom Davis (R) and Jim Moran (D), and Mark Souder (R-Ind.)—flew to Colombia. After consultations with their Embassy, they called a press conference in Bogotá on Feb. 20, to demand the United States do more than rescue its people. "Retaliation," a "dramatic response," and "major and appropriate action" by the United

States itself, in Colombia, are in order, they insisted. An anonymous Bush Administration official back in Washington told the *Washington Post* that these Congressmen are not the only people thinking that way: “We certainly can expect pressure to respond in a very forceful way.”

The cries of “here we come!” from Washington set off a storm in Colombia. Under its Constitution, President Alvaro Uribe cannot accept the presence of the foreign troops on Colombian soil without the permission of his Congress, or if that entity is out of session, then the State Council. There is a difference, too, if the troops are defined as functioning entirely in an advisory capacity on a humanitarian mission, or if they function in a war-fighting capacity.

President Uribe has been quiet on the question of the U.S. troops, but he has escalated a diplomatic campaign in the area to urge neighboring countries to formally pronounce the FARC to be terrorists—an effort to cut off the crucial logistical and political support the FARC receives among these countries, especially Chávez’s Venezuela. Whatever position the new Lula government in Brazil takes, will be decisive. Although it has not yet issued an official response, Lula’s top foreign policy adviser, Marco Aurelio Garcia, did issue a statement saying that Brazil would *not* pronounce the “FARC insurgents” to be “terrorists,” on the specious grounds that Brazil must maintain its “neutrality,” should it be asked to negotiate between the FARC and Bogotá. Lurking behind Garcia’s de facto support of the FARC—and of Chávez, in earlier statements—is the drive of Washington’s neo-conservative imperialists, to lure Brazil into aligning with the continent’s narco-terrorist nations and movements, in order to polarize the continent and plunge it into generalized warfare.

The decision to send additional U.S. troops into Colombia, has handed the opponents of President Uribe’s popular hard-line war strategy against the FARC, the political platform from which to attack the government, which they previously lacked. The FARC’s mouthpieces among Colombia’s political elites are now screaming about “gringo invasions,” and insist on returning to the doomed strategy of “negotiating the peace.” Said Congressman Antonio Navarro Wolfe, the former head of the narco-terrorist M-19, “This is how Vietnam began.” Said the former Presidential candidate of the left, Luis Eduardo Garzón, “The Colombian state is losing the ability to govern, while Washington intensifies its incursions.” Said Communist Party head Jaime Caycedo, “No Colombian can accept foreign armies.”

LaRouche Warns Against Such Stupidity

Blowhards proposing that even a couple hundred U.S. Special Forces could quickly recapture the kidnapped Americans held in Colombia’s southern jungles, know nothing about the terrain. The region is enormous, sparsely populated, and largely undeveloped. The FARC has operated there for years, using the region’s integrated river system

to move about. In April 2001, the Colombian Army, with U.S. intelligence support, did capture the “Pablo Escobar of Brazil,” Brazilian drug-trafficker Luiz Fernando da Costa (nicknamed Fernandinho Beira Mar), whom the FARC was protecting in an eastern area of this jungle. His capture, however, came at the end of a three-month campaign involving more than 3,000 Colombian troops, whose mission was to retake control over the portion of that jungle region from the FARC’s 16th Front.

These stepped-up provocations occur as South America is disintegrating, economically and politically. Four countries—Colombia, Argentina, Venezuela, and now Bolivia—are, to varying degrees, ungovernable, as two decades of looting under the International Monetary Fund have gutted their economies and national institutions. Similar chaos could break out in any of the other countries in the region, Chile included, on any given day. The drug cartels and narco-terrorists have moved into this institutional vacuum full force, and are making their grab for control of whole countries, as is seen in Bolivia.

Are Washington’s politicians so mad, as to imagine that sending in Special Forces can restore order in *this* situation, or force the FARC to negotiate?

U.S. retaliation is “idiocy,” Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche stated emphatically, during a Feb. 27 review of this South American powderkeg. The polarization of the continent between the Jacobins and narco-terrorists, on the one side, and neo-con imperialists and their lackeys, on the other side, is exactly what he warned against, LaRouche noted.

The alternative is not negotiations with the FARC, however, LaRouche said. Those (such as the Inter-American Dialogue, or Brazil’s Foreign Ministry, Itamaraty), who argue that negotiations with the FARC are a solution, must recognize that the FARC is not an honest negotiating body, but simply terrorists and drug-runners. Bogotá, if its military receives the logistical and intelligence help it requires from its neighbors, can take care of the problem.

LaRouche reiterated the urgency of removing the Chávez problem from the regional equation, by taking due note of and dealing with his insanity. Chávez is a lunatic, and his lunacy opens the door to operations against him by people in the United States who might want to bump him off, LaRouche emphasized. He appears to be trying to become the Salvador Allende of Venezuela, and worse. (In 1973, Chile’s President Allende was killed during Henry Kissinger’s coup d’état by Gen. Augusto Pinochet.) LaRouche reiterated what he had stated in December: That the only way to neutralize the Chávez danger, is to treat Chávez as a mentally unbalanced fool, who needs medical help, and thus remove him from the picture, before he provides opportunities for others to make him the excuse for their imperialist games. Those who refuse to recognize and use this flank, are only worsening the problem, LaRouche emphasized.

Pro-Drug Soros Ally Forced Out of UN Post

by Lotta-Stina Thronell

“Swedish Revelation Shakes Up the UN,” was the headline in *Svenska Dagbladet* on Feb. 4. The Swedish daily reported that Mike Trace, the United Kingdom’s former deputy drug czar and the newly appointed Head of Demand Reduction at the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime in Vienna, has been forced to leave his new post after revelations by the Swedish anti-legalization organization, the Hassela Nordic Network.

Parallel to getting his job at the UN Drug Control Program (UNDCP) last December, Trace was building an “informal” group in England—first called “Project X,” then “Initiative London,” and now “Forward Thinking on Drugs”—whose main sponsor, Trace himself has admitted, is George Soros, the infamous campaigner, through his Open Society Institute (OSI), for drug legalization.



George Soros, whose “fifth column” pro-drug ally was forced out of his UN post.

The sensational disclosures by the Hassela Nordic Network that Trace, in discussion with Soros and his collaborators, has assembled a secret network to pressure governments into legalizing drugs, led to Trace’s resigning from his posts at the UN, the European Union anti-drug European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) in Lisbon, and the U.K. National Treatment Agency.

The OSI openly campaigns for “harm reduction” and drug legalization, on the grounds that the war on drugs causes more harm than the drugs themselves. That lie, and the damage that drugs do, have been extensively documented by this magazine. “The London initiative is primarily funded by OSI, and has a budget for the first three to four months of \$200,000,” Trace told his friends at the Network of European Foundations, based in Brussels, in 2002. Trace and his allies, like Soros, support the legalization of drugs and are against the UN ten-year program, which began in 1998, for a “drug-free world.”

A ‘Fifth Column’

Last September, Trace sent a message to Aryeh Neier, president of Soros’ OSI, in which he bragged about his double

role as a “fifth column” inside the UNDCP: “In terms of my involvement, I think it would be of most use in the early stages providing advice and consultancy from behind the scenes, in the light of my continuing role as Chair of the European Monitoring Centre, my association with the U.K. government, and some work I am being asked to put together by the UNDCP in Vienna. This ‘fifth column’ role would allow me to oversee the setting up of the agency (I already have good quality individuals in mind with whom I could work in confidence on this) while promoting its aims subtly in the formal governmental settings. However, if you think it is important that I am publicly associated with the initiative from the start, then we could discuss this also.”

Keith Hellawell, the former U.K. drug czar (he resigned last year when the government reclassified cannabis, that is, legalized it) and Trace’s former boss, was quoted in the Nov. 5, 2002 *London Times*, answering the question, whether Trace, then the U.K. deputy drug czar, was in favor of legalization. “Well, he never said that. But Mike was very close to Mo [Mowlam, who was Hellawell’s boss in the Cabinet] and, of course, they both used cannabis, although Mo admitted it only after someone broke the story. So I had a deputy and a boss who both admitted using substances.”

What so far has been exposed is only the tip of the iceberg. One head has rolled, but the question is: Who is next?

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Non-Aligned Movement Revives A Voice for the Third World

by Mike Billington

With the collapse of the Soviet empire, leaving the United States as the “only superpower,” the historic role of the Non-Aligned Movement reached an impasse. NAM was created as an alliance of Third World nations, mostly former colonies of the European powers, which opposed the idea that each nation must choose sides in the “bipolar” division of the world into a communist bloc and a capitalist bloc, led by the Soviet Union and the United States. The inspiration for NAM came from the African-Asian Conference held in Bandung, Indonesia, in 1955, from which the “Spirit of Bandung” spread throughout the world, in a moment of hope that colonialism could be ended peacefully, and the Cold War superceded by global economic development (see accompanying article). That hope was crushed as the United States and the Soviet Union carried out “proxy wars” across Asia, Africa, and Ibero-America throughout the following 30 years. With colonialism ended (at least in its 19th-Century form), and with the end of the bipolar world, the Non-Aligned Movement appeared to have become an anachronism.

However, the 13th Summit of NAM, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Feb. 20-25, came at a moment in which the world is faced with the collapse of the world economic order, and the threat of a ruling faction in the United States asserting itself as a new imperial power, rejecting both the authority of the United Nations, and any moral law preventing the use of U.S. military power pre-emptively against sovereign states. The outgoing chairman of NAM, South Africa’s President Thabo Mbeki, and the incoming chairman, Malaysia’s Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, launched a campaign to revitalize NAM as a force in the world, to meet this deadly new crisis.

The 116 member states of NAM make up 60% of the world’s nations, with well over half the world’s population. Mbeki and Dr. Mahathir argued that the fight against colonialism was now a fight against a unilateralism threatening to impose a new imperialism upon the world. As Dr. Mahathir said in his Feb. 23 speech to the Business Forum on South-South Cooperation (a new institution established within the framework of NAM): “The domination of the world by a select few remains. This is evident in their control of the international media, and institutions which deal with issues of world security and economy. The Security Council and the



Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia: “Truly, the world is in a terrible mess. . . . We must revitalize the Non-Aligned Movement.”

Bretton Woods institutions remain under the firm grip of a few countries. . . . The fundamental challenge to our Movement remains that of addressing the domination of the world by a select few, now no longer divided into opposing blocs. We have lost the option to defect to the other side. The only way we can protect ourselves is to close ranks and adopt common stands.”

This common stand has two legs: common economic policies, and opposition to the doctrines of unilateralism and pre-emption. President Mbeki, in his Feb. 24 speech to the summit, called for “the determination to act together as we negotiate global agreements with the North,” and that “we do everything we can to protect and advance the principle and practice of multilateralism, against the tendency toward unilateralism.” He made repeated references to the “Spirit of Bandung,” arguing that globalization has created “gross economic and technological imbalances and inequities that . . . are worse today than they were in 1955.” Regional and South-South cooperation are essential, he said, while NAM “speaks with one voice” to achieve “a more equitable, global financial ar-

chitecture.”

Similarly, Dr. Mahathir’s summit speech pointed to the global economic crisis, “with huge deficits burdening countries, jobs lost and poverty increasing even in the rich countries. No new investments in foreign countries or at home. . . . Truly the world is in a terrible mess, a state that is worse than during the East-West confrontation, the Cold War. All the great hopes following the end of the Cold War have vanished. And with the terrorists and the anti-terrorists fumbling blindly in their fight against each other, normalcy will not return for quite a long time.”

His conclusion set the direction for the future: “We are not irrelevant, We are not anachronistic. We have a vision, the vision to build a new world order, a world order that is more equitable, more just; a world order which is above all free from the age-old belief that killing people is right, that it can solve the problems of relations between nations. For all these we must revitalize the Non-Aligned Movement. And that vitality can only come from closing ranks and acting together.”

Iraq, Palestine, and Zimbabwe

The NAM summit did not shy away from confronting the concrete cases of the new imperial danger. The threat of a U.S./British Commonwealth war against Iraq was the dominating concern of the entire conference, just as the danger of a U.S. war on China in the 1950s was a primary concern of the Bandung Conference. The “Statement on Iraq” issued by the summit noted with “grave concern” the unilateral pronouncements of President Bush and his allies in the world, welcomed Iraq’s open reception of the inspection regime, called for lifting of sanctions as the goal of the inspections, and demanded the “establishment in the Middle East of a weapons of mass destruction-free zone, which includes Israel.”

