

EIR

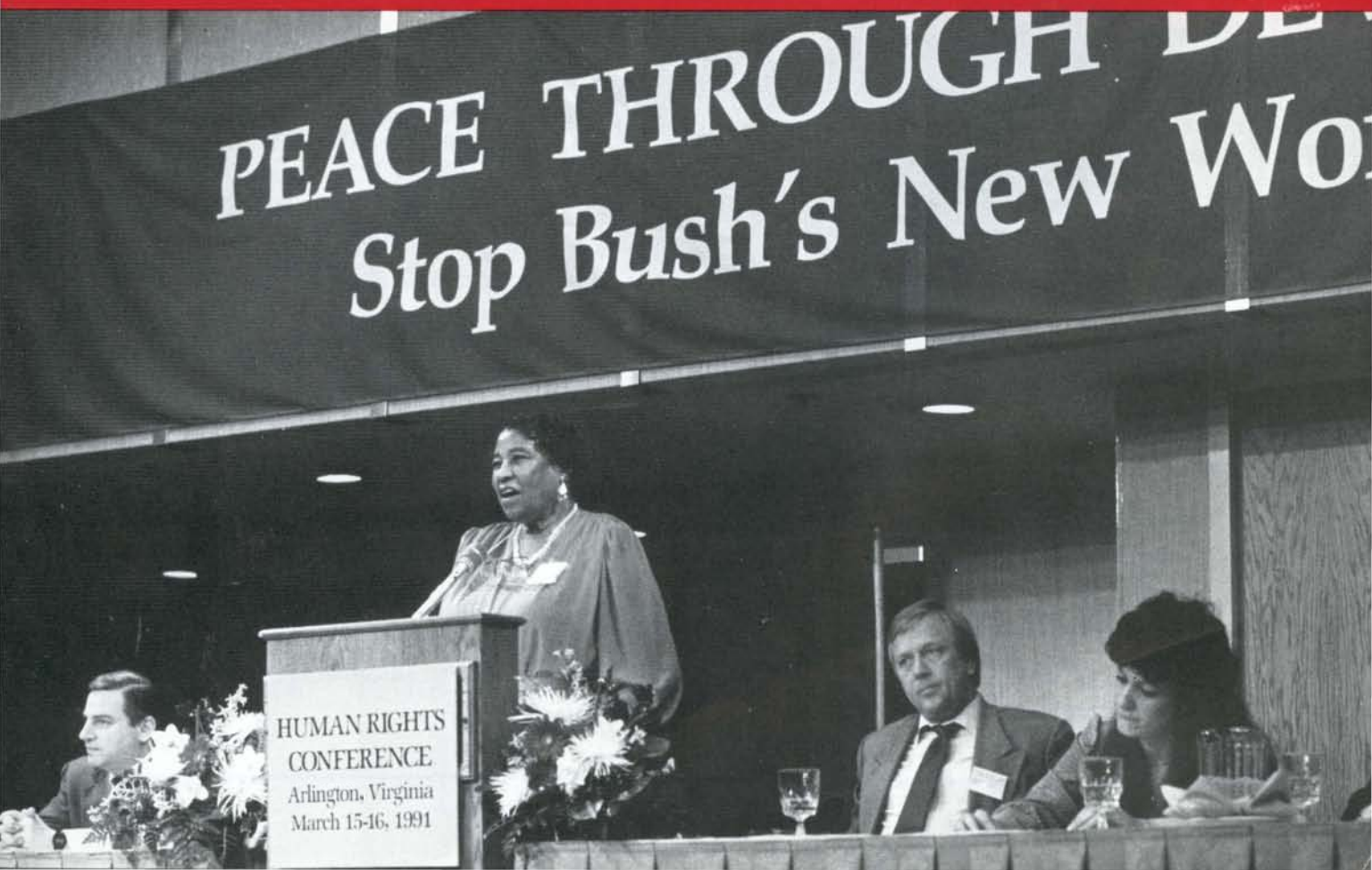
Executive Intelligence Review

March 29, 1991 • Vol. 18 No. 13

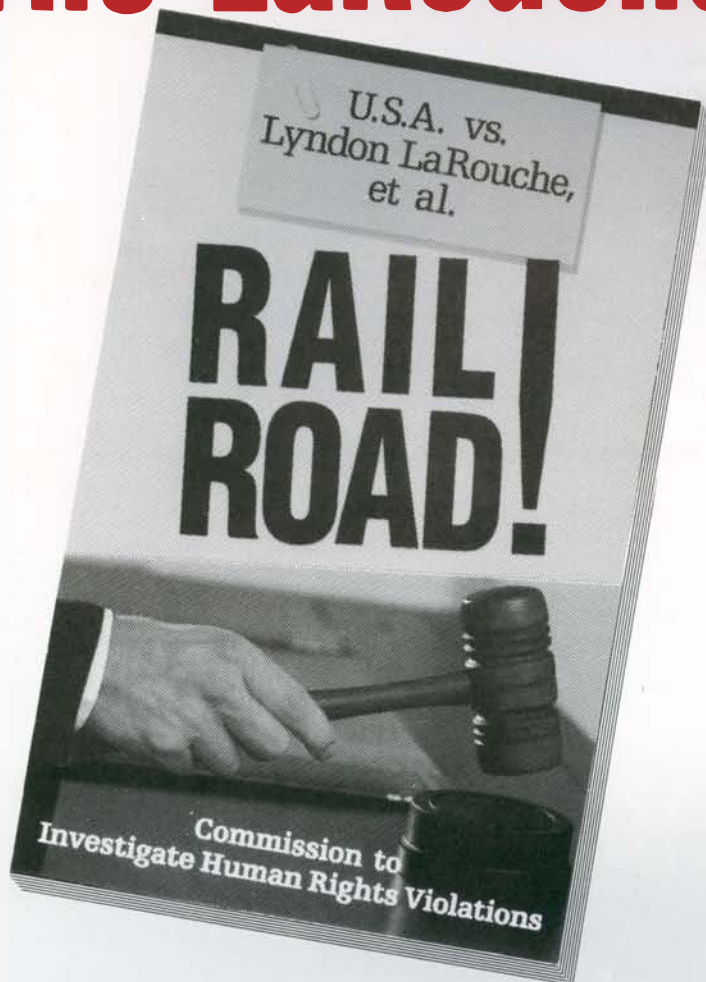
\$10.00

No 'free market' road to east German recovery
As we warned: Extinction of Iraq is under way
Mekong River project is pathway to peace

**The freedom struggle: from
civil rights to LaRouche**



The Truth About The LaRouche Trial



- The rush to trial only 37 days after indictment.
- Four years of federal investigations and a “warm-up” trial where jurors reported they would have voted unanimously for acquittal.
- The role of Henry Kissinger and the “Get LaRouche Task Force.”
- The judge’s decision to grant a special *motion in limine* to block the defense case.
- Full text of appeal papers filed by LaRouche’s attorney, former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, and distinguished international jurists.

\$10 ppd., 664 pages
Available from
Executive Intelligence Review

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Make checks payable to:

Executive Intelligence Review

P.O. Box 17390, Washington, D.C. 20041-0390

EIR

Founder and Contributing Editor:

Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

Editor: *Nora Hamerman*

Managing Editors: *John Sigerson, Susan Welsh*

Assistant Managing Editor: *Ronald Kokinda*

Editorial Board: *Warren Hamerman, Melvin Klenetsky, Antony Papert, Gerald Rose, Allen Salisbury, Edward Spannaus, Nancy Spannaus, Webster Tarpley, William Wertz, Carol White, Christopher White*

Science and Technology: *Carol White*

Special Services: *Richard Freeman*

Book Editor: *Katherine Notley*

Advertising Director: *Marsha Freeman*

Circulation Manager: *Cynthia Parsons*

INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORS:

Agriculture: *Marcia Merry*

Asia: *Linda de Hoyos*

Counterintelligence: *Jeffrey Steinberg, Paul Goldstein*

Economics: *Christopher White*

European Economics: *William Engdahl*

Ibero-America: *Robyn Quijano, Dennis Small*

Medicine: *John Grauerholz, M.D.*

Soviet Union and Eastern Europe:

