

as an opportunity to have Turkey project its military power into the Middle East, the Transcaucasus, and Central Asia. The United States and Britain launched their continuing air attacks against Iraq from several NATO military bases in Turkey.

Turkey has played a central role in the "pipeline politics"

of the region, where Anglo-American oil firms have been scheming to build new oil and gas pipelines, primarily to bypass existing pipelines that traverse Russia. They want to prevent pipelines from being built through Iran as well. Pipelines through Turkey have been proposed, but none of these projects have come to fruition because of Russia's opposition.

## LaRouche: Turkey quake shakes NATO strategy

*The following statement was released by Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche on Aug. 25.*

The awful spectacle of the recent earthquake in Turkey suddenly shattered the previously ongoing NATO strategy for transforming the entire Transcaucasus and Central Asia region into a field of military operations against Russia, China, and Iran. Consider the wretched quality of the construction of the housing in the region of the earthquake, the lack of even a minimum of suitable emergency arrangements for such a well-known earthquake zone, and the pathetic performance of Turkey's military in response to the disaster. These shocking facts reveal the incompetence of NATO to conduct the kind of geopolitical warfare which the New York Council on Foreign Relations' Zbigniew Brzezinski has been loudly demanding be conducted in Central Asia.

These facts about the condition of Turkey's military have put a question-mark on NATO's current operations against nuclear powers Russia and China, and also Iran, in the combined region of the Transcaucasus and Central Asia. Although the British monarchy, which is the principal motivator of this potential thermonuclear confrontation in Central Asia, is using Arab and other elements of the type it deployed in the same region during the late 19th century, the backbone of NATO's military adventures in the region was to have been supplied, on the ground, by Turkey's military.

As was also demonstrated in the case of the mobilization for British Prime Minister Tony Blair's recent war against Yugoslavia, except for Germany's military forces, already reduced to a fraction of what they had been a few years earlier, NATO had no in-depth war-fighting capability in the Balkans theater. For the next phase of NATO operations, in Transcaucasia and Central Asia, NATO was relying largely upon NATO member Turkey for placement of ground forces within Transcaucasia and the Turkic-

speaking region of Central Asia. The inability of Turkey, and especially Turkey's military, to deploy the kind of engineering and related civil-defense emergency action needed in response to the recent earthquake, exposes the fatal weakness in both Turkey's economy, and the lack of in-depth war-fighting capability in its army.

Meanwhile, back in the Balkans itself, NATO's post-war policies are, as I forewarned, a monstrous strategic disaster. The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) element which the Tony Blair government and its asset, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, adopted, to get the new Balkans war they wanted, is now the main threat to the security of Europe within the Balkans region as a whole. Neither the NATO military command, nor the forces which it has deployed into the Kosovo region, have shown the competence to deal with the skyrocketing disaster now spreading out of Albania and Kosovo into the region as a whole.

The general conclusion to be reached, is that neither the NATO command, nor the present leadership seems to understand what every U.S. military traditionalist used to teach at West Point and Annapolis military academies: There is much more to warfare than simply being able to kill human beings in large numbers. The purpose of war-fighting is to assist political institutions in winning the outcome of the armed conflict. That is what the awful earthquake has shown us about both NATO member Turkey, and, in fact, NATO as whole.

Thus, the combined lesson of the recent Balkans war and the aftermath of the Turkey earthquake, is, that the U.S.A. must scrap its present, incompetent strategic doctrine, with the intent, not only to return to earlier standards of competence associated with commanders such as General of the Armies Douglas MacArthur, but also with a global strategic political doctrine attuned to the new realities of today's global situation.

Much more need be said, and will be said by me, on this and other elements of present U.S. and NATO military and related strategic follies. However, since these are complex subject-matters, I shall address the issues posed in bite-sized quantities. Expect much more clarification of the breaking strategic situation, from me, during the coming days and weeks.