A “Statement on Palestine” denounced the “continued destruction and devastation of Palestinian society and the Palestinian Authority, being caused by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000,” and “strongly condemned the systematic human rights violations and reported war crimes that have been committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people.” It hit Israel’s undermining of the Oslo agreements and obstruction of peace efforts such as the Mitchell Commission’s recommendations and the so-called Quartet (UN, European Union, United States, and Russia), and listed the numerous United Nations resolutions demanding an end to the settlements and the occupation, which Israel has ignored for decades. It called for the UN and the International Criminal Court to act against Israel’s crimes and blatant disregard of the UN resolutions; and offered support to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, who submitted a paper to the summit but was prevented from attending by Israel.

The summit also spoke out on the situation in Zimbabwe,



South African President Thabo Mbeki exemplifies the great importance focussed by the Non-Aligned Movement as it met in Kuala Lumpur, on helping to stop a war in Iraq. Mbeki is seeking to hold Africa’s member-states of the UN Security Council to a firm “no,” backed by a resolution of 52 of 53 African heads of state.

which, by refusing to tolerate the continued stalling by the former colonial Lords in London in carrying out their agreements at the time of independence, has become a primary target of Western subversion and re-colonization in Africa. The Final Document of the NAM summit acknowledged the actions taken by Zimbabwe “in its endeavours at correcting historical injustices through the land redistribution programme,” and “condemned the unilateral imposition of targeted sanctions on Zimbabwe by the United States, Britain, the European Union, Switzerland, New Zealand, and Australia, in violation of the UN Charter.” It also expressed “dismay and great concern” at the International Monetary Fund and World Bank withdrawal of financial support, and demanded its restoration.

Malaysia will chair the NAM for the next three years, which is evidence that the institution will not stand still. Of the Declarations passed by the entire body of 116 member nations, Dr. Mahathir was most proud of the “Declaration on Continuing the Revitalization of the Non-Aligned Movement.” The members of the NAM know all too well that they cannot, on their own, achieve even the most immediate task before them: stopping the war in Iraq. But they also know that their voice, when unified as it is today, will be in harmony with those of goodwill in the advanced nations, and together they can change history.

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The Spirit of Bandung

This background history of the Non-Aligned Movement is taken from an article by Michael Billington published in EIR, Oct. 15, 1999.

The most important factor in the process leading to the 1955 Conference of Asian and African Nations was the fact that, in several cases, the colonial powers were simply defeated, militarily, despite their vastly superior technology. The Republic of Indonesia's victory against the Dutch in 1949 showed that nationalist military forces, with republican leadership, could defeat a European occupation army. India's Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had sponsored two Asian conferences, one in 1947 and another in 1949, aimed at forging Asian unity against colonialism, with the defense of Indonesia a primary focus. Indonesia's victory gave hope to colonial nations throughout the world. By 1953, it was clear to all but the blind, that the French in Vietnam were soon to face the same fate as the Dutch in Indonesia.

There were also serious changes taking place in all three of the nations which had been the pillars of FDR's Grand Design—the Soviet Union, China, and the United States. General Eisenhower was inaugurated as President in January 1953, Joseph Stalin died in March of that same year, and in China, Zhou Enlai's approach, toward "peaceful coexistence" with the West, was winning out over the advocates of sponsoring violent revolutions abroad.

Eisenhower had certain positive instincts in favor of technology-driven global development, as reflected in his "Atoms for Peace" policy to spread nuclear energy capacity worldwide to fuel industrialization. His military experience served him well in resisting British pressures aimed at drawing the United States into reckless and potentially disastrous military adventures. However, Eisenhower also had John Foster Dulles, and his brother CIA chief Allen Dulles, running his foreign policy.

Truman had appointed John Foster Dulles as Ambassador-at-Large in 1950, despite the fact that Dulles had been Roosevelt's sworn enemy. Dulles spearheaded the diplomatic side of Truman's McCarthyite Cold War—including the refusal to recognize the People's Republic of China. As the primary powerbrokers in the Republican Party, the Dulles brothers chose to sponsor Eisenhower's candidacy (over that of General MacArthur or Robert Taft), believing Eisenhower would be a weak President, and thus maximizing their own influence. The Dulles brothers ran the State Department and CIA as arms of London's Cold War strategy, while undermining the occasional positive impulses emerging from the President.

Stalin's death in 1953 led to proposals for an easing of tensions from the new Soviet leaders, proposals which were welcomed by Eisenhower. Détente was seriously discussed, including even a joint U.S./U.S.S.R. development program for China. John Foster Dulles was violently opposed to such ideas. He also tried to sabotage the armistice in Korea, by placing impossible demands on the Chinese. Eisenhower reined in his Secretary of State, at least in regard to Korea, in order to carry out his campaign pledge to end the war.

Dulles was extremely unhappy that the Chinese were even "allowed" to participate in the Korean armistice talks. In 1954, when the French were searching for a way out of Vietnam, Dulles reacted even more vehemently against the proposal for a conference in Geneva on Vietnam with China's participation. But he was again overridden by Eisenhower, and the 1954 Geneva talks proceeded.

Despite Dulles's efforts to isolate the Chinese at the Geneva Conference—including his ostentatious refusal to accept Zhou Enlai's outstretched hand—Zhou nonetheless established contacts within the U.S. delegation to the conference. As a result, the United States and China set up a process for regular formal (if unofficial) meetings in Geneva, beginning in August 1955 and lasting into the Kennedy administration. Zhou Enlai's personal leadership role within China was crucial in the move toward establishing normal relations with the West.

The Soviet-sponsored North Korean invasion of South Korea had occurred only months after the 1949 revolution in China. China's subsequent massive involvement in the Korean war, beginning in October 1950, cost the country dearly in lives and resources, aggravating the already massive task of reconstruction facing the new government. The ongoing wars in Korea and Vietnam served to promote the interests of the more radical voices within China, such as those who had denounced Nehru, Sukarno, and Burma's U Nu as puppets of imperialism. With the Korean armistice in 1953, Zhou Enlai's approach, advocating peaceful coexistence with China's neighbors and the Western powers, rose in influence within China, such that by 1956 Zhou was Premier, Foreign Minister, and the second-ranking member of the hierarchy after Mao Zedong.

In April 1954, just before the Geneva Conference on Vietnam, Zhou initiated bilateral agreements with India and with Burma which established the first expression of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. The Five Principles declared mutual respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, equality, and non-interference in internal affairs. This initiative by Zhou, Nehru, and U Nu, would become a central concept motivating the Spirit of Bandung.

The day before the opening of the Geneva Conference, the Vietnamese Army under General Giap overran the French position at Dien Bien Phu. Dulles's position—his "brinkmanship"—was essentially defaulted on the field of battle. Zhou Enlai, rather than gloating, used his influence to persuade



Leaders at the Bandung conference in 1955. From left: Indonesian President Sukarno and his wife; Indonesian Vice President Hatta and his wife; Ne Win of Burma and his wife; Indian Prime Minister Jawarhalal Nehru. Sukarno, in his opening speech, described the conference as “the first international conference of colored peoples in the history of mankind.”

Ho Chi Minh to accept a compromise, allowing a continued French presence in South Vietnam pending a national election within 24 months. Zhou believed that any more militant stance would push the United States toward the Dulles policy, and U.S. forces would simply move in to replace the French. He hoped that a temporary peace based on a divided Vietnam and neutrality in Cambodia and Laos, as was established at Geneva, would allow time for broader agreements on regional and international development, even though the Vietnam settlement itself was full of loopholes and uncertainties, and wasn't even signed by most of the participants. The stage was set for Bandung.

The original idea for an Asian-African meeting came from Indonesian Prime Minister Ali Sastroamidjojo at a meeting of the Colombo group, comprising India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma, and Indonesia—an alliance of formerly colonized nations. The proposed conference was to be the first time that nations of the Third World had met together, without the Western powers present. Sukarno described it in his opening speech as “the first international conference of colored peoples in the history of mankind.”²⁹

The unifying principles were anti-colonialism and the commitment to peace and development in nations which had won their independence. But the most crucial strategic issue

in the minds of the conference initiators was the threat of a U.S.-China war. The initial statement calling for the conference to be held in Bandung in April 1955, included a reference to “the desire of the five sponsors to lay a firmer foundation for China’s peaceful relations with the rest of the world, not only with the West, but equally with themselves and other areas of Southeast Asia peripheral to China.”

George Kahin, an American scholar who attended Bandung and interviewed many of the leading participants, said that the conference initiators were concerned both with war avoidance, especially in regard to U.S.-China relations, and the curtailment of Chinese and Vietnamese military and political sponsorship of subversive activities in Southeast Asia. This was hardly a “pro-communist China” grouping, but, as Nehru told his Congress Party after the 1954 China-India agreement on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, China should have a chance to prove itself.

The twenty-nine nations from Asia, the Arab world, and Black Africa who attended the conference had many serious differences, especially in regard to alliances with either the West or with the Soviet bloc, which threatened to disrupt their unity of purpose. These conflicts resulted in an extraordinary process of constructive dialogue and diplomacy, with Zhou Enlai, the head of China’s delegation, exerting exceptional leadership. But before examining that dialogue, a review of the opening speech by President Sukarno, the host, will demonstrate the level of consciousness of the world historic nature of the undertaking by the participants themselves.

29. All the following quotes from the Asian-African Conference are from: George M. T. Kahin, *The Asian-African Conference; Southeast Asia Progress* (Ithaca: Cornell University, 1955).

Sukarno, speaking in the city where he had been introduced to the struggle against colonialism, called on the nations of Asia and Africa to take world leadership to project reason and moral strength into a world of chaos:

Great chasms yawn between nations and groups of nations. Our unhappy world is torn and tortured, and the peoples of all countries walk in fear lest, through no fault of their own, the dogs of war are unchained once again. . . . The nations of Asia and Africa cannot, even if they wish to, avoid their part in finding solutions to these problems. . . . We have heavy responsibilities to ourselves, and to the world, and to the yet unborn generations.

The peoples of Asia and Africa wield little physical power. . . . What can we do? We can do much! We can inject the voice of reason into world affairs. We can mobilize all the spiritual, all the moral, all the political strength of Asia and Africa on the side of peace. Yes, we! We the peoples of Asia and Africa, 1.4 billion strong, far more than half the human population of the world, we can mobilize what I have called the Moral Violence of Nations in favor of peace.

He referenced Franklin Delano Roosevelt, without needing to speak his name: “We are living in a world of fear. . . . Perhaps this fear is a greater danger than the danger itself.”

Sukarno’s tribute to the American Revolution was a stirring call to arms:

Today is a famous anniversary in that battle [against colonialism]. On the 18th of April, 1775, just 180 years ago, Paul Revere rode at midnight through the New England countryside, warning of the approach of the British troops and of the opening of the American War of Independence, the first successful anti-colonialist war in history. About this midnight ride the poet Longfellow wrote:

“A cry of defiance and not of fear,
“A voice in the darkness, a knock at the door,
“And a word that shall echo for evermore. . . .”

Yes, it shall echo forevermore. That battle which began 180 years ago is not yet completely won.

He identified neo-colonialism at its roots—the free trade dogma of the British colonial system:

Colonialism has also its modern dress, in the form of economic control, intellectual control, actual physical control by a small but alien community within a nation. . . . It behooves us to take particular care to ensure that the principle which is usually called the “live and let live

principle”—mark, I do not say the principle of *laissez-faire*, *laissez-passer*, of Liberalism, which is obsolete—is first of all applied by us most completely within our own Asian and African frontiers.

As with Roosevelt, Sukarno knew that China’s Republican hero Sun Yat-sen would be recognized by his words alone:

Bear in mind the words of one of Asia’s greatest sons:
To speak is easy. To act is hard. To understand is hardest. Once one understands, action is easy.

Sukarno concluded with an appeal to the liberation of the human spirit, applying his *Panca Sila* (Five Principles) to the universal family of mankind:

The highest purpose of man is the liberation of man from his bonds of fear, his bonds of human degradation, his bonds of poverty—the liberation of man from the physical, spiritual and intellectual bonds which have for too long stunted the development of humanity’s majority. And let us remember, Sisters and Brothers, that for the sake of all that, we Asians and Africans must be united.

Although Bandung is generally considered to be the beginning of what came to be called the Non-Aligned Movement, the question of non-alignment was actually the most contentious issue at the conference. Prime Minister Nehru was the most passionate advocate of non-alignment, arguing that picking sides in the Cold War would prevent economic development and inevitably lead to World War III: “If all the world were to be divided up between these two big power blocs . . . the inevitable result would be war. Therefore, every step that takes place in reducing that area in the world which may be called the unaligned area is a dangerous step and leads to war.”

