

95 period, when the United States took unilateral action to prevent the total ethnic cleansing of Bosnia, and the outbreak of a broader Balkan war.

This is of special importance at this moment, because the so-called "Friend of Bill," British Prime Minister Tony Blair, and his Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, have, in recent days, been attempting to replay the 1990-92 Lord Owen-led "diplomatic solution," which bought the Serb butchers crucial time to launch their murderous actions, by subverting U.S. no-nonsense diplomacy, or pre-emptive military action.

Other Clinton initiatives

Buttressing *EIR*'s assessment of Clinton's recent emergence from the induced paralysis of the past few months, the President, on March 12, announced an ambitious travel itinerary, aimed at reviving some of his administration's most important international diplomatic initiatives. First and foremost was the announcement by his press spokesman, Mike McCurry, that President Clinton has moved up the date of his scheduled state visit to China from November to late June. The ten-day visit to Beijing signals that the President intends to strengthen the emerging partnership between the world's largest country and the world's last remaining superpower. Last autumn, on the eve of Chinese President Jiang Zemin's visit to Washington, Lyndon LaRouche hailed the U.S.-China partnership as the cornerstone of any successful solution to the onrushing global financial disintegration. The Club of the Isles' response to the highly successful Washington, D.C. summit of October 1997 was the escalation of currency attacks against South Korea, Indonesia, and other "Asian Tiger" countries, which are ultimately aimed at destroying China, Japan, and the United States.

In addition to the China trip, President Clinton also announced that he plans to go to Moscow during the summer for a state visit with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The announcement came at the end of the tenth semi-annual meeting of the Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission in Washington. The President also finalized plans to visit India, Pakistan, and other South Asian countries in September. A scheduled trip to the area in February was postponed when the Indian government collapsed, and new elections were called. Lyndon LaRouche has often emphasized that the key to the realization of the "Eurasian Land-Bridge" program for economic recovery is close cooperation among China, Russia, India, and the United States.

Finally, on March 14, the President announced that, during his May visit to Europe, where he will participate in a Group of Seven summit in Birmingham, England, he may visit Northern Ireland, in an effort to consolidate the peace process there. The President will hold a Washington meeting on St. Patrick's Day with leaders of all the parties to the Northern Ireland conflict, and this will certainly anger those within the Club of the Isles oligarchy, who see Clinton's "meddling" in the Northern Ireland conflict as a most-unwanted intervention into the internal affairs of "the empire."

Milosevic tries 'final solution' in Kosova

by Konstantin George

On March 5, Serbia's fascist dictator Slobodan Milosevic began the military phase of what is intended to be his "final solution" for the 1.8 million Albanians who comprise 90% of the population of the region of Kosova. On that day, Serbian paramilitary forces, well-armed with armor, artillery, and helicopter gunships, began pounding Albanian villages in the central Kosova region of Drenica, west of Pristina, the Kosova capital. When the operation came to a halt on March 9, at least 88 Albanian civilians had been killed. Hundreds more had been wounded, and tens of thousands had been forced to flee their villages in the Drenica region, especially the Skenderaj district.

Milosevic's attack was the first step in a planned depopulation of Kosova's Albanian majority, through a district-by-district reign of terror. The model for this crime against humanity was provided by Milosevic himself, in his war of aggression against Bosnia, launched in April 1992. Through the summer of 1992, Serbian forces, using methodical mass killings, round-ups, executions, and expulsions, "ethnically cleansed" most of eastern Bosnia of Bosnian Muslims, thus ensuring that the part of Bosnia adjacent to Serbia itself was inhabited only by Serbs. Before the war, Muslims had formed the majority in that part of Bosnia.

As Western governments are aware, the same butchery has been launched in Kosova. But, the results of the March 11 NATO Council meeting of 16 NATO ambassadors in Brussels underscored the disaster of allowing a British-manipulated "European consensus" to dominate NATO declarations. NATO Secretary General Javier Solana declared after the meeting that NATO had developed a "diplomatic strategy to solve the problem," and any military action now was "premature." Solana announced that he was leaving the next day for the Albanian capital of Tirana, for talks with the Albanian government, which had requested consultations with NATO. The theme, Solana said, was that "in case of a refugee wave into Albania," NATO would "provide help." This is the essence of consensus politics: not stopping brutal depopulation, but crisis-managing its results.

