

elections. Afghan ministers and the United Nations make plain that security must improve—with the aid of more foreign troops—for the vote to be fair, and it must include all the country's bitterly divided groups. "I don't think incomplete elections will be acceptable to anyone," Karzai's interior minister, Ali Ahmad Jalali, said recently.

Anwar al-Haq Ahadi, the president of the Afghan Central Bank and leader of the Afghan Mellat (Afghan Nation) party, who is considered to be close to Karzai, agreed that the election process still mainly consists of question marks: Who will be allowed to vote? Which electoral system will be applied? Will there be party lists, or the British "winner-takes-all" approach, or a combination of both, as in Germany? Will the country be parliamentary or a presidential democracy? Last but not least, Ahadi criticized the fact that the draft of the new constitution has been "kept secret" from the Afghan population.

NATO and Opium

It is evident, however, that it would be darn difficult to get more foreign troops into Afghanistan. U.S. Secretary of State Donald Rumsfeld, who was in Afghanistan in early December after his meeting with the NATO Defense Ministers in Brussels, had voiced some of that frustration earlier in September. He said NATO members have been slow to volunteer troops for an expanded International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF), but did not explain why.

This time, while in Kabul, he did not have anything new to add, either. "I certainly agree that an expansion of ISAF would be a good thing, [but] for whatever reason, there have not been countries lining up to expand ISAF," Rumsfeld complained.

The experience of Afghanistan also poses some serious questions about the effectiveness of the intervention and regime change in which the Bush Administration believes so strongly. For one thing, the doctrine does not give any clue to just how states can be reconstituted effectively. While the world in general recognizes that the removal of the Taliban was commendable and encouraging, what has transpired subsequently confirms that the new regime, hand-picked and molded from Washington, may co-exist with the country's continued role as the world's source of opium and heroin. Since September, Rumsfeld has several times dismissed the idea that NATO could do anything effective against the opium traffic. While it may well be a gain for international order that the Taliban regime is no longer in power, it also disturbs all that their removal had little, if any, immediate effect on the country's greatest and most corrosive contribution to global society, its production of opiates.

Not only does the flow of narcotics undermine the authority of whatever new regime emerges from the Loya Jirga; it is also causing domestic and international problems in post-Soviet Eurasia and raising uncomfortable questions about how effective the tools of intervention and regime change really are.

Interview, Dr. Vakhtang Gogvadze

Russia Having 'Velvet Revolution,' Not Georgia

Dr. Gogvadze is a well-known scientist, author, and politician in Georgia. A former Speaker of Georgia's Parliament and former Deputy Director of Tbilisi State University, Prof. Gogvadze was involved in founding the parliamentary system in Georgia and co-authored the Constitution of the Republic. Today, he heads the Georgian-Russian Friendship Association. Dr.



Vladimir Kilasonia interviewed Dr. Gogvadze on Dec. 8, just two weeks after the overthrow of President Eduard Shevardnadze (see EIR, Dec. 5, 2003).

EIR: There is great interest in Georgia in the 2004 U.S. Presidential elections.

Gogvadze: Unfortunately, the political process indicates that the road to the election of the next President of the United States is very dramatic, or even tragic, for the entire world community.

Mr. Bush has committed a number of naive, childish mistakes. His is a policy of muscle power, not the power of reason. "If I'm strong, I don't need to think," as they say. There is no other explanation for the tragedy in Iraq. The whole world has witnessed how Bush and Blair "made the Iraqi people happy." And in doing it, they exposed a lot of other misdeeds, which had been hidden. Bush also has to answer to the American people for the failed and hopeless actions in Afghanistan.

EIR: What do you think was George W. Bush's worst mistake?

Gogvadze: His most fatal error was committed with respect to Georgia, in making this coup d'état, cynically labeled "a revolution of roses." When [Secretary of Defense] Donald Rumsfeld, satisfied with the result, arrived in Tbilisi, he was met at the airport by a unit from Georgia's Defense Ministry in parade dress, well-equipped with American-made uniforms and boots. Up front were the handsome U.S. officers, the instructors, looking rather gloomy for some reason. But Rumsfeld smiled at each of them with a kind of plastic smile, and a kind of mysterious fear—perhaps about whether his compatriots in uniform were going to forgive him the great

number of American soldiers in coffins lately. The way he smiled and shook hands was reminiscent of Hitler in the Spring of 1945, dispatching young Germans to the last front. . . .

EIR: Still, hadn't you hoped until quite recently that Bush and [Russian President] Putin would find a common language, for the benefit of the whole world? In this case, your hopes and your forecast did not come to pass, did they?