Contrary to most Soviet historical accounts of Nehru’s position at Bandung, he did not single out the Western military blocs as the only problem. NATO, said Nehru, “is one of the most powerful protectors of colonialism.” But he believed that it was equally true that the “Cominform”—the bloc of communist nations formed in 1947—“cannot in the nature of things fit in with peaceful coexistence.” Nehru told the Bandung delegates: “I belong to neither [bloc], and I propose to belong to neither whatever happens in the world. . . . India has stood alone without any aid against a mighty empire, the British Empire, and we propose to face all consequences. . . .

“Are we, the countries of Asia and Africa, devoid of any positive position except being pro-communist or anti-communist? . . . It is most degrading and humiliating to any self-respecting people or nation. It is an intolerable thought to me that the great countries of Asia and Africa should come

out of bondage into freedom only to degrade themselves or humiliate themselves in this way.”

The resistance to non-alignment came primarily from the Asian members of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO). SEATO was put together by the British and John Foster Dulles immediately after the Geneva agreement on Vietnam, as an anti-communist bloc. It served to place the United States in a direct military alliance with the colonial powers in Asia, Britain and France, along with the Commonwealth countries Australia and New Zealand. The only Asian members were Thailand, Pakistan, and the Philippines.

The opposition to non-alignment by these three Asian nations was not, however, merely paying obeisance to their Western allies. Several smaller nations argued that India was a huge nation, with the capacity to defend itself against powerful enemies, but that smaller nations could not afford the luxury of non-alignment in the Cold War environment of the 1950s. Thailand, in particular, was legitimately concerned about Chinese support for communist insurgency movements in the country and on its borders. Prince Sihanouk of Cambodia had similar concerns. Prince Wan Waithayakon, representing Thailand, told the conference that the Vietminh forces had militarily occupied portions of Laos in 1953 and 1954, and were only a few miles from the Thai border. They could not be disregarded as a threat, said the Prince, of either subversion or even direct aggression. He protested the fact that Pridi Bhanomyong, the former Prime Minister and Free Thai leader, was in exile in China, and was reported to be organizing Chinese of Thai ethnicity for subversion against the government of Thailand.

Connected to the fear of Chinese-sponsored subversion across Southeast Asia was the question of the Chinese diaspora. Millions of ethnic Chinese lived throughout the region, and, although a minority, they played a disproportionately significant role in the business activities in each country. Under the Chinese Nationalist government, both on the mainland before 1949, and later in Taiwan, the overseas Chinese were recognized as citizens of China, regardless of their place of birth. This issue of “dual citizenship” posed a serious dilemma to Southeast Asia’s national leaders, who sometimes questioned the patriotism of the Chinese minority. The possibility that that minority might support communist insurgency, supported by the government in Beijing, was not paranoid or racist speculation. Forming a military alliance with the Western powers, it was argued, was the only defense available to small nations against such dangers from China or from “world communism.”

At Bandung, Zhou Enlai did not try to deny that such concerns were legitimate. His critical contribution to the conference was the pursuit of solutions to such problems based on the common interests of all nations—including the Western powers. He appealed directly to participants to “facilitate the settlement of disputes between the U.S. and China by peaceful means,” and insisted, “We have no bamboo curtain.” He said

that China’s “struggle against colonialism lasted more than 100 years,” and he pledged that China would not do anything for the expansion of communist activities outside its territory. He quoted Confucius, who said, “Do not do unto others what you yourself do not desire.”

Zhou met privately with Prince Sihanouk and Prince Wan, as well as the delegates from Pakistan, the Philippines, and Laos, assuring them that China was anxious to reach agreements based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. He invited Prince Wan to visit China, and to inspect the newly established Thai ethnic autonomous region of Sipsongpanna in Yunnan Province, to confirm that there were no subversive activities or intentions.

He announced that China was prepared to solve the dual nationality problem, which he described as “something left behind by Old China.” Agreements were set in motion such that ethnic Chinese born in Southeast Asia would choose one or another nationality. (Such a choice was also complicated by the pretense of “two Chinas,” because the UN still followed the U.S. policy of recognizing the Nationalist government in Taiwan as the legitimate representative of all China.)

Historian Kahin’s appraisal at the conclusion of the Bandung Conference was that Zhou Enlai “had done much to convince previously skeptical delegates that Nehru’s thesis was plausible, and that peaceful coexistence with Communist China might be possible after all.”

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LaRouche Becoming the Issue In the Democratic Party

by EIR Staff

Lyndon LaRouche, who is seeking the 2004 Democratic Presidential nomination, returned on Feb. 23-25 to the state of Arkansas, where he garnered more than 22% of the vote in the last Democratic Presidential primary. It was the Gore machine's suicidal response to LaRouche's strong showing in Arkansas in 2000 that political insiders say ultimately cost Gore, and the Democratic Party, the Presidency. If the dramatic events that unfolded during LaRouche's weekend swing through the state are any indication, not much has changed. LaRouche's support has not only not diminished, but has grown in both depth and breadth, and the Washington, D.C.-centered Democratic Party establishment, with its lingering ties to the Gore-Lieberman organized-crime-linked machine, seems to have learned little from its past fatal errors.

The Democratic Party is beginning to fissure on the issue of Lyndon LaRouche, as his Jan. 28th State of the Union speech on the war and the economy is circulating to thousands of Democratic National Committee (DNC) members, delegates, and labor and Black Caucus leaders. The candidate is being interviewed and invited by local and state Democratic leaders while the DNC continues its suicidal campaign to ban LaRouche and his influence from the Party. At the DNC's Winter meeting Feb. 22-23, even as LaRouche headed to Arkansas to speak, DNC Chairman Terry McAuliffe used police and security officers in an attempt to ban LaRouche Youth Movement organizers from the entire hotel where the meeting was held, even though they were the majority of the young Democratic campaigners seeking to attend the meeting. The attacks on LaRouche and his youth movement at the DNC meeting are making LaRouche the issue and are amplifying his effect.

The candidate's Presidential campaign committee, LaRouche in 2004, having mailed his State of the Union and his open letter to the DNC, to all DNC members and delegates

to the 2000 Democratic Party National Convention, is now sending them out to more than 3,500 Democratic state legislators.

An Omen for the Presidency

On Sunday morning, Feb. 23, the Rev. Dr. Henry "Hank" Wilkins, IV, who also serves in the Arkansas State Senate and chairs the Legislative Black Caucus, welcomed the Presidential candidate at the historic Saint James United Methodist Church in Pine Bluff. LaRouche was the guest of honor at a service delivered largely by the congregation's youthful members, and was treated to a series of musical and spiritual offerings by the youth, prior to Dr. Wilkins' inspiring and uplifting sermon. LaRouche briefly addressed those gathered, telling them, "I take you all into my heart," before proceeding to a welcoming reception where members of the congregation warmly reciprocated. The parishioners told LaRouche that since former President and Arkansas native Bill Clinton always took the time to visit Saint James, they took this visit not only as a symbol of LaRouche's goodwill, but as an omen that he would soon take the Presidency.

Many members of the congregation returned to the Pine Bluff Convention Center that evening, where LaRouche joined State Sen. Hank Wilkins, Rep. Calvin Johnson, Rep. Booker Clemmons, and Pine Bluff City Councilman John Foster in a town meeting attended by a broad collection of elected officials, labor, civic, and community leaders, and political activists. LaRouche listened carefully as the meeting participants detailed the impact of the social and economic crises they faced, and as they demanded solutions from the elected officials with whom he shared the podium. When LaRouche's turn finally came to speak, he told them in the bluntest terms that he had both bad news and good news for them.



Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche spoke on Feb. 23 to a town meeting in Pine Bluff, Arkansas organized by the chairman of the state's Legislative Black Caucus, State Senator Rev. Henry Wilkins IV. It was part of a dense schedule of meetings in LaRouche's three-day visit to the state.

LaRouche didn't mince words in telling his audience that their problems were the result of a global collapse caused by decades of bad policies. He told them that right now, the economy is hopelessly bankrupt and that no fewer than 46 out of 50 states are in what he called "an impossible situation." But, he stressed, it is a situation that can be fixed. LaRouche detailed a clear pathway out of the crisis, relying heavily on lessons learned from the experiences and leadership of Franklin D. Roosevelt during the Great Depression of the 1930s. He said the problem we face right now, is that our nation is led by "idiots influenced by criminals," who are ignoring the economic catastrophe in favor of fixating on an insane drive toward war.

The *Pine Bluff Commercial* daily, under the headline "U.S. Economy Doomed," reported that "LaRouche spoke to at least 50 who turned out on a dreary, rainy evening to hear a self-described blunt, truthful, successful forecaster tell them the leading banks and Federal Reserve system in the United States are bankrupt. . . . 'We need growth,' LaRouche said, 'and we're all suffering, all over the world. Right now, we can get by, but by the 2004 election, we have to change this country. The problem is this obsession with war. There's a lunatic in Washington, influenced by criminals, who wants an unnecessary war in Iraq.'

"'Where's the news about the economy,' he asked, 'and what are they doing about it in Washington? Believe me, potential resources to help the states exist with long-term credit from the federal government, but the feds don't want to admit we're in a depression. We've already looted the

world and now everything is collapsing,' he said. If the government does not re-regulate, LaRouche said, as in Franklin Roosevelt's day, the economy will not survive. . . . 'You cannot balance the budget,' he said, 'and Roosevelt faced this, but he was committed to the needs of the general welfare. He took emergency measures and we need to do that now. America has problems—health care, transportation, water—and a national education crisis. We're testing, not teaching.' "

'It's As Bad As I Tell You'

LaRouche held the rapt attention of his audience in Pine Bluff as he promised them that "the situation is as bad as I tell you, and the options are as good as I promised," provided the American people follow his leadership.

During the question period that followed, LaRouche had the opportunity to go into greater detail as to the cause of the current crisis, as well as to give people a more in-depth understanding

of what would be necessary to find a safe pathway out. He ripped into the corruption of the leadership of both parties, and their ties to organized crime figure Marc Rich, whose rigged pardon was a set-up to destroy President Bill Clinton's influence as Clinton left the Presidency.

LaRouche also addressed the deeper issues imbedded in America's institutions, addressing the immortality of the human soul and the fight for our posterity. The audience was swept up in a discussion that began with Book 2 of Plato's



LaRouche met Democrats in Pine Bluff, addressed the state's Black Caucus in Little Rock, and held a series of private meetings. He met a warm response, despite hostility from the Democratic National Committee in Washington.

Republic, and travelled ahead to the life of Jeanne D'Arc and the tragedy of Shakespeare's Hamlet. Many in the audience compared LaRouche's remarks to the famous "walk through world history" in Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's address to the Memphis sanitation workers, the night before he was brutally assassinated in April 1968.

On Feb. 24, LaRouche travelled to Little Rock, where he addressed the Legislative Black Caucus, despite the fact that state Democratic Party officials, fresh from the DNC Winter Meetings in Washington, engaged in a frantic last-minute attempt to stop him from doing so. (At the DNC meetings, Arkansas state chairman Ron Oliver, who preaches an "all-inclusive Democratic Party," had threatened to have the LaRouche youth arrested to keep them out.)

The *Times Record* of Fort Smith reported from Little Rock that "Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche told black lawmakers Monday that improving transportation infrastructure, such as the railway system and the air transportation industry, is key to rebuilding the U.S. economy. LaRouche, a

guest of Rep. Hank Wilkins, IV (D-Pine Bluff), at the Legislative Black Caucus, said the United States and Europe are in a 'terminal general financial crisis' that is not being addressed because of homeland security concerns and a pending war in Iraq. To correct the sagging economy, he suggested pumping money into infrastructure projects, like Franklin D. Roosevelt did during the Depression. He said states could pool their resources and borrow money from the government for such projects.

" 'Much of this has to be done at the state level,' " the newspaper quoted the candidate. " 'That is, many of the programs which are required to bring the level of the tax revenue base of the state up to a durably manageable level will require large-scale basic economic infrastructure programs as a leading feature. This means transportation, this means water management, this means generation and distribution of power, this means health care, which is a disaster now, and it means areas of education.' LaRouche got 22 percent of the vote in the 2000 Democratic state primary, won by Vice President Al Gore. Despite qualifying for the state ballot in Arkansas

'To Deal With a Depression'

Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche spoke to members of the Black Caucus of Arkansas, in Pine Bluff on Feb. 24.

