

start really acting like Democrats again. Each party has their own wings, and from time to time, those wings have control. The Democratic Party has always tried not to block people out, but just to allow ideas to come, and then we hash them out, and debate them, and go for them.

But what has happened with this DLC, the Democratic Leadership Council phenomenon that got Bill Clinton elected, and so on, was a drastic move toward being Republicans. And whereas there were some issues that I could identify with, the overall tone, was very dangerous.

Because in America, we need to have a clear definition of where people stand. We can't have people trying to appease everybody. If your idea is one thing for the general welfare, and the other person has another idea, then that's fine—that's what we're supposed to do. But don't try to straddle the fence on every issue. And that's where this DLC comes across as being this new, broad-based thing, and all that—but all it is, is just lowering the threshold of expectations.

EIR: The idea of “two Republican Parties” competing with each other.

Fleming: Right. The Democratic Party, especially under Roosevelt, and especially with Kennedy and others, has been—is supposed to have been the party that is open to the people, accountable to the people, and that believes that people need a helping hand, every now and then. When the times dictate that government should intervene, it should intervene, and nobody should disrespect that. They should expect that from their government. They expect governments to act when the nation is threatened in a military sense. They should expect the government to defend the nation in an economic sense as well.

That's where we are now. We hope that Jeffords' switch will allow a lot of those ideas that are being proposed by Mr. LaRouche, and others in the Democratic Party, to rebuild and strengthen the nation economically as well as from a social standpoint—that that faction and leadership will now be allowed to wheel and deal in the Washington political scene; and through Daschle's leadership, we'll be able to incorporate our ideas, even in President Bush's agenda. Even though President Bush's whole tenure is stacked on a house of cards, and eventually it's going to fall, the way our process works right now, we've got to respect the fact that he's in there, and try to work with him, and to work around him, when necessary.

I think the Democratic Party, now, is in a position to do that, especially in the Senate. The Senate was designed as the deliberative body, anyway. It was designed to be the body that could stop the train coming from the House of Representatives, coming from the White House, and say, “Wait a minute; what's in the best interests of the nation?” And I think now, with a Democratic majority in that body, you've got those brakes that we need on the speeding car.

Egypt Seeks Nuclear Power for Third World

by Hussein Al-Nadeem

Egypt was the host for “The International Seminar on Status and Prospects for Small and Medium-Sized Reactors,” on May 27-31. The seminar was co-organized by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Egyptian Nuclear Power Plants Authority, and was attended by 150 experts and industrialists from 45 countries.

The theme and the purpose of the seminar were indicated in the opening speeches of Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Ebeid and IAEA Director General Mohammed El-Baradei. Ebeid, whose speech was read by Egyptian Energy Minister Dr. Ali El Saiedi, said: “One-third of world population does not have energy resources. . . . Economic and technological development and the enormous population growth in the developing nations create a great demand for energy supply. If we want to alleviate poverty, we must work together to build a climate for investment that will create jobs, provide sustainable growth, and help develop and deploy advanced energy technologies.” He emphasized that “Egypt is among countries that are particularly interested in SMRs [small and medium reactors] as an electricity source and for water desalination plants, which are highly energy-intensive facilities.”

The Prime Minister added: “The use of nuclear energy as a crucial element in the energy systems of the developing countries will contribute to providing the energy supplies which do not emit greenhouse gasses. . . . The use of nuclear reactors to meet part of the energy needs and water supplies requires a commitment to a number of crucial conditions to develop and implement them successfully. These conditions are: long-term commitment to nuclear programs and their requirements, which the state has to develop and provide, such as basic infrastructure, technological knowledge base, and nuclear safety.”

IAEA Director El-Baradei said: “The demand for a higher standard of living is increasing everywhere—yet an estimated 2 billion people still lack access to electricity. Dramatic increases in electricity demand are expected over the next several decades—with the growth rate in the developing countries expected to be three times faster than in industrialized countries.” He stressed that “a total reliance on fossil fuels and large hydroelectric facilities is not sustain-

able, and an expanded future role of nuclear power must be considered.”