Rachel Douglas, Konstantin George

Special Projects: *Mark Burdman*

United States: *Kathleen Klenetsky*

INTERNATIONAL BUREAUS:

Bangkok: *Pakdee Tanapura, Sophie Tanapura*

Bogotá: *José Restrepo*

Bonn: *George Gregory, Rainer Apel*

Copenhagen: *Poul Rasmussen*

Houston: *Harley Schlanger*

Lima: *Sara Madueño*

Mexico City: *Hugo López Ochoa*

Milan: *Leonardo Servadio*

New Delhi: *Susan Maitra*

Paris: *Christine Bierre*

Rio de Janeiro: *Silvia Palacios*

Rome: *Stefania Sacchi*

Stockholm: *Michael Ericson*

Washington, D.C.: *William Jones*

Wiesbaden: *Göran Haglund*

EIR/Executive Intelligence Review (ISSN 0273-6314) is published weekly (50 issues) except for the second week of July, and the last week of December by EIR News Service Inc., 1430 K Street, NW, Suite 901, Washington, DC 20005 (202) 628-0029

European Headquarters: Executive Intelligence Review Nachrichtenagentur GmbH, Postfach 2308, Dotzheimerstrasse 166, D-6200 Wiesbaden, Federal Republic of Germany
Tel: (06121) 8840. Executive Directors: Anno Hellenbroich, Michael Liebig

In Denmark: EIR, Post Box 2613, 2100 Copenhagen ØE, Tel. 35-43 60 40

In Mexico: EIR, Francisco Díaz Covarrubias 54 A-3 Colonia San Rafael, Mexico DF. Tel: 705-1295.

Japan subscription sales: O.T.O. Research Corporation, Takeuchi Bldg., 1-34-12 Takatanobaba, Shinjuku-Ku, Tokyo 160. Tel: (03) 208-7821.

Copyright © 1991 EIR News Service. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission strictly prohibited. Second-class postage paid at Washington D.C., and at additional mailing offices. 3 months—\$125, 6 months—\$225, 1 year—\$396. Single issue—\$10

Postmaster: Send all address changes to *EIR*, P.O. Box 17390, Washington, D.C. 20041-0390.

From the Managing Editor

Amelia Boynton Robinson, whose picture adorns our cover, told a conference of international human rights activists in Arlington, Virginia on March 15, that she considers Lyndon LaRouche the only person alive today who could fulfill the dream of Martin Luther King, Jr., with whom she marched and worked for many years—the dream of freedom and mutual respect for all peoples and nations. LaRouche must be freed, she said, to keep America from “falling apart.”

Our *Feature*, on Mrs. Robinson's role in the civil rights movement, vividly demonstrates the historical link between the best freedom fighters of that earlier era, and those assembled around the banner of the LaRouche movement today. Her story is an inspiration to anyone seeking to complete the work of Martin Luther King and his collaborators.

In sharp contrast, the lead articles in our *International* and *National* sections document the advance of George Bush's imperial “new world order.” The war against Iraq is continuing: Instead of bombing sorties, the Anglo-Americans are now forcing the people of that ravaged country into the depths of famine and disease, by depriving them of even the most minimal ability to restore power generation and food production, and to repair sewage and water facilities. The “lessons“ of Iraq are being brought home to every Third World country aspiring to sovereign economic development, through the policy of “technological apartheid” which is rapidly being put in place.

The situation in Germany, which is the subject of an in-depth report leading our *Economics* section, shows both the potential for a breakthrough that would implement LaRouche's proposed “Productive Triangle,” and at the same time the growing danger of economic catastrophe if that is not done. The eastern Germans are now asking: Why did we risk our lives to oust the communists and reunify our nation, if now we are to lose our jobs and go hungry? The Kohl government has offered only “free market” nostrums, rather than answers. But the answers are there to be had, and are becoming the focus of a growing debate in Germany and Eastern Europe.

Susan Welsh

EIR Contents

Interviews

- 37 Faisal Husseini**
The leader of the Palestinian delegation that met with Secretary of State Baker reports on their meeting, and on post-Gulf war prospects in the Occupied Territories.
- 39 Palestinian leaders in the Occupied Territories**
Al-Fajr editor Hanna Siniora interviewed mayors, attorneys, journalists, and fellow editors on what Palestinians think about the "new world order" and provided their responses to *EIR*.
- 63 Dr. Robert J. Lifton**
A professor of psychiatry at City University of New York, Dr. Lifton foresees that a wave of revulsion will set in after Americans learned what slaughter was committed in the war.