Chairman Wilkins, members of the Caucus, thank you for inviting me here. I'll concentrate my remarks in four areas, essentially.

One, is that the United States, along with other nations, especially those of Europe, and the other states of the Americas, are now in the early phase of a *terminal* general economic, financial crisis. At this time, the Federal government has not acknowledged that. The present Administration, in particular, and the Congress, in general, have been so tied up with issues of security, and the questions of war, that these issues of the economy have not been brought into the Federal government. Whereas, on the state level—and especially among about 46 of the 50 states—the recognition of the crisis is clear, though the definition of the causes and nature of the crisis is not yet clear.

It is obvious to me, that what we have to do is, look back at the 1930s, and look at what Franklin Roosevelt did, not as a matrix for what we have to do, but as an area of study for precedents, to deal with a depression of as great a severity as that of the 1929-1933 period.

Much of this has to be done on the state level. That is, many of the programs which are required, to bring the level

of the tax revenue base of the state up to a durably manageable level, will require large-scale, basic economic infrastructure programs as a leading feature. This means transportation. This means water management. This means generation and distribution of power. This means health care, which is a disaster now. This also means areas of education.

The states do not have the ability to raise money for expansion-growth programs, in terms of their present laws and resources. Therefore, they will rely upon the Federal government's Constitutional authority to generate credit, national credit, to be shared with the states, in support of programs which will be largely utility programs, regulated utility programs, of state governments.

A Super-TVA

The pressure for such action is going to increase. States are attempting to balance their budgets. In the short term, this state, as others, may be able to get through the period of crisis, temporarily. But the level of crisis is going to increase. And measures taken in the short term, in the months ahead, will not be durable. Therefore, we're going to have to go to the more fundamental issues. This means that the Federal government must be forced to recognize the reality of the present international and national financial, monetary, and economic crisis. We're going to have to have bank reorganization on a large scale, on the Federal level.

But as long as the government is looking only at so-called security measures, and foreign policy issues, warfare, and so forth, the tendency is, in the Federal govern-

as a Democrat, LaRouche was not recognized by the national Democratic Party.

LaRouche Was Key in Arkansas in 2000

Following his address to the Black Caucus, LaRouche was officially introduced to both the Arkansas State Senate and House of Representatives, where he was greeted by warm applause. Following a series of private meetings, LaRouche continued his dialogue with Arkansas' political elite in a reception that turned into a two-hour in-depth discussion of his policies for the nation.

LaRouche's hosts were delighted with the way their constituents responded to his visit, and angered by the strong-arm tactics of the party bureaucracy. In the 2000 Arkansas Democratic Primary, at the insistence of the Gore-Lieberman apparatus, Party officials behaved in a similar manner when they discounted the votes of 53,150 Arkansas Democrats who voted for LaRouche. Later, during the general election, Gore lost the state of Arkansas by almost precisely that number of votes. Had that not occurred, Gore would have had sufficient

electoral votes, despite the loss in Florida, which had been considered a swing state in any case, to win the Presidency.

A further sign of LaRouche's powerful influence in the crisis is the announced program of Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio), who chairs the House Progressive Caucus and is weighing a Presidential bid. Kucinich's website says, "I see a newly rebuilt America. I see a new horizon where America provides a means to have massive public works to rebuild our cities, our water systems, our public transportation systems, our schools, our parks, our public energy systems. Nearly \$150 billion is needed over 20 years to repair and provide for adequate wastewater treatment systems. Another \$120 billion is needed for drinking water systems. We need a new financial mechanism to get money to cities and states to begin rebuilding and to put America back to work. The Federal government can give cities and states loans for infrastructure programs to be repaid over a period of 30 years, at zero interest. . . . A Federal Bank for Infrastructure Maintenance would administer a program of lending \$50 billion per year to state and local governments."



Lyndon LaRouche in discussion with members of the Arkansas Black Caucus, and (inset) local coverage of his talk.

crisis. We have a United Airlines reorganization scheme, which is actually disastrous in its present form, because it tends to put United Airlines in the position of cannibalizing the trade of airlines which are not in bankruptcy reorganization. American Airlines is also in trouble. Therefore, our air traffic system, air transport system, as well as our railway system, is in a state of crisis. In terms of power, as a result of deregulation, excessive deregulation, we now have a situation—as in California, a typical case—we have a *breakdown* in the ability to

generate and distribute power in the degree needed to meet local needs.

ment, to give no serious attention to these matters; whereas, on the state level, there is screaming and hollering. Some of the states don't have the right idea. What I'm doing, in particular, is, I've presented an outline of what I've sometimes called, for convenience, a Super-TVA, an array of programs which are of a type which have already been thoroughly researched by various kinds of government agencies, which must be implemented.

For example. Our present rail transport system is disintegrating. The Amtrak system is about to collapse, unless Federal action is taken. Our air transport system is in a

So, in general, we have a problem. We must increase Federal support for restructuring programs, which will affect, largely, the states, and utility and related programs of states—public utilities. These include these areas of traditional infrastructure, especially. And without this increase in the tax revenue base, through increase of employment, we have a social crisis in the United States as severe as that Franklin Roosevelt faced in 1933, and probably worse.

Thank you.

Nuclear First-Strike Plan: It Keeps Getting Scarier

by Jeffrey Steinberg

In the third week of February a number of newspapers in the United States and Great Britain published segments of a Pentagon document, suggesting that the Bush Administration is moving ahead with plans to develop a new generation of “mini” nuclear weapons, to be used against “Third World despots” who collude with terrorists and possess weapons of mass destruction—i.e., Saddam Hussein’s Iraq.

The Jan. 10, 2003 memo from Dr. Dale Klein outlined plans for an August 2003 conference at the Omaha, Nebraska headquarters of the U.S. Strategic Command, where scientists and military planners will gather to make decisions on the production and deployment of a new generation of “mini” nuclear bombs, “bunker busters” and other nuclear devices that will become part of the U.S. military’s arsenal of *offensive* weapons. No longer is the first use of nuclear weapons a taboo. No longer will the United States refrain from the use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear nations, unless the madness is stopped.

Already, a number of prominent Democrats, including 2004 Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche, and Senators Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), are making a big stink over this insane utopian shift in policy. LaRouche has identified the push for the use of nuclear weapons against Iraq as an outrageous move that can backfire to stop the war drive now. Senators Kennedy and Feinstein are reportedly circulating a draft resolution among Senate colleagues, to also take up the issue. And senior Democratic Party figures, in the circles of former President Bill Clinton, have confirmed that there is intense debate and worry behind the scenes, over the Bush Administration war party’s being just insane enough to actually use such nuclear weapons in an attack on Iraq. The prospect of the United States using nuclear weapons against Iraq adds a new, even more horrifying dimension to the threat of war in the Persian Gulf. LaRouche has already called on President Bush to renounce this madness.

The Path to Destruction

The leak of the Jan. 10, 2003 memo did not come out of the blue. For the past year, the Bush Administration has been moving, step by step, to overturn a 50-year policy of keeping nuclear weapons on the shelf as part of America’s strategic deterrent. Here is a short chronology:

- In January 2002, the Bush Administration issued its

Nuclear Posture Review, a Congressionally mandated report on the U.S. nuclear weapons program. For the first time, the 2002 report openly discussed the possible use of nuclear weapons, naming seven countries that could be targets of the American nuclear arsenal: Russia, China, Iraq, Iran, North Korea, Libya, and Syria.

- On Feb. 22, 2002, John Bolton, a leading Administration chicken-hawk, who runs the arms control and disarmament office at the State Department, gave an interview to the *Washington Times*, in which he boasted about the Bush Administration’s intent to use nuclear weapons, under certain circumstances. He candidly told the *Times* that the world had changed so dramatically on Sept. 11, 2001, that it was no longer unthinkable to use nuclear arms against rogue states thought to possess weapons of mass destruction. Bolton said that to continue with the doctrine of no first use of nuclear weapons reflected “an unrealistic view of the international situation. The idea that fine theories of deterrence work against everybody, which is implicit in the negative security assurances, has just been disproven by Sept. 11.” He concluded paradoxically, “What we are attempting to do is create a situation where nobody uses weapons of mass destruction of any kind.”

It is no coincidence that Bolton’s chief deputy at the State Department is David Wurmser, one of the authors, along with Richard Perle and Doug Feith, of the 1996 “Clean Break” report to then-Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. It called on Israel to abrogate the Oslo Accords, launch preemptive war on the Palestinian Authority, and drive America into an armed attack on Iraq.

- On Sept. 14, 2002, President Bush signed a secret document, National Security Presidential Directive 17, which stated in part: “The United States will continue to make clear that it reserves the right to respond with overwhelming force—including potentially nuclear weapons—to the use of [weapons of mass destruction] against the United States, our forces abroad, and friends and allies.”

- On Dec. 11, 2002, the Bush Administration released a declassified version of NSPD-17, under the title “National Strategy to Combat Weapons of Mass Destruction.” The reference to the use of nuclear weapons was not included in the declassified version, but instead said that the government would “resort to all of our options,” an only slightly camouflaged version of the same idea.



John Bolton, who runs the State Department's Office of Arms Control and Disarmament, boasted to the press on Feb. 22 that the Bush Administration intends to use nuclear weapons first under certain circumstances, including against non-nuclear states.



Vice President Cheney's chief of staff, Lewis Libby, co-authored a plan for American military empire 12 years ago, in April 1991, when Cheney was Secretary of Defense. That plan included use of a "new generation of nuclear weapons" in war with nations which would challenge U.S. global supremacy.

- On Jan. 31, 2003, the *Washington Times* published a front-page story, revealing the existence of NSPD-17, which warned, "The disclosure of the classified text follows newspaper reports that the planning for a war with Iraq focuses on using nuclear arms not only to defend U.S. forces, but also to pre-empt deeply buried Iraqi facilities that could withstand conventional explosives."

- On Feb. 19, 2003, the London *Guardian* was the first newspaper to publish the Jan. 10, 2003 Pentagon minutes of the planning for the Omaha session in August. The *Guardian* and other major newspapers have received copies of Dr. Klein's memorandum from Greg Mello, who heads a group called the Los Alamos Study Group, which initially received the leak.

A Decade-Old Plot

The push for a new generation of nuclear weapons, to be used as part of America's offensive military arsenal, has been under way for a decade. It first surfaced in the immediate aftermath of the 1991 Persian Gulf War, just as the current Bush Administration's supposedly "new" national security doctrine of preventive war was first promoted by Dick Cheney, Paul Wolfowitz, Lewis Libby, Eric Edelman, and Zalmay Khalilzad back in 1991, when they were all together at the Pentagon.

In April 1991, shortly after Operation Desert Storm, then-Secretary of Defense Cheney commissioned a study of how the United States should respond to the new military strategic reality of the fall of the Soviet Union, leaving the U.S.A. as the world's unchallenged military superpower. Wolfowitz, then Assistant Secretary of Defense for Policy, teamed up with his deputies Libby, Edelman, and Khalilzad, and presented Cheney with a plan for an American military empire, striking out against any nation or alliance of nations threatening American military hegemony. The use of a new generation of nuclear weapons was included in the proposed new arsenal.

In 1992, when Cheney and his cohorts attempted to in-

clude the idea of preventive war, and the offensive use of mini-nukes in their draft Defense Planning Guidance, the proposal was vetoed by President George H.W. Bush, at the urging of his top national security aides, Gen. Brent Scowcroft and James Baker III.

Nevertheless, in January 1993, after Bush had been defeated by Bill Clinton, Cheney did put the same utopian ideas into his final policy pronouncement, "Defense Strategy for the 1990s: The Regional Defense Strategy." The document read in part, "In the decade ahead, we must adopt the right combination of deterrent forces, tactical and strategic . . . to mitigate risk from weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, whatever the source. For now this requires retaining ready forces for a survivable nuclear deterrent, including tactical forces. In addition, we must complete needed force modernization and upgrades."

While the language was vague to the average reader, it was crystal clear to the utopians among the defense planners and scientists. By October 1991, the Strategic Air Command of the U.S. Air Force had already commissioned a study on the future uses of mini-nuclear weapons, and two scientists from Los Alamos National Labs had published a declassified study, calling for the development and deployment of "mini," "micro," and "tiny" nuclear bombs.

Of course, the architects of this madness back in 1991-93 are now back in power again. Cheney is Vice President, his chief of staff and chief national security advisor is Lewis Libby, Paul Wolfowitz is Deputy Secretary of Defense, and Eric Edelman is one of Libby's chief strategists at the Vice President's Office. Zalmay Khalilzad is the Bush Administration's liaison to the Iraqi opposition.