Al-Baradei counted the merits of small and medium reactors, which have a power output of less than 700 megawatts electric. “They are more suitable for standardization and prefabrication, which in turn, encourages enhanced quality control and stimulates rapid development of expertise and shorter construction schedules.” As for the benefits for developing nations, he said: “Nuclear power technology is a mature technology, and deserves all the attention, due to its ability to contribute to resolve a number of economic, social, and environmental complexities that accompany development. The development of new small and medium modules will play a leading role in coordinating and harmonizing nuclear technology with the need of its users.” On the relevance of SMRs for water desalination, El-Baradei said: “Seawater desalination is an application for which smaller reactors hold a particular advantage. Nuclear-powered desalination is a proven technology.”

Atoms for Water and Peace

As has been repeatedly emphasized by *EIR* and by Lyndon LaRouche (through his “Oasis Plan”), if durable peace is to be established in the Middle East, providing new, massive amounts of water—through nuclear-powered desalination of seawater—would be its cornerstone. The region must be put on a course of “peace through development”-type of cooperation. This will eliminate the danger of wars over “limited” water resources, a historical fact in all Arab-Israeli wars. When this element of the peace process was sabotaged during the Clinton Administration years, and religious issues were put on the table of negotiations, the process was started which culminated in Ariel Sharon, the “butcher of Lebanon,” assuming power in Israel.

If these initiatives were not taken as a regional cooperation process, then each sovereign nation-state would have to pursue this end of development independently. During this seminar, both Egyptian and international representatives made it clear, that part of Egypt’s strategic agro-industrial program, which started in 1994, is the use of nuclear energy for water desalination.

El-Baradei announced that “the IAEA supported Egypt to carry out a feasibility study for the construction of a dual nuclear power plant for the purpose of power production and water desalination. This project is aiming at finding out more about Egypt’s needs for energy and freshwater and the types of reactor that are most appropriate for Egypt’s water desalination projects.”

Agreement of Russia and Egypt

In late April, during President Hosni Mubarak’s summit meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Egypt and Russia signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for

cooperation in Egyptian nuclear programs: civilian use of nuclear technology for power production and water desalination.

The MOU states: “Egypt and Russia have agreed to develop and expand economic, scientific, and technical cooperation in the peaceful use of atomic energy according to Egypt’s national nuclear needs and priorities.” In a clear reference to the need for massive energy input for water desalination for Egypt’s future water supplies, the MOU says:

“The two sides committed themselves to enhance the use of nuclear energy, and provide energy for sustainable development, [and] improvement of the environment, taking in consideration the republic of Egypt’s interest in expanding and improving its energy base and providing the conditions for supplying the population with desalinated water.”

The comprehensive agreement will allow the two countries to cooperate in the research, development, and application of the following fields: nuclear energy technologies; nuclear fuel cycle, including exploration and production of raw materials; nuclear and radiation safety; production and application of radioactive isotopes; plasma physics; laser technologies. The MOU refers to the cooperation between the two sides for exchange of information, expertise, and personnel; establishing joint teams for the study and application of the different projects; education and training of Egyptians in Russian nuclear facilities and institutes; and establishment of joint research institutions.

During the discussions at the Cairo seminar, participants argued that it is necessary for countries in the region to enter this field, taking Egypt as a good example. Egypt, one of the largest countries in the Middle East and Africa, is constituted mostly of desert. Only a small part of the land, a thin strip on both banks of the Nile and the Delta, is utilized to sustain more than 60 million people. The expansion of the population centers to the west and to the Sinai would require the creation of new water supplies.

It was suggested in the seminar that the Egyptian Mediterranean coast (north and northwest) would be most suitable for this kind of project. Reports in the Arabic media suggested in May, that part of the agreement with Russia includes the building of a 1,300 MW dual nuclear power complex for energy production and water desalination. The location of this power plant would, reportedly, be on the northern coast of Egypt.

Although reality in the Middle East does not now generate optimism, due to the threat of outbreak of war between Sharon’s Israel and the Arab states, initiatives and discussions such as this seminar are important for the creation of a strategic vision of the future economic and social welfare of the nations of the world, especially in the developing sector.