Departments

- 11 Andean Report**
Washington's man in Lima.
- 52 Dateline Mexico**
Church fights abortion.
- 53 Report from Rio**
Anti-military campaign escalates.
- 54 Panama Report**
Congress debates impeachment.
- 55 Dateline Montreal**
Mulroney and Bush fail acid test.
- 72 Editorial**
Emergency relief for Iraq now.

Strategic Studies

- 14 Beijing hosts superpower huddle on Cambodia**
The August 1990 U.N. peace efforts haven't gone beyond negotiating seating arrangements, as fighting continues in 14 of the 19 provinces of this country now entering its 21st year of war. Everyone wants to keep his oar in, and some even have the interests of Cambodia in mind.
- 17 Mekong Project is the pathway to peace**
Last year, Thailand revived a multinational project to harness the Mekong River for electricity, transportation, and agriculture as the basis for bringing peace to the region, and especially to Cambodia.
- 18 Mekong development plan: It is time to awaken the 'sleeping giant'**
In startling contrast to the abject poverty of the 50 million Thais, Laotians, Cambodians, and Vietnamese, the Mekong basin's water resources potential is unquestionably among the world's highest.

Book Review

- 50 Lebanon: Who is 'biting' whom?**
Pity the Nation: The Abduction of Lebanon, by Robert Fisk.

Economics

- 4 No 'free market' road to east German recovery**
The workers who said no to Marx in 1989, are again in the streets, this time saying no to the Adam Smith policies that threaten them with 50% unemployment.
- 7 Currency Rates**
- 8 Peru minister blames Fujimori for cholera**
In fact, the President's policy of neglect is dictated by the country's foreign creditors, who explain, "Certain countries are going to disappear."
- 9 Agriculture**
Sudan calls for food aid.
- 10 Banking**
Failing banks and Bushspeak.
- 12 Business Briefs**

Feature



Amelia Boynton Robinson addressing the March 15 meeting of the International Commission to Investigate Human Rights Violations, held near Washington, D.C. Others at the podium, left to right: Warren Hammerman, coordinator of international efforts to free LaRouche; attorney Odin Anderson; and Joyce Rubinstein, a former political prisoner in the same case with LaRouche.

24 U.S. civil rights struggle: a crucial lesson for today

One fighter for humanity who has maintained a constant outlook of cultural optimism in 60 years of organizing is Amelia Boynton Robinson. From Selma, Alabama in 1930 to East Germany in 1990, she has personified the struggle of all men to be free, to be brothers. We are proud to excerpt the forthcoming second edition of her book *Bridge Across Jordan*.

Correction: In our March 22 *Feature*, two errors have been pointed out. It was Jerusalem Patriarch Michel Sabbah who led the Palestinian ecumenical delegation to the Pope on March 14, not Gerjes Saed Khoury, as reported on page 31. Due to a typographical error, Prof. Mousa Darwish of the University of Bethlehem was quoted saying, "We Palestinians consider Jerusalem as the capital of our state." He actually said *East Jerusalem*, not Jerusalem (page 41).

International

32 Anglo-Americans drive to kill, dismember Iraq

Phase two of the war has begun, with the implementation of Iraq's extinction by civil war, famine, and disease.

34 Gorbachov, Yeltsin 'win' in Soviet referendum—now what?

35 Odd bedfellows act to avoid civil war

The Yugoslav Army is publicly refusing to back Serbian strongman Milosevic's bid for a coup.

41 Palestinians meet with John Paul II

43 Superpowers decree FMLN the winner

In El Salvador.

44 Washington hurls new insults at Japan

45 Birmingham Six case shocks Britain; some see parallels to U.S. 'justice'

46 English lawyer writes to Thornburgh on LaRouche

48 Pope sees 'echo of Grace' in Mozart as example of true meaning of joy

John Paul II's speech to the Plenary Assembly of the Pontifical Council for Dialogue with Non-Believers.