At a Feb. 4, 2003 forum at the Willard Hotel in Washington, Michael Ledeen, a leading chicken-hawk and self-proclaimed "universal fascist," bluntly stated that if the United States launches a war against Iraq—which he fully endorses—it will, in reality, be a regional war, also targeting Iran, Syria, Lebanon, and even Saudi Arabia. If the utopian schemers in the Bush Pentagon are not stopped, they may trigger more than a regional war. As Lyndon LaRouche has warned, repeatedly, this could be the trigger for World War III. And it could be a nuclear war.

The Ghost of Bertrand Russell Stalks Cheney-Rumsfeld Pentagon

by Jeffrey Steinberg

The United States nuclear weapons policy known as the “negative security assurance” aimed at stopping the proliferation of nuclear weapons and encouraging all nations not currently possessing nuclear weapons to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and other treaties, was publicly promulgated a quarter-century ago. On June 12, 1978, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance addressed the United Nations Security Council and delivered a pledge from the U.S. government that America would never use nuclear weapons against a non-nuclear power, except under the unique circumstances of that country joining with one of the nuclear powers in an attack on the U.S.A. or its allies.

In 1995, Secretary of State Warren Christopher reaffirmed Washington’s commitment to the negative security assurance, and on April 11, 1995, the other four permanent members of the UN Security Council (China, Russia, Great Britain, and France), all nuclear powers, ratified a Security Council resolution embracing the same principle.

But on Feb. 22, 2002, John Bolton, the senior arms control and disarmament official at the State Department, and a leading neo-conservative hawk, repudiated the negative security assurance as “an unrealistic view of the international situation,” in the aftermath of Sept. 11. Bolton’s announcement that the Bush Administration was abandoning a 24-year U.S. policy that had been endorsed by all of the UN Security Council Permanent Five, was no isolated act of utopian hubris on his part. A month earlier, the Administration had provided the Congress with its Nuclear Posture Review, which had openly discussed the use of nuclear weapons against seven countries—Russia, China, Iraq, Iran, North Korea, Libya, and Syria—only two of which provably had nuclear weapons.

An in-depth review by *EIR* has turned up chilling evidence that a group of utopian war planners, who now hold critical posts in the Pentagon civilian bureaucracy and in the Office of the Vice President, have been promoting a new U.S. imperial doctrine of offensive nuclear war against Third World targets for a dozen years, and are now well on the way to putting their mad scheme into practice. As bad as the Dr. Strangelove Cold War doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) was, these utopians are now promoting a doctrine of “Unilateral Assured Destruction,” to literally terrorize the world into submitting to a new, mini-nuke-armed Pax Americana.

Russian Academician and former Defense Minister offi-

cial Gen. Leonid Ivashov was correct, in early 2002, in denouncing the new utopian “mini-nuke” scheme as a form of Malthusian warfare. Such madness has not been seen since Lord Bertrand Russell, at the close of World War II, called for the U.S.A. to use its monopoly on nuclear weapons to pre-emptively attack the Soviet Union and establish an Anglo-American-run world government.

‘Nukes in the New World Order’

The corpse of the Soviet empire had not yet been interred when the Russellite idea of pre-emptive nuclear war began to be revived. According to Canadian arms control activist Dr. Fred Knelman, the March 1990 Joint Chiefs of Staff “Military Net Assessment” focused on “increasingly capable Third World threats” of developing weapons of mass destruction (WMD), and demanded that the United States retain and modernize a wide range of nuclear weapons.

Immediately after Operation Desert Storm, Secretary of the Air Force Donald Rice told Congress that the United States must “deter emerging regional nuclear capabilities.” In response, then-Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney issued a top-secret “Nuclear Weapons Employment Policy” (NUWEP), formally tasking military planning for the use of nuclear weapons against Third World nations thought to be capable of developing WMDs. In April 1991, Los Alamos National Laboratory issued the first written proposal for the development of a new generation of mini-nukes, for possible use against the Third World.

According to a retired senior military source familiar with these events, nuclear weapons designers and strategists at America’s leading government laboratories, fearing serious “peace dividend” budget cuts in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union, began aggressively promoting the need for such a new generation of mini-nukes, to provide a credible deterrent to Third World states, developing biological, chemical, and nuclear WMDs. The United States could never use strategic nuclear weapons against Third World targets, their argument went. Therefore, it needed to invest research and development dollars in the new generation of nuclear weapons that could credibly be used against Third World “rogue state” targets.

In the Summer of 1991, a team of Los Alamos nuclear weapons scientists delivered a briefing to the Defense Science

Board, provocatively titled “Potential Uses for Low-Yield Nuclear Weapons in the New World Order.” Gen. Lee Butler, who headed the Strategic Air Command (soon to be reinvented as the Strategic Command, StratCom), created a Deterrent Study Group, which reported its recommendations to SAC in Autumn of 1991. The panel was chaired by former Air Force Secretary Thomas Reed, and co-chaired by Col. Michael Wheeler. While Reed and Wheeler were the principal authors of the study, a curious list of advisors were tapped for their input, among them: John Deutch, future Deputy Defense Secretary and CIA Director; Fred Iklé, former Deputy Defense Secretary, co-chair of the Wohlstetter Commission, and suspected member of the “X Committee” of Israeli spies who ran Jonathan Pollard; current National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice; and future CIA Director R. James Woolsey.

The Reed Report recommended that U.S. nuclear weapons be retargeted at “every reasonable adversary around the globe,” and called for the creation of nuclear-armed strike forces to counter “nuclear weapons states [that] are likely to emerge.” It also recommended “first use” of nuclear weapons, where U.S. forces faced conventional “impending annihilation . . . at remote places around the globe,” according to William M. Arkin and Robert S. Norris, who wrote a scathing critique of the Reed Report in the April 1992 issue of *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* (“Tiny Nukes for Mini-Minds”).

Perhaps the most explicit statement to appear in the Reed Report promoting a new generation of exotic nuclear weapons was the following: “The technology is now in hand to develop power projection weapons and very low yield nuclear weapons in earth penetrators with precision guidance.”

Simultaneous to the Reed Report, two Los Alamos nuclear weapons scientists who had participated in the July 1991 Defense Science Board briefing, Thomas Dowler and Joseph Howard, published a provocative piece in the Autumn 1991 issue of *Strategic Review*, titled “Countering the Threat of the Well-Armed Tyrant: A Modest Proposal for Smaller Nuclear Weapons.” They argued, “The existing U.S. nuclear arsenal had no deterrent effect on Saddam and is unlikely to deter a future tyrant.” They argued for “the development of new nuclear weapons of very low yields, with destructive power proportional to the risks we will face in the new world environment,” and they specifically called for the development and deployment of “micro-nukes” (with explosive yield of 10 tons), “mini-nukes” (100 tons), and “tiny-nukes” (1 kiloton).

Dowler and Howard concluded: “We doubt that any President would authorize the use of the nuclear weapons in our present arsenal against Third World nations. It is precisely this doubt that leads us to argue for the development of sub-kiloton weapons.”

‘Bush 41’ Rebuffs the Madmen

At this time, the U.S. Air Force launched “Project PLYWD” (“Precision Low-Yield Weapons Design,” pronounced “Project Plywood”) to investigate “a credible option



The famous one-world Malthusian “pacifist” Bertrand Russell’s public demands for pre-emptive nuclear attacks on the Soviet Union, from 1946-50, are echoing in the halls of the Pentagon now.

to counter the employment of nuclear weapons by Third World nations.” PLYWD was the outgrowth of a Dec. 17, 1991 briefing by lab scientists and nuclear planners to a joint session of the Defense Science Board and the Defense Policy Board, on “potential NSNF (non-strategic nuclear forces) weapons concepts for the 21st Century,” according to a January 1993 *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* exposé by Arkin (“Nuclear Junkies: Those Lovable Little Bombs”).

In January 1992 testimony before the Congress, Reed let it all hang out: “It is not difficult to entertain a nightmarish vision, in which a future Saddam Hussein threatens American forces abroad, U.S. allies or friends, and perhaps even the U.S. itself, with nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons,” he railed. “If that were to happen, U.S. nuclear weapons may well be a resource for seeking to deter execution of the threat.” Reed then launched into a direct attack on the negative security assurance of 1978, telling the Congress, “We are not comfortable with the . . . suggestion that a nation can engage in any level of chemical or biological aggression and still be shielded by an American non-nuclear pledge.”

Defense Secretary Cheney had opened the first-use Pandora’s Box with his Nuclear Weapons Employment Policy secret mandate, right after Desert Storm. But it appears that President George H.W. Bush was not swayed. On Sept. 27, 1991, Bush declared that the U.S. would eliminate all of its ground-based tactical nuclear weapons. In his January 1992 State of the Union message, he announced plans to reduce the entire U.S. arsenal of non-strategic nuclear weapons. And on Oct. 2, 1992, Bush the Elder approved a moratorium on nuclear weapons testing, a serious blow to those advocating

Stockpile Stewardship Conference Planning Meeting Minutes

10 January 2003

Pentagon, Room 3C912

0930-1200

1. Mr. Fred Celec (ATSD(NCB/NM)) opened the meeting on behalf of Dr. Dale Klein (ATSD(NCB)). A list of attendees is at attachment 1.
2. Mr. Celec began by discussing the background leading to the Stockpile Stewardship Conference. The genesis of the conference is the October 2002 memo from the NWC Chairman, Mr. Pete Aldridge (JSD(AT&L)), to the NWC on risk in the stockpile stewardship program, specifically, "the risk associated with not testing our nuclear weapons." Ambassador Linton Brooks (NWC member and Acting Administrator, NNSA) and General Peter Pace (NWC member and Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff) replied to the memo, expressing their support for the conference and offering comments on its expected content. The scope of the conference then evolved to include additional topics associated with the nuclear deterrent in a post-Nuclear Posture Review environment. The Stockpile Stewardship Conference will be used to present the results of the work of four panels to the NWC, and others as appropriate, and to establish recommendations for the way-ahead. Although the conference will consider issues related to nuclear testing, it is not the policy of the Administration to return to nuclear testing.
3. **ACTION:** The Executive Committee members agreed to revise the draft purpose statement.

Purpose: In concert with the NPR, evaluate the issues of maintaining confidence in the nuclear deterrent; evaluate the risks in our current assessment process and ways to reduce those risks; and the current and planned infrastructure capacity and capability.

4. The organization of the conference was discussed. Mr. Aldridge, the NWC Chairman, will chair the conference and Admiral Ellis (STRATCOM) will host it. The preparatory work will be performed by four panels. An Executive Committee (ExCom), chaired by Dr. Dale Klein, will provide oversight, assure that the work of the panels is in alignment throughout the process, integrate the findings of the panels, and plan the conference. To assure alignment of the panels, it was agreed that the ExCom would meet several times during the process to review the progress of the panels. It was agreed that the four panel chairs will be part of the ExCom. The members are:

ATSD(NCB) – Dr. Klein, Chairman

STRATCOM - RADM Byrd

Joint Staff - RDML Welsh

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measure, which was passed and signed into law by President Clinton, defined low-yield nukes as having a yield of five kilotons or less. All the micro-, mini- and tiny-nukes envisioned by Dowler and Howard were, in effect, placed in the deep freeze.

Or were they? In his prescient January 1993 *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* piece, "Nuclear Junkies," Arkin had warned, "The programs are far from dead. Support for [mini-nukes] has spread like a virus, infecting the nuclear laboratories, the Air Force and the Navy, Strategic Command (formerly SAC), the Defense Nuclear Agency, and the Central and European Commands. . . . Nuclear enthusiasts publicly describe continued nuclear testing and research as a way for the labs to maintain 'nuclear competence' and to prevent technological surprise in the future—with the side-benefit of improving weapons safety. They say they have no hidden agenda. . . . But behind the traditional 'safety' advocates hide a new, post-Gulf War constituent—nuclear zealots intent on developing a new generation of small nuclear weapons designed for waging wars in the Third World."

The recently leaked announcement of a Jan. 10 meeting in the Pentagon which aimed to begin a period of operational studies and trials of mini-nuclear weapons for use against "rogue states."

the development of a new generation of mini-nukes, "bunker busters," and other exotic nuclear weapons that would all require live-fire testing.