A day earlier, encouragement was also given to Milosevic by the UN Security Council, which failed to pass even a timid Kosova resolution, because China, acting in accordance with a strong "anti-separatist" profile (valid in China's own case, but hopelessly wrong for rump Yugoslavia), refused to support it, calling Kosova an "internal affair"

FIGURE 1

The Kosova crisis region



of Yugoslavia. For so-called “Pan-Slavic” and “Pan-Orthodox” ideological reasons, Milosevic can also count on support from Russia in the Security Council. With other parties thus manipulated, the British are undermining the United States on the most important issue, military action against Milosevic, but otherwise making rhetorical anti-Milosevic statements. For example, Doug Henderson, the British acting chairman of the European Union Council, in Strasbourg on March 11, called on Belgrade to grant Kosova’s Albanians “autonomy.”

Milosevic’s tactic is: Clear out a district, using massacres and mass expulsions like in Skenderaj; then, call a halt to the bloodbath, feign desire to hold talks, and dangle prospects of meaningless concessions. On March 12, only hours after he had ruled out talks, he sent a delegation led by Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Ratko Markovic to Pristina, for “talks on Kosova’s future.” In violation of the Bosnia Contact Group’s demand that all talks be unconditional, which the Kosova Albanians have accepted, Serbia insisted that the Kosova Albanians drop their demand for independence and hold talks based on the Serbian Constitution, the very constitution which has imposed apartheid on the Albanians. Thus, it is hardly surprising that the Kosova Albanian leadership dismissed the Serb offer as “not serious,” and refused to meet and give credence to the farce.

Milosevic will try to “ethnically cleanse” as much of Kosova as possible. He knows that he probably will never “cleanse” 100% of Kosova, but he believes he can depopulate 30-60% of its territory of Albanians before he is forced to stop. That would be enough to then negotiate the de facto partition of Kosova.

U.S. considers military intervention

At this point, only one force on this planet stands in the way of Milosevic triumphantly executing his “final solution” for Kosova’s Albanians: the United States of America. However, it must cut through the British gameplan for “international consensus” of toothless demands on Milosevic, through vehicles like the Bosnia Contact Group, the EU, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, or the UN. The U.S. actions to date give hope that Milosevic can be crushed, thus creating the precondition for a new era of tranquility and development for the entire Balkans.

On March 11, during an appearance with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, President Bill Clinton made a tough statement on Kosova, one all-but unmentioned in most of the European media: “The United States and I condemn in the strongest possible terms the excessive violence that has led to the death of civilians there. We believe the cause of it is the inadequate response by the Serbian government to the legitimate concerns of the Albanian minority in Serbia, but majority in Kosova. I believe that the decision that the Secretary [of State Madeleine Albright] and other world leaders reached in the last days—the reimposition of the sanctions—and the strong statements that were made coming out of the Contact Group [the March 9 Foreign Ministers meeting of the United States, Russia, U.K., France, Germany, Italy], and the unity of the countries, gives us some hope that we can resolve this. But this is a matter of great concern to me. I know it’s a great concern to the Secretary General. We don’t want the Balkans to have more pictures like we’ve seen in the last few days, so reminiscent of what Bosnia endured. And, I just want to make it absolutely clear that to me, it’s a very serious issue.”

Clinton, when asked about military action, said: “No option should be ruled in or out now.”

These were not the only tough words from the American side that day. Robert Gelbard, U.S. special envoy in the Balkans, delivered a blistering attack (his third in a week) against Milosevic, after Gelbard had met in Pristina with Kosova Albanian President Dr. Ibrahim Rugova (elected President by Kosova’s Albanian majority in 1991, in an honest election that was branded “illegal” by Milosevic). Gelbard accused Milosevic of having “trampled on the rule of law,” in the massacres of women and children in Kosova. He declared: “The only response this government seems to know is violence and repression.” Gelbard called for an end to the Serbian violence and for Serbia to withdraw all its special police forces from the region. This latter point was also a demand of the Contact Group, which gave Milosevic a 10-day deadline to do so. While the Contact Group in no way addressed the military option, this demand for complete withdrawal of Serb special police forces could form one of the technical points around which, based on Serb non-compliance, the U.S. could initiate military action.

Gelbard, echoing his tough statements of the previous week, said about Milosevic, whom he had met on March 9 in

Belgrade: "Time is not on his side." Gelbard praised Rugova, saying that Rugova is committed to unconditional talks on Kosova's future status, and will not abandon his policy of non-violent resistance to Serb oppression.