56 International Intelligence

National

58 Bush's new export controls: Third World, U.S. to suffer

Technologies that provide your daily bread, and industrial jobs, will now be controlled.

60 Activists say: Free LaRouche, stop the 'new world order'

Close to 500 participants laid out a spring offensive to free the only presidential candidate opposing George Bush, including the first discussion of LaRouche's motion for a new trial.

63 Many people are not happy about this war

Interview with Dr. Robert J. Lifton.

64 Bush claims 'victory' in phony war on drugs

Between "Just Cause" and "Desert Storm" the President's war on drugs is "Gone with the Wind."

66 Urban leaders 'storm' Bush domestic policy

Young women in New York City have a greater chance of dying from AIDS than any other single cause.

67 Inslaw scandal still haunts Thornburgh

68 Congressional Closeup

70 National News

No 'free market' road to east German recovery

by Rainer Apel

The people who made the peaceful revolution of late 1989 are back in the streets of east German cities, gathering for protest marches. Up to several hundred thousand protesters in Leipzig, Dresden, and Berlin had once called for the end of the socialist regime; today, tens of thousands are calling for the end of another regime—the “free market” economic management that has proven incapable of bringing jobs and social security after the collapse of the communist regime.

The new wave of mass protests began in late January, with harsh criticism of the German government's decision to fork over close to \$12 billion in tribute for the Gulf war, at a time it was dickering over nearly every additional single deutschemark of support for the ailing economy in east Germany. An explosive ferment was building behind the scenes, especially at the end of February, when the new jobless figures were published: 780,000 unemployed, and another 1.9 million on short-work in east Germany. This was close to 30% of the entire work force in the five eastern states of Germany, which meant that at least one member of every family was without work.

The official line of the German government, shaped by the ideology of fiscal conservatism, was that the people had to pass through this “low point of the conjunctural valley.” But the demonstrations showed that people are simply not interested in listening to such homilies any more.

The only thing that can reverse this crisis in Germany, and give hope to the nations of Eastern Europe as well, is an economic development program based on Lyndon LaRouche's Paris-Berlin-Vienna “Productive Triangle” of infrastructural and high-technology investment. This was the theme of a conference held by the Schiller Institute in Berlin March 1-3 (see *EIR*, March 15, page 4). The conference was attended by more than 100 economists and political activists,

many of them from the former East bloc. They made it clear that social ferment for a profound political change in east Germany existed, and would soon make itself heard.

According to a declaration voted up at that conference, “The ruin of developing countries and the deepening economic depression in the English-speaking world make clear that the system of Adam Smith is no more capable than that of Karl Marx to provide a solution to the economic misery of eastern Europe. . . . We call on the governments of Eastern and Western Europe, to make the ‘Productive Triangle’ program the centerpiece of their government policy.”

Labor protests are growing

The first days of March saw the revival of the east German protest movement, under a prominently displayed labor banner.

On March 6, several thousand metal workers took to the streets of Magdeburg, protesting plans for the foreclosure of most of the factories there. On March 8, several hundred women—most of them working wives who had already lost their jobs—staged a protest march through downtown Leipzig. On March 11, following the traditional Monday evening peace prayer at St. Nikolai Church, 25,000 workers, predominantly from the metal-processing sector, joined for a march of protest, attacking the government's labor market and non-investment policy.

“We took to the streets before [in 1989] to bring the communist regime down,” a factory councilman said in his short speech, “and we are taking to the streets now again, to fight for jobs and social security.” He and others attacked the indecision in Bonn on programs for job creation and consolidation of the production in east German cities.

On March 18, there were 70,000 people in the streets of

Leipzig, another 40,000 in Chemnitz, and several thousand each in Berlin, Rostock, Goerlitz, and Magdeburg. At the end of the day, the Lutheran Bishop of Brandenburg state, Klaus Forck, said: "I am afraid that it won't be long before we have a million people in the streets, as we had in 1989."

The big protest wave in 1989 started the same way: first 3,000 and 5,000, then 20,000 and 70,000, finally 350,000 people joining for a march of protest that extended through the entire inner city of Leipzig—a city of 500,000 inhabitants. Of that city's working population of 380,000, some 40,000 are now jobless, and another 100,000 on short-work.