Gogvadze: That's partly true. My thinking on this subject was based on what *should* happen. That's what he *should* have done. I sent my thoughts to Mr. Putin and to Mr. Shevardnadze, as recommendations. Since they were published in the mass media, they were also designed for the public. Putin himself was hoping that his "friend George" would act pragmatically, in the interests of the United States itself. But little ploys are useless in big policy. Putin bases his policy on a moral and legal foundation. He doesn't deceive. Whereas Bush, unfortunately, plays by double standards.

EIR: Last year you commented ironically about Russia's influence on NATO, calling it "Nato" [the Georgian diminutive of the popular woman's name "Natalia"; the Russian diminutive is "Natasha"]. You made the surprising assertion that NATO was no longer a formidable military organization, and that it would be nice if it would become as charming as Natasha Rostova in Tolstoy's *War and Peace*.

Gogvadze: Yes, I said this after the events around Iraq. A military organization is based upon a strict system of commands, which are not discussed; they are obeyed. But Bush and Blair, with sweet expressions on their faces (Tony likes to show off his good, white teeth) were inviting their allies to the carnage, as if it were a wedding party. Ultimately, only two of the 19 members, the United States and Britain, got themselves stuck in the desert sands. Though they had promised mountains of gold to those who joined, telling them that they would get oil, while the skeptics will get nothing. But man supposes, God disposes. The Alliance is coming apart at the seams.

EIR: But you were disappointed in Mr. Bush?

Gogvadze: Do you think I could ever have been charmed by that cowboy? But since you want to know what kind of hope I placed in him, let me tell you about a radio interview with Lyndon LaRouche, which I received two and a half years ago. The interviewer wondered why Mr. LaRouche was so generously handing good advice to the younger Bush, though Bush, Sr. had thrown him in prison, and the son was not favorably inclined towards him, either. And LaRouche replied, "As a person, George W. Bush is a real idiot, but he is President. Do you want him to wreck the country?" The journalist asked LaRouche what he would advise Bush. LaRouche answered, "He should find a common language with Vladimir Putin's Russia, with China, France, Germany, and other countries."

So, Bush the Father and Bush the Son (only the Holy Spirit is missing) have been unable to carry out a reasonable policy towards the rest of the world. Iraq is a vulnerability for them. But the ultimate stumbling block, it turns out, was Georgia. Just look at Shevardnadze's devotion to them, and how that was repaid. Their haughtiness and conceit do not sit well with "old Europe," either, not to mention Asia. As for our little country, it has become a battlefield for dinosaurs, an arena of imperial ambitions and a tribune for exposing secrets.

EIR: Let us look again at the November events in Georgia, which have been the object of global mass media attention for a month.

Gogvadze: Like the Sun in a drop of water, the Georgian events may have been a rehearsal for next year's U.S. Presidential elections. George Soros has already trumpeted that his success in Georgia is a prelude to victory in the U.S. elections; i.e., that Bush will not be re-elected. . . .

The United States should conquer other countries not with dollars and bullets, but with the humanism, love of peace, and spiritual qualities they have. If the U.S.A. were to develop Lyndon LaRouche's concept, it would have a great future.

EIR: In our civilized, but still not very literate world, even some Presidents wonder where Georgia is. The Georgia of the Caucasus, a Christian country since the Third century, has been carrying its heavy cross through the ages, and now is on the verge of collapse. How do you view this national tragedy?

Gogvadze: I am completely convinced that if Georgia ceases to exist, then Judgment Day will be at hand, in its most ruthless version, known as the Apocalypse.

Let's return to the sinful Earth. Georgia has become an arena for a simple scenario, which resulted in a serious shakeup. With financial and consulting support from Soros, the opposition revised the rolls of voters under the pretext of checking them, and they included a great number of people who were dead—some of them since the 19th Century. This caper led to the coup d'état of the "revolution of roses." . . .

Shevardnadze realized that something bad was being prepared for him. He was ready to give them the Parliament. But the opposition wanted a coup, and Soros wanted even more—a bloodbath, a civil war for the destruction of Orthodox Georgia. Some philanthropist! Without Russia's timely intervention, Shevardnadze would have been killed. [Russian Foreign Minister] Igor Ivanov, his former deputy as Foreign Minister of the U.S.S.R., saved his life. . . .

EIR: We have just heard about the results of the parliamentary elections in Russia. How do you see them?

Gogvadze: That was a genuine velvet revolution, with reasonable people coming in. I wish them success, and I hope that fraternal relations with Georgia are restored.

I thank you, Mr. Kilasonia, for the possibility to address Lyndon LaRouche's readers. His ideas are very popular in Georgia. The future belongs to them.