Bush's stance was at odds with the Pentagon and weapons lab utopians, who continued to peddle the idea of integrating offensive nuclear weapons into the new post-Cold War doctrine of pre-emptive imperial wars. After several false starts and behind-the-scenes policy brawls, Cheney and his utopian aides got in the final word—after Bush lost his 1992 re-election campaign. The January 1993 "Defense Strategy for the 1990s," in only slightly Aesopian language, peddled the idea of offensive nukes against Third World targets. The principal author of the "Defense Strategy" was I. Lewis Libby, then a deputy to Assistant Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, and currently chief of staff and chief national security advisor to Vice President Cheney. Libby is also notorious as the long-time attorney for Israeli-Russian Mafiya "Godfather" and Ariel Sharon-booster, Marc Rich.

Laying Low But Moving Ahead

Shortly after Bill Clinton entered the White House, Representatives John Spratt (D-S.C.) and Elizabeth Furse (D-Ore.) introduced an attachment to the FY 1994 defense authorization bill, prohibiting U.S. weapons labs from conducting any research and development on low-yield nuclear weapons. The

Indeed, buried deep within the vast Pentagon bureaucracy, at least one mini-nuke program was carried all the way through, from research and development to field deployment, during the Clinton era. Greg Mello, director of the Los Alamos Study Group, penned a most revealing article in the June 1, 1997 *Washington Post*, under the headline, "The Birth of a New Bomb—Shades of Dr. Strangelove: Will We Learn to Love the B61-11?"

According to Mello, in October 1993, Harold Smith, Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Atomic Energy, sought approval to develop an alternative to the B53 high-yield nuclear bomb, which was the principal "bunker buster" weapon in the U.S. arsenal. The B53 was also the heaviest payload nuke in use, weighing 8,900 pounds, and only deployable from the B-52 bombers.

Under the guise of "weapons modernization," Smith was pushing the development of the first mini-nuke, the B61-Mod 11.

By November 1993, despite Spratt-Furse, the Nuclear Weapons Command Standing Safety Committee had approved the B61-11 proposal. On Feb. 6, 1995, Deputy Secretary of Defense John Deutch, a veteran of the Reed Panel advisory board, signed off on the plan. The project was placed on a fast track: On April 18, 1995, the Department of Energy made a classified request to six Congressmen to get funding

for the B61-11. The money was flowing by July 1995. On Nov. 15, 1995 Smith pressed for the weapons labs to accelerate the R&D timetable, so the first B61-11 could be delivered to the military before the end of 1996.

The new nuclear weapon that replaced the B53 weighed 1,200 pounds, and could carry a nuclear payload ranging from 300 tons to 340 kilotons.

Even before the first B61-11 was delivered, Smith was threatening its use. He told a group of Pentagon correspondents in Spring 1996 that the United States would soon have a nuclear bunker-buster that could destroy an alleged underground Libyan chemical weapons plant at Tarhunah, 40 miles southeast of the capital, Tripoli, which the United States considered a serious threat. On May 7, 1996, Defense Department spokesman Ken Bacon scrambled to repudiate Smith's threat, telling reporters at a regular Pentagon briefing, "There is no consideration of using nuclear weapons, and any implication we would use nuclear weapons against this plant pre-emptively is just wrong."

Don't Forget Israel

As reported in the preceding article, the current Bush Administration, top-heavy with mini-nuke proponents from the "Bush 41" Pentagon, has put the issue of pre-emptive nuclear war back on the front burner. The *Los Angeles Times* reported on Jan. 25, 2003, in an article by Paul Richter, "As the Pentagon continues a highly visible build-up of troops and weapons in the Persian Gulf, it is also quietly preparing for the possible use of nuclear weapons in a war against Iraq. . . . Military officials have been focusing their planning on the use of tactical nuclear arms in retaliation for a strike by the Iraqis with chemical or biological weapons, or to pre-empt one." Richter reported that one plan under consideration would include "the possible use of so-called bunker-buster nuclear weapons against deep buried military targets."

A senior retired U.S. military intelligence official, close to the Bush White House, told *EIR* that President Bush has not signed off on these nuclear weapons schemes, and that, beyond the B61-11, no other mini-nukes presently exist in the U.S. arsenal. Furthermore, he emphasized that even the untested B61-11 is a most dubious proposition, with a majority of nuclear experts contending that the idea that such bunker-busters would have limited radioactive spread, was pure nonsense.

Nevertheless, the utopian gang in the Bush civilian Pentagon bureaucracy and the Office of the Vice President have thrown their weight behind the idea of pre-emptive nuclear war against Third World "rogue" targets. This poses one of the most profound threats to global peace and stability in a generation. While there are undoubtedly sane voices in the U.S. military and intelligence establishment who would counter this new generation of Dr. Strangeloves, were they to reach for the nuclear button, who can vouch for Ariel Sharon's nuclear-armed Israel, which plays a perverse game of "monkey see, monkey do," with Washington's war party?

Lieberman Again Claims Bush's Iraq Policy

by Scott Thompson

At the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) meeting in Washington, where Democratic Party Presidential pre-candidate Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) was hosted on Feb. 26 before nationwide TV, the Senator began his speech by saying, "A funny thing happened today on the way to the Council to deliver this speech on post-war Iraq. We learned tonight that President Bush plans to talk tonight on the very same subject. This is good news." In the sequel, Lieberman again claimed credit for a post-9/11 policy coup d'état against the President, as he had at the Feb. 8-9 Wehrkunde military policy meeting in Munich. There, he boasted, "You might therefore say that, when it comes to Iraq, President Bush is just enforcing the McCain-Lieberman policy."

Both on "regime change" and "post-Saddam Iraq," Lieberman is exaggerating. Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche noted that President Bush's own Feb. 26 speech, to the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), was drafted by "a committee," and reflects the views of the neo-cons, "Wolfowitz-Perle cabal chicken-hawks," Christian Zionists, and others. Nonetheless, that televised address by the President on the question of "post-Saddam Iraq," was drafted with almost verbatim reprises of a Feb. 13 resolution that Senator Lieberman had introduced into Congress on the question; a long open letter that Lieberman had sent the President on the same subject that day; and Lieberman's above-referenced remarks to the CFR. Particularly echoed, was the demand that implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement must await the toppling of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein—which in reality, will rather trigger a 100 years war, than peace and security in the Middle East.

'Bull Moose' Blackmail

What is the strange hold of Lieberman and Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) over the President? The answer is a matter of public record. Senator McCain has, like his hero the imperialist President Teddy Roosevelt, raised the threat of bolting the Republican Party to run on a "Bull Moose" Third Party ticket in 2004. In 1912, when President TR did this, he threw the re-election of incumbent Republican President William Taft to Democrat and Ku Klux Klan promoter, President Woodrow Wilson.

As McCain sycophant Elizabeth Drew documents in her book *Citizen McCain* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2002), all the infrastructure for such a "Bull Moose" option, which

has driven White House Chief of Staff Karl Rove into paroxysms of rage, has been in place since shortly after McCain's 2000 bid for the Republican Presidential nomination. This was the main task of Marshall Wittmann, now McCain's chief spokesman, while he was at the Marc Rich- and "Russian Mafia"-affiliated Hudson Institute. Wittman founded the Center for Conservative Reform, while others founded McCain's main political action committee, Straight Talk America. And on Feb. 21, Lieberman's Tweedledee, McCain, announced that, rather than retiring from the Senate, "the war on terrorism has renewed my view that there is still service to do." Thus, McCain announced that he would run for a fourth term and brought on Marshall Wittmann as his chief campaign spokesman, thereby deliberately opening the "Bull Moose" option wider. So widely is this being discussed, that Drew reports that McCain wrote a four-page letter to every precinct leader in Arizona, claiming that he would not run as an independent.

The Resolution

EIR has learned that Democrat Lieberman, in addition to being a "poster boy" for the Democratic-Republican Democratic Leadership Council (DLC), has now also emerged as the poster boy of a leading neo-conservative publication, the *Weekly Standard*.

In a Feb. 25 article in the *New York Post* (owned by imperialist Rupert Murdoch, whose News Corporation also owns *The Weekly Standard*), the editors of the *Standard* are quoted praising Lieberman for challenging anti-war Democratic Presidential candidates in Iowa. They quote Lieberman as having said that the 1991 Persian Gulf War was incomplete, because: "I worried then and throughout the '90s that we were allowing Saddam to become a ticking time bomb. I'm not going to oppose a policy [of regime change] that I've supported for 12 years just because the person who happens to be the Commander in Chief of the United States today is a Republican. . . . I'm going to hope, ultimately, that people will draw a conclusion, even if they disagree with me on Iraq, that . . . [I will] be the kind of candidate and type of President who will not try to please all the people all of the time."

Also on Feb. 25, in his "Lieberman Letter," Lieberman disclosed the entirety of his Feb. 13 resolution and elaborated open letter to President Bush, and repeated that he himself was "the lead sponsor of the legislation authorizing force against Iraq," back in January, and that he had now become "Mr. Post-Saddam Iraq."

Highlights of his resolution, which was the basis of his Feb. 26 CFR talk, include:

- The President must submit an estimate to Congress of the post-war costs for relief and reconstruction; with more "robust" response to calls for pledges toward a relief fund.
- The President must "design a transitional security force for Iraq," to reconstitute military, law enforcement, police, and judicial institutions, purged of individuals loyal to Sad-

dam Hussein or guilty of serious human rights abuses.

- He must designate a transitional coordinator for humanitarian relief, who cooperates with Iraqi opposition groups.
- He should "carefully consider the most crucial security threat, the need to secure Iraq's weapons of mass destruction . . . to ensure that they are neither stolen nor transferred to terrorists. . . ."
- He should "develop measures necessary to temporarily steward Iraq's natural resources," especially protecting oil from destruction "by Saddam Hussein as his regime collapses . . . in retreat."
- He should "make provisions to establish an interim government and to ensure that it commands popular legitimacy," on the model of Karzai's government in Afghanistan.

These main points from Lieberman's resolution, were both in his letter the President Bush of Feb. 13 and in Lieberman's speech to the CFR on Feb. 26.

Lieberman Denies Steinhardt?

During both the CFR's question and answer period and the following press availability, which was covered by most major U.S. media, there were propitiatory questions to the effect of how Lieberman thought it best to select his "international civilian coordinator" to be proconsul for "post-Saddam Iraq." However, this author got an opportunity to ask: "There are growing splits in the Democratic Party?" Lieberman replied, "Yes." *EIR* asked, "The main reason is not just the war, but deep divisions on how to handle the economy. You are a leading member of the Democratic Leadership Council, which re-orientes the Party toward the suburban middle class." Again, Lieberman said, "Yes."

EIR finally asked, "Michael A. Steinhardt, who is the co-founder and chief funder of the DLC, states in his autobiography, that his father was a fence for the Meyer Lansky Syndicate and that Michael Steinhardt started his hedge fund fortune by laundering money from the Lansky Syndicate. Do you denounce Michael Steinhardt?" Lieberman responded: "I have not read Michael's book. Michael has not had anything to do with the Democratic Leadership Council for some time." With that answer, Lieberman backed away and the press conference ended.

Steinhardt, however, as *EIR* has previously documented, had been a political patron of Lieberman. Lieberman was in fact the longest serving President of the DLC, from 1993 until 2000, when he was tapped by the Marc Rich-linked Al Gore to be Gore's running mate. Also, it is significant, that the \$200 million in trusts of Lieberman's "partner" Senator McCain's family, which McCain's wife inherited as heiress to the Hensley brewing interests in Arizona, was the fruit of Prohibition-era gangster Sam Bronfman's operations in that state.

So, "The Bull Moose" option associated with nominal Republican McCain, in reality, represents the gangster wing of the Democratic Party.

Imagery Intelligence Of U.S. Blurred

by Ray McGovern

Ray McGovern was a CIA analyst for 27 years and is a co-founder of Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS). He wrote this commentary on Feb. 19.

Two weeks after what initially seemed to be a triumph at the UN, Secretary of State Powell has taken some major hits to his credibility. His defensiveness can be seen in his undiplomatic trashing of the French for being “afraid” to take responsibility for making war on Iraq.

To what can we attribute Powell’s “losing it” with the French and the drop in his credibility? One obvious factor was his imaginative but unpersuasive attempt to connect a rosary of dots to demonstrate a connection between Iraq and al-Qaeda. The unintended consequence was to show once again that the evidence described by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld as “bulletproof” is in fact full of holes. But that was generally known. What was unexpected was the way Powell played fast and loose interpreting the imagery he displayed at the Security Council. . . .