The March 18 Monday protest march in Leipzig pointed harsh criticism at the fact that Bonn's Chancellor Helmut Kohl hadn't been seen in east Germany since the December 1990 elections. "It seems the chancellor is more interested in votes than finding out what is going on in the minds of the people here," said one of the trade unionists that addressed the crowd of 70,000. Another speaker, Werner Schulz of the Green Party caucus in the German Parliament, called on Kohl to come to Leipzig to talk to people: "If he won't come to us, we should go to him." Schulz warned that the people would march right up to the chancellor's doorsteps.

Another labor unionist said in his speech: "Unemployment here could rise to 50%. That's an entire people without work. We didn't go on the streets in the autumn of 1989 or vote for German unity for this. We will not allow ourselves to become second-class Germans."

Pastor Christian Führer of the St. Nikolai Church, which had played a role in the mass protest ferment of 1989, demanded: "There must be an end to those ideologues of the market economy who say the market solves everything." His statement was met with rousing applause.

'Shock therapy' won't work

For all of East Germany, the plans of the "free market" faction that moved into policymaking posts after the fall of the communist regime in November 1989, envisaged laying off 4 million out of a total of 10 million jobs within the next two or three years. These people said, and probably even believed, that with the security provided by the West German social welfare system, the shock of transition from the "outmoded socialist state-sector economy to a modern Western-style market economy" could be managed without major social perturbations. Their concept was to close down one-third of East Germany's industries right away, sell another third to private investors from the West, and phase out the remaining third over a longer period of time.

This shock therapy approach was the original mandate of the Treuhandanstalt, a state holding company that was established on June 17, 1990, to take control of the entire state sector economy of East Germany—a huge empire of 8,000 firms and farm cooperatives, with 6 million workers and employees. One has to add to that the 2 million workers and employees of the oversized public administration sector,



Helga Zepp-LaRouche addressing an organization of Hungarian former political prisoners in Budapest on the "Triangle" development program for Europe—the alternative to Marx and Adam Smith.

including the occupation of key administrative functions by mostly unqualified members of the Socialist Unity Party (SED) of the past regime, which at its height had 2.4 million members. The latter category of public sector jobs included the police and judicial apparatus, the army, the militia, and the party-controlled mass organizations. One-third of the administration—650,000 jobs—was to be phased out too, after a grace period of 12 months between July 1, 1990 and June 30, 1991.

This couldn't work, and it didn't. It couldn't work because of the reality of the "free market" system. What happened was not the smooth transition from one economic system to another, but the collapse of most of the industries and farm cooperatives in East Germany.

The shards of an economy

Those East German industries specializing in exports to the Comecon, the former, Moscow-run trade community of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, collapsed with the overall disintegration of the socialist bloc economy in 1989-90. An estimated 1.4 million members of the East German work force were dependent on trade with the Soviet Union, producing 40% of all export goods in 1989—mostly freighters, railway cars, agricultural machinery, water-borne construction cranes, machine tools, prefabricated components for home-building projects, and optical and electronic equipment.

A second category of industry specialized in state-subsidized production of textiles, accessories, and canned food

for the West, with the aim of earning hard currencies; they collapsed when they no longer received the support of the communist regime. This category also included many of the state farm cooperatives.

A third sector of the economy, the medium-sized industry and crafts sector which was supposed to blossom under the reign of the "free market," never made it into the new era. Of 300,000 new enterprises listed in East Germany, after the fall of the regime in November 1989, only 15% were in the traditional craft occupations like woodworker, roofer, car mechanic, household repairman, electrician, and the like. The vast majority were enterprises in the food and commodity distribution sector, based on quick amortization of investments through a drastic increase of sales. In most cases, these were just distribution centers for West German producers of food, textiles, shoes, and other consumer goods which flooded the east German market. In many cases, there was direct collaboration between former East German state cooperatives in the trade, food, and textile sector, and Western cartels. Under such conditions, there was never any real chance for new east German enterprises to establish themselves on the market.