It is crucial that the Clinton administration's inclinations be translated into action. The British-sponsored bloodbath in Kosova cannot be allowed to drag on. Acting decisively against Milosevic would remove the British capability to use the Balkans to revive animosity between the United States and Russia, and possibly with China. In the midst of the global systemic financial crisis, and the urgent need for a U.S.-led creation of a new international financial system, such animosity between key world powers is the last thing this planet can afford.

The new Mideast peace offensive

by Joseph Brewda

With the British- and Israeli-manufactured Iraq crisis behind him, President Bill Clinton has tentatively begun a new diplomatic effort to force Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to comply with the Oslo peace accords. According to a March 9 broadcast on Israeli TV, the President plans to unveil a new initiative by the end of the month, causing Netanyahu to be "concerned."

That Clinton was considering confronting Netanyahu's sabotage emerged publicly on March 2, when the Israeli daily *Haaretz* reported that Clinton was preparing a "take it or leave it" proposal for Netanyahu, to agree to another 13.1% pullout from the West Bank over a three-month period, and to end construction of Jewish settlements in the Occupied Territories, in return for phased Palestinian compliance with some Israeli demands. (By contrast, Netanyahu has offered a 6.3% withdrawal, and has rejected any settlement restrictions.) Netanyahu's spokesman, David Bar-Illan, denounced the initiative as an "ultimatum."

The significance of the demand is political and psychological. If Netanyahu were forced to comply with any Oslo requirement, however minimal, especially following a U.S. showdown, the Mideast climate would be dramatically transformed. If Netanyahu is not brought to heel, on the other hand, the region is headed toward war.

Netanyahu is also "concerned" about another U.S.-backed initiative: the forthcoming trip by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to the Mideast, to review all unimplemented UN Security Council resolutions, and not just those pertaining to Iraq. The target is Israel, which has refused to comply with no fewer

than 69 UN Security Council resolutions (not counting 29 others vetoed by several U.S. administrations), with no reprisals—a double standard that has outraged the Arabs.

Dust in the eyes, and terror

Netanyahu has responded to Clinton's efforts with his typical mixture of provocation and fraud. On Feb. 23, Netanyahu called for new "Camp David" negotiations with Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, even before Annan had returned to New York from Baghdad with the successful solution of the Iraq crisis in hand. Netanyahu's proposal was immediately ridiculed by the Palestinian Authority as an attempt to throw "dust in the eyes." Netanyahu also denounced the Iraq agreement on Feb. 24, and demanded a showdown with "nuclear bomb"-equipped Iran, to revive the war hysteria.

Most worrisome, Netanyahu is planning a major new "Islamic" terror offensive to discredit the U.S. initiative. On March 10, Israeli Shin Bet intelligence chief Ami Ayalon told the Knesset (parliament) that Hamas and other Islamic terrorist groups are "planning large-scale terrorist attacks unprecedented in scope." (These groups, as *EIR* has shown, are all controlled by Britain or Israel.) The suspicious shooting of three Palestinian workers in Hebron by Israeli soldiers on March 10, which immediately sparked riots, is typical of the provocations in store.

Israeli officials also fanned out to Europe and the United States in the first week of March, to sabotage Clinton's efforts, with Netanyahu travelling to Britain, Germany, Norway, and Spain; Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai to France and the Netherlands; and Netanyahu's top aides, David Bar-Illan and Uzi Arad, to the United States.

Then, on March 6, British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook suddenly announced Britain's first-ever "Mideast peace initiative," in competition with Clinton's. According to Israeli TV, Clinton called British Prime Minister Tony Blair after the announcement, telling him not to discuss Blair's proposal with Netanyahu in their upcoming meeting, since the United States was preparing one of its own. Cook will travel to the Mideast in mid-March, on what the London *Daily Telegraph* terms a "diplomatic assault," soon to be followed by Blair.

Netanyahu "warmly" received the news of Blair's proposal, the *Jerusalem Post* reported, and in his March 8 meeting with the British Prime Minister, said he "would welcome an increased role for the European Union in the Middle East peace process." The U.S. State Department's reaction to the maneuver was frank. Its officials told the *Jerusalem Post* that Netanyahu's recent trip to Europe was "meant to distract attention from the stalled Palestinian track."

Redeployment or war

For their part, sane Arabs and Israelis alike see the new initiative as a chance to avert war, and are engaged in hectic diplomacy to prepare for it. On March 7, Arafat called for