For his penance, Powell had to sit still Friday [Feb. 14] while a Council employee gave him a lecture from the textbook for Rhetoric 101. Chief UN weapons inspector Hans Blix poked an embarrassing hole in a conclusion Powell drew on Feb. 5 from two satellite images of an Iraqi chemical facility. Powell had shown that decontamination trucks seen on the first image were no longer present on the second, which was taken on Dec. 22, the day a UN inspection team arrived. He offered this sequence as evidence that Iraq “had been tipped off to the forthcoming inspections.” On Friday, Blix calmly pointed out that “the two satellite images of the site were taken several weeks apart,” something Powell had neglected to mention. Hence, said Blix, the removal of the trucks—whenever it actually took place—“could just as easily have been a routine activity.” Powell offered no rebuttal.

The irony is that he did not need to overreach the evidence. Proving that Iraq was in violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1441 was a no-brainer. Blix had already done so a few days before Powell spoke on Feb. 5. But the White House apparently decided that if Saddam Hussein’s perfidy could be proven three times over, the result would be an automatic *Ergo* for war.

Predictably, this backfired—not only at the UN but also in the streets of the world’s major cities. Skepticism leapt from the placards carried by millions of marchers. . . .

Agency’s Independence Lost

Imagery intelligence is likely to play an increasingly important role in coming weeks, so it is worth giving some attention to the pressures that can make its interpretation and public release suspect.

In his autobiography, Colin Powell included a highly instructive vignette from the Gulf War in 1991. American forces were having no luck finding and destroying Iraqi Scud surface-to-surface missiles before they could be launched at Israel and elsewhere. So it was with welcome surprise that Colin Powell, then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, heard that Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf had told the press that several Scuds had been located and destroyed on their launchers. Before Powell had time to rejoice, though, his intelligence chief warned that an imagery analyst on Schwarzkopf’s own staff had concluded that what had been destroyed were not Scuds but oil tanker trucks.

Powell called Schwarzkopf at once, but Schwarzkopf bad-mouthed the imagery analyst and delivered himself of such a rich string of expletives that Powell decided to let the story stand—a decision he regretted the next day when CNN showed photos of the destroyed Jordanian oil tankers.

Where is Powell to turn now for imagery analysis not subject to command influence or the exigencies of policy? The answer is: nowhere. The Central Intelligence Agency’s National Photographic Interpretation Center (NPIC) offered that service until 1996, when CIA Director John Deutch ceded it—lock, stock, and barrel—to the Pentagon. One practical effect was the immediate departure, in droves, of seasoned imagery analysts who moved to other jobs at CIA. The damage could be seen all too plainly in the years that followed: in the failure to detect India’s preparations to test a nuclear weapon in 1998, for example; and in the mistaken bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade in 1999.

Against this background, Powell’s emphasis, in his UN speech, on the importance of the “years and years of experience” needed by imagery analysts, had a poignant ring to those of us who witnessed the demise of NPIC—the proud discoverer of Soviet missiles in Cuba, and “trust-but-verify” guarantor of strategic arms control agreements.

The independence enjoyed by NPIC to resist command influence and departmental bias was as important an asset as the long years of experience of its veteran analysts. Are there imagery analysts who are still free to “tell it like it is”; experts with some assurance that their careers will not suffer if the evidence leads them to judgments that they know their bosses will not welcome? (Someone should look into what happened to that imagery analyst on Schwarzkopf’s staff who made the correct call on the Scud-like oil tankers in 1991.)

Whether the *non sequitur* for which Powell was gently chided by Dr. Blix was a result of inexperience, a desire to please, or both, Powell and other senior policymakers need to look with jaundiced eye on the imagery intelligence coming out of the Pentagon. And so do we all.

The Fight for Peace

More than 120 American cities—Los Angeles the latest and the largest—have passed resolutions expressing the real hope of the American people that a new Iraq and Mideast war can be prevented. The story of a hearing on one such resolution, in a major city, with a Republican majority, which has *not* yet passed it—Houston—illuminates how these resolutions have not been pro-forma expressions of sentiments, but fights for peace.

After several weeks of demands by Houston citizens, Mayor Lee Brown put two anti-war resolutions by city councilmen on the agenda for a vote Feb. 26 by the city council. About 40 Houstonians spoke before the city council on the resolutions during the regular public comment section, including Michael Maddi representing the LaRouche in 2004 Presidential campaign. Only three of 40 were for war against Iraq.

The hearing was chaired by Councilman-at-Large Gordon Quan, a Democrat and the sponsor of one resolution which opposes a “unilateral pre-emptive strike” while the UN inspectors and Security Council work to avoid war. There was a wide cross-section of people supporting the anti-war resolutions. There were several people who identified themselves as businessmen or war veterans who opposed a war, including a Green Party leader who is a veteran of the 82nd Airborne Division. One woman identified herself as a retired attorney who served in the first Bush (41) Administration and supported the Gulf War in 1991. She said there is no basis for an attack on Iraq now. There was a Baptist minister who worked in the civil rights movement in the 1960s; a representative of the Catholic diocese Office of Peace and Justice to present the official opposition to war of the U.S. Catholic Bishops and the Pope; a representative of Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee; and three professors from local colleges, including a military history professor from the University of Houston, who noted the opposition of both the uniformed military leaders and Wall Street.

All the speakers hammered away at the lack of evidence for a pre-emptive attack, especially while there is still an active inspections process going on. They also hit hard on the economic crisis facing the city budget

and the nation at large, which would be worsened by war. Republicans on the city council argued that they have no say or power on the matter and that it’s a waste of time to vote on; the speaker answered by pointing to the over 100 other cities who have taken that responsibility.

The chairman of the newly founded Democratic Anti-War Group (DAWG) whose founding members include LaRouche organizers, made it clear that DAWG would actively support Democrats on the city council who had the courage to vote against war. Councilman-at-Large Carroll Robinson, who touted himself as a Democratic Leadership Council (Liebermanite) leader among local elected officials, taunted the DAWG leader: “Well, it looks like Lieberman, Gephardt, Edwards, and Kerry are all going along with war.”

LaRouche spokesman Maddi firmly corrected Robinson: “You are wrong in stating that the Democratic candidates are all supporting war. LaRouche has warned, as we have heard from people here today, that there must be no war as long as the UN and most of the world’s governments want a peaceful resolution. He has also stressed that the biggest threat to this country is the devastated economy, as seen in budget crises in our city, state, and nationally and in crises around the world. A war will only make these problems much worse.” Maddi then spoke at length on the threat of a nuclear first strike by the United States in this war. He gave all participants the *EIR* articles in this issue which expose the imminence of that threat, along with LaRouche’s State of the Union speech of Jan. 28, and his open letter to the Democratic National Committee.

Robinson was forced to concede that candidates Dean, Kucinich, Sharpton and Moseley-Braun, along with LaRouche, oppose war, so “there are five Democrats who oppose the war.” But he claimed there was “nothing new” in planning to use nuclear weapons first against America’s enemies.

The resolution has yet to be voted on in Houston. But the majority of Americans are making their voices heard.

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- E. LOS ANGELES Adelphia Ch. 6 Mondays—2:30 pm
- FULLERTON Adelphia Ch. 65 Tuesdays—6:30 pm
- HOLLYWOOD AT&T—Ch.3 Wednesdays—6:30 pm
- LANCASTER/PALM Adelphia Ch. 16 Sundays—9 pm
- LAVERNE—Ch. 3 2nd Mondays—8 pm
- LONG BEACH Charter Ch. 65 Thursdays—1:30 pm
- MARINA DEL REY Adelphia Ch. 3 Thursdays—4:30 pm
- MediaOne Ch. 43 Wednesdays—7 pm
- MID-WILSHIRE MediaOne Ch. 43 Wednesdays—7 pm
- MODESTO—Ch.2 Thursdays—3 pm

- OXNARD Adelphia Ch.19 Americast Ch.8 Tuesdays—7 pm
- PLACENTIA Adelphia Ch. 65 Tuesdays—6:30 pm
- SAN DIEGO Ch.19 Wednesdays—6 pm
- SANTA ANA Adelphia Ch.53 Tuesdays—6:30 pm
- STIA.GLAR.VLY T/W & AT&T Ch.20 Fridays—1:30 pm
- SANTA MONICA Adelphia Ch. 77 Thursdays—4:30 pm
- TUJUNGA—Ch.19 Tuesdays—4 pm
- VENICE—Ch.43 Wednesdays—7 pm
- VENTURA—Ch.6 Adelphia/Avenue Mon & Fri—10 am
- WALNUT CREEK AT&T Ch.6 2nd Fridays—9 pm
- WATSON Ch.31 Tuesdays—7:30 pm
- W.HOLLYWOOD Adelphia Ch. 3 Thursdays—4:30 pm
- W.SAN FDO.VLY. Time Warner Ch.34 Wed.—5:30 pm

COLORADO

- DENVER—Ch.57 Saturdays—1 pm

CONNECTICUT

- GROTON—Ch. 12 Mondays—10 pm
- MANCHESTER Ch.15 Mondays—10 pm
- MIDDLETOWN—Ch.3 Mondays—10 pm
- NEW HAVEN—Ch.29 Sundays—5 pm
- NEWTON/NEW MIL. Cablevision Ch. 21 Mondays—9:30 pm
- THURSDAY—Ch.26 Thursdays—11:30 am

DIST. OF COLUMBIA

- WASHINGTON Comcast Ch.5 Starpower Ch.10 Alt. Sundays—6 pm 2/23, 3/9, 3/23 4/6, 4/20, 5/4

FLORIDA

- ESCAMBIA COUNTY Cox Ch. 4 2nd Tue, 6:30 pm

IDAHO

- MOSCOW—Ch. 11 Mondays—7 pm

ILLINOIS

- CHICAGO* AT&T/RCN/WOW Ch.21
- QUAD CITIES MediaCom Ch. 19 Thursdays—11 pm
- PEORIA COUNTY Insight Ch. 22 Sundays—7:30 pm
- SPRINGFIELD Ch.4 Mon-Fri: 5-9 pm Sat-Sun: 1-5 pm

INDIANA

- BLOOMINGTON Insight Ch.3 Tuesdays—8 pm

- DELAWARE COUNTY Comcast Ch. 42 Mondays—11 pm

GARY

- WASHINGTON AT&T Ch. 21 Monday - Thursday 8 am - 12 Noon

IOWA

- QUAD CITIES MediaCom Ch. 19 Thursdays—11 pm

KENTUCKY

- BOONE/KENTON Insight Ch. 21 Mon: 4 pm; Sat: 5 pm
- JEFFERSON Ch.98 Fridays—2 pm

LOUISIANA

- ORLEANS PARISH Cox Ch. 78 Tuesdays & Saturdays 4 am & 4 pm

MARYLAND

- ANNE ARUNDEL Annapolis Ch.20 Millennium Ch.99 Sat & Sun: 12:30 am
- MONTGOMERY Ch.19 Fridays—7 pm
- P.G.COUNTY Ch.76 Mondays—10:30 pm
- BRAINTREE AT&T Ch. 31 BELD Ch. 16 Thursdays—8 pm
- CAMBRIDGE MediaOne Ch. 10 Mondays—4 pm
- WORCESTER—Ch.13 Tue.—8:30 pm

MICHIGAN

- CALHOON ATT Ch. 11 Mondays—4 pm
- CANTON TWP. Comcast Ch. 18 *Zajak Presents* Mondays: 6-8 pm
- DEARBORN Comcast Ch. 16 *Zajak Presents* Mondays: 6-8 pm
- DEARBORN HTS. Comcast Ch. 18 *Zajak Presents* Mondays: 6-8 pm
- GRAND RAPIDS AT&T Ch. 25 Fridays—1:30 pm
- KALAMAZOO Thur-11 pm (Ch.20) Sat-10 pm (Ch.22)
- KENT COUNTY Charter Ch.7 Tue: 12 Noon, 7:30 pm, 11 pm
- LAKE ORION Comcast Ch.65 Mondays & Tuesdays 2 pm & 9 pm
- LIVONIA T/W Ch.12 Thursdays—5 pm (Occ. 4:30 pm)
- MT.PLEASANT Charter Ch. 3 Tuesdays—5:30 pm Wednesdays—7 am
- PLYMOUTH Comcast Ch.18 *Zajak Presents* Mondays: 6-8 pm

MINNESOTA

- ANOKA AT&T Ch. 15 Mon.—4 pm & 11 pm
- BURNSVILLE/EGAN ATT Ch.14,57,96 Tuesdays—5:30 pm Saturdays—9 pm Sundays—10 pm
- CAMBRIDGE U.S. Cable Ch.10 Wednesdays—2 pm
- COLD SPRING U.S. Cable Ch.10 Wednesdays—5 pm
- COLUMBIA HTS. MediaOne Ch. 15 Wednesdays—8 pm
- DULUTH Charter Ch.20 Mondays—9 pm Wednesdays—12 pm Fridays 1 pm
- FRIDLEY Time Warner Ch. 5 Thursdays—5:30 pm Saturdays—8:30 pm
- MINNEAPOLIS PARAGON Ch. 67 Saturdays—7 pm
- NEW ULM—Ch.14 Fridays—5 pm
- PROCTOR/HERMANTOWN—Ch.12 Tue. b/w: 5 pm-1 am
- ST.CLOUD AREA Charter Ch.10 Astound Ch.12 Thursdays—8 pm
- ST.CROIX VLY. Valley Access Ch.14 Thursdays—4 & 10 pm Fridays—8 am
- ST.LOUIS PARK Paragon Ch. 15 Wed., Thu., Fri. 12 am, 8 am, 4 pm
- ST.PAUL (city) SPNN Ch. 15 Saturdays—10 pm
- ST.PAUL (N Burbs) AT&T Ch. 14 Thu—6 pm & Midnite Fri—6 am & Noon
- ST.PAUL (NE burbs)* Suburban Ch.15
- ST.PAUL (S&W burbs) AT&T-Comcast Ch.15 Tue & Fri—8 pm Wednesdays—10:30 pm
- SOUTH WASHINGTON ATT Ch.14—1:30 pm Mon. Tue, Wed, Thu

MISSISSIPPI

- MARSHALL COUNTY Galaxy Ch. 2 Mondays—7 pm

MISSOURI

- ST.LOUIS AT&T Ch.22 Wednesdays—5 pm Thursdays—12 Noon

- SHELBY TWP. Comcast Ch.20 WOW Ch.18 Mon/Wed: 6:30 pm
- WASHINGTON AT&T Ch. 17 Thursdays—5 pm
- WAYNE COUNTY Comcast Ch. 68 Unscheduled pop-ins
- WYOMING AT&T Ch. 25 Wednesdays—10 am

NEBRASKA

- LINCOLN T/W Ch. 80 *Citizen Watchdog* Tuesdays—7 pm Wednesdays—10 pm

NEVADA

- CARSON—Ch.10 Wednesdays—7 pm Saturdays—3 pm
- RENO/SPARKS Charter Ch.16 Fridays—9 pm
- HADDON TWP. Comcast Ch. 19 Sundays 11 am
- MERCER COUNTY Comcast* TRENTON Ch. 81 WINDSORS Ch. 27 MONTVALE/MAHWAH Time Warner Ch. 27 Wednesdays—4 pm
- NORTHERN NJ Comcast Ch.57* PISCATAWAY Cablevision Ch.71 Wed—11:30 pm
- PLAINSBORO Comcast Ch. 3*

NEW JERSEY

- ALBUQUERQUE Comcast Ch. 27 Mondays—3 pm ANTHONY/SUNLAND T/W Ch. 15 Wednesdays 5:05 pm
- GRANT COUNTY Comcast Ch. 17 Fri. & Sat. 7 pm or 8 pm
- LOS ALAMOS Comcast Ch. 8 Mondays—10 pm
- SANTA FE Comcast—Ch.6 Saturdays—6:30 pm
- TAOS—Ch.2 Thursdays—7 pm

NEW MEXICO

- ALBUQUERQUE Comcast Ch. 27 Mondays—3 pm ANTHONY/SUNLAND T/W Ch. 15 Wednesdays 5:05 pm
- GRANT COUNTY Comcast Ch. 17 Fri. & Sat. 7 pm or 8 pm
- LOS ALAMOS Comcast Ch. 8 Mondays—10 pm
- SANTA FE Comcast—Ch.6 Saturdays—6:30 pm
- TAOS—Ch.2 Thursdays—7 pm

NEW YORK

- BROOKLYN T/W Ch.34 Cablevision Ch.67 Tuesdays 3:30 pm, 11:30 pm
- BUFFALO Adelphia Ch.20 Wed.—12:30 pm
- CHEMUNG/STEBEN Time Warner-Ch.1 Mon., Fri.—4:30 pm
- ERIE COUNTY Adelphia Intl. Ch.20 Thursdays—10:35 pm
- ILION—Ch.10 Mon. & Wed.—11 am Saturdays—11:30 pm
- IRONDEQUOIT Ch.15 Mondays—7:30 pm Thursdays—7 pm
- JEFFERSON/LEWIS Time Warner-Ch.2 Unscheduled pop-ins
- JOHNSTOWN—Ch.16 Fridays—4 pm
- MANHATTAN—MNN T/W Ch.34; RCN Ch.109 Alt. Sundays—9 am
- NIAGARA COUNTY Adelphia Ch. 20 Thursdays—10:35 pm
- ONEIDA—Ch.10 Thu—8 or 9 pm

PENNSYLVANIA

- PENNSYLVANIA—Ch.15 Penfield Comm. TV* QUEENSBURY Ch.71 Thursdays—7 pm
- RIVERHEAD Ch.70 Thurs.—12 Midnight
- ROCHESTER—Ch.15 Sundays—3 pm Mondays—10 pm
- ROCKLAND—Ch. 71 Mondays—6 pm
- SCHENECTADY Ch.16 Wednesdays—8 am
- STATEWIDE Time Warner Cable Thu.—11 pm (Ch.35) Sat.—8 am (Ch.34)
- TOMPKINS COUNTY Time Warner Sun.—9 pm (Ch.78) Thu.—5 pm (Ch.13) Sat.—9 pm (Ch.78)
- TRI-LAKES Adelphia Ch. 2 Adelphia Ch. 1, 2 Comcast Ch.57* PISCATAWAY Cablevision Ch.71 Wed—11:30 pm
- PLAINSBORO Comcast Ch. 3*

NORTH CAROLINA

- HICKORY—Ch.3 Tuesdays—10 pm

OHIO

- CUYAHOGA COUNTY Ch. 21: Wed.—3:30 pm
- FRANKLIN COUNTY Ch. 21: Sun.—6 pm
- LORAIN COUNTY Adelphia Ch.30 Daily: 10 am; or 12:10 am; or 2 pm; or 12 Midnight
- OBERLIN—Ch.9 Tuesdays—7 pm
- REYNOLDSBURG Ch.6: Sun.—6 pm

OREGON

- LINN/BENTON AT&T Ch. 99 Tuesdays—1 pm
- PORTLAND Tue—6 pm (Ch.22) Thu—3 pm (Ch.23)
- SALEM—Ch.23 Tuesdays—12 Noon Thursdays—8 pm Saturdays—10 am
- SILVERTON Charter Ch. 10 Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri Betw. 5 pm - 9 am
- WASHINGTON ATT Ch.9: Tualatin Valley Ch.23: Regional Area Ch.33: Unincorp. Towns Wednesdays—8 pm Sundays—9 pm

RHODE ISLAND

- E.PROV.—Ch.18 Tuesdays—6:30 pm
- STATEWIDE R.I. Interconnect* Cox Ch. 13 Full Ch. 49

Texas

- AUSTIN Ch.16 T/W & Grande Sundays—12 Noon
- DALLAS Ch.13-B Tuesdays—10:30 pm
- EL PASO COUNTY Adelphia Ch.4 Tuesdays—8 pm Thursdays—11 am

UTAH

- CENTRAL UTAH Precis Cable Ch.10 Aurora Centerfield Gunnison Redmond Richfield Salina Sundays & Mondays 6 pm & 10 pm
- VERMONT GREATER FALLS Adelphia Ch.8 Tuesdays—1 pm
- VIRGINIA ALBERMARLE Adelphia Ch. 14 Fridays—5 pm
- ARLINGTON ACT Ch. 33 Mondays—4 pm Tuesdays—9 am
- BLACKSBURG WTOB Ch.2 Mondays—6 pm
- CHESTERFIELD Comcast Ch. 6 Tuesdays—5 pm
- FAIRFAX—Ch.10 Tuesdays—12 Noon Thursdays—7 pm
- LOUDOUN Adelphia Ch. 23/24 Thursdays—7 pm
- ROANOKE—Ch.9 Thursdays—2 pm

WASHINGTON

- KING COUNTY AT&T Ch. 29/77 Mondays—6 pm
- KENNEWICK Charter Ch. 12 Mondays—12 Noon Thursdays—8:30 pm
- PASCO Charter Ch. 12 Thursdays—12 Noon Thursdays—8:30 pm
- RICHLAND Charter Ch. 12 Mondays—12 Noon Thursdays—8:30 pm
- SPOKANE—Ch.14 Wednesdays—6 pm
- WENATCHEE Charter Ch.12 Thu—10 am & 5 pm

WISCONSIN

- MADISON—Ch.4 Tuesdays—3 PM
- MARATHON COUNTY Charter Ch. 10 Thursdays—9:30 pm Fridays—12 Noon
- SUPERIOR Charter Ch.20 Mondays—7:30 pm Wednesdays—11 pm Fridays 1 pm

WYOMING

- GILLETTE—Ch.36 Thursdays—5 pm

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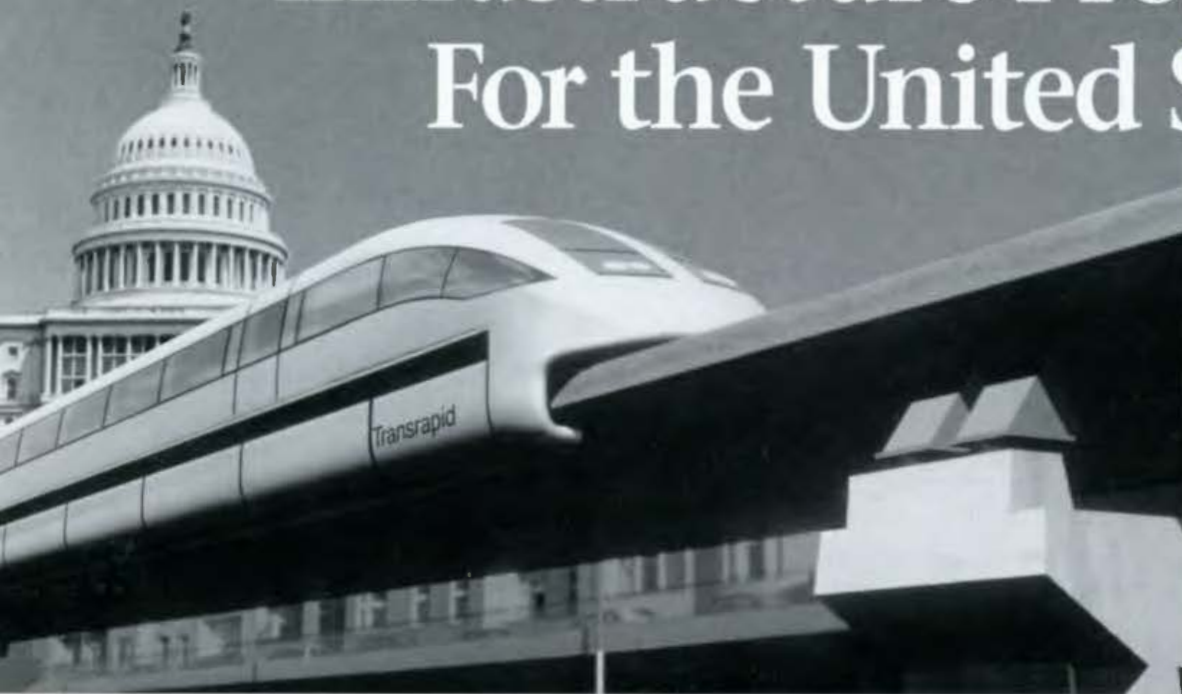
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Science and Infrastructure
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Sector Studies
Rebuilding U.S. Rail System
Is Top Priority
States' High-Speed Rail
Plans Ignore Amtrak
Save Bankrupt Airlines, But
Re-Regulate Them
The Waterways Are Aging
and Neglected
Rebuild America's Energy
Infrastructure
A Meltdown-Proof Reactor:
GT-MHR
Rebuild, Expand U.S. Water
Supply System
Hill-Burton Approach Can
Restore Public Health

Resume Land Reclamation
and Maintenance
DDT Ban is a Weapon of
Mass Destruction
FDR's Reconstruction
Finance Corp. Model
The Brzezinski Gang vs.
Infrastructure—The
Biggest National Security
Threat of All
Campaign for Nation-
Building
President Must Act 'In an
FDR Fashion'
Italy Parliament
Breakthrough for
LaRouche's New Bretton
Woods Drive
The Emergency Rail-
Building Program in the
2002 Mid-Term Elections