The crafts and medium-sized industries in the construction branch could have had a chance, but it depended on municipal contracts which were never signed, or the private property of real estate which could be taken as collateral by the banks that would finance the new enterprise. As for the municipal aspect, since the first free elections for city councils on May 6, 1990, this level of administration has been only in the building phase. As for the property question, the law worked out in the German Unity treaty of October 1990 called for restitution to former owners who had been expropriated by the former communist regime. Compensation on the basis of the state of affairs as it was in late 1990 was to be the rare exception. This has led to a situation where most new investment projects cannot be realized, because the original owner of the land and factory inventory on which they are to be launched is yet to be determined.

A special problem, naturally, was that the state and the public administration have not mobilized a broad infrastructure investment program on the land that they owned, for reasons of "not interfering with the free market approach." This has been a big mistake, because an incentive that could have catalyzed industrial investments, namely a state program for infrastructure for the energy and housing sectors, was not forthcoming. Instead, for reasons of maintaining fiscal austerity over the state budget, plans for replacing the state by private investment options in transport infrastructure were discussed fruitlessly over several months. The precondition of private sector infrastructure projects would have been a change of certain articles in the German Constitution which specify that the public transport structure is the property of and in the exclusive care of the federal administration, the individual states of Germany, and the municipalities.

Adjustments in the government approach

In a series of meetings in mid-March, involving Chancellor Kohl, the cabinet ministers of finance and economics, and the prime ministers of the five east German states, some adjustments were worked out to halt the economic collapse and free the way for substantial investments in the eastern part of Germany.

The Treuhand mandate was changed, so that the firm would more closely consult with the five east German state governments from now on, and shift the general emphasis from a policy of foreclosure or reprivatization, to employment stability. Involving the continued operation by the Treuhand of some 4-5,000 companies and a longer-term state credit guarantee for exports to the former Comecon area, this is expected to stabilize and reconsolidate the employment situation for 3-4 million workers.

Furthermore, the property clause was modified, moving away from priority restitution to former private owners, to options for eventual expropriation with compensation to the former owner. This is expected to launch more public projects for infrastructure and industrial investment.

Another important step was taken on March 12, when the Bonn government gave an export credit guarantee for a long-delayed contract between the Soviet State Railways and the German Boxcar Manufacturers (east Germany) for the delivery of 1,022 passenger cars and 1,400 refrigerator cars. With a volume of DM 1.4 billion, the contract will secure 15,000 jobs in the manufacturing branch and an estimated 15,000 more in the rolling stock supplying sector of east Germany for the next 12 months. This means secured jobs for about half of the work force in the railway technology sector of east Germany.

Economics Minister Jürgen Möllemann also wrote a letter endorsing the long-overdue DM 6-8 billion project for two 1,300-megawatt nuclear power reactors at the east German sites of Greifswald and Stendal. West Germany's Siemens-KWU Group wants to build the reactors at the price of DM 4 billion each, if it gets government clearance under the rather restrictive laws governing nuclear plants. Möllemann discussed the project when he met with the directors of the three west German power giants—Bayernwerke, Preussen-Elektra and RWE—in the first week of March, and also met in mid-March with the two prime ministers of the states which would provide the sites for the new reactors, Mecklenburg-Premomerania (the Greifswald site) and Saxe-Anhalt (the Stendal site).

From pragmatism to a coherent policy?

These measures from the government, although they are only pragmatic adaptations to the emergency situation, do show that although it is still in need of a sound program for the industrial reconstruction of east Germany, the Bonn cabinet has at least grasped the importance of moving from free market inaction to state-sector action. Limited as it may

be, this new Bonn approach contains two elements that point in the direction of a sound investment policy. The two elements could capture the popular imagination through projects of a symbolic character with which the whole nation could identify.

The first element is the moved-up timetable for turning Berlin from the nominal into the living capital of the nation, in the next few years. Implying investments in the range of several billion deutschmarks, the decision in favor of moving substantial government and legislative functions from Bonn to Berlin is due before the July summer recess this year.

Further, a Bonn government decision in favor of the initiative launched in mid-February by Josef Duchac, the prime minister of the state of Thuringia, for the DM 8-10 billion project of a 600-kilometer-long Transrapid maglev rail track through east Germany, is expected soon, according to senior sources in the administration.

The Duchac project already received an important endorsement from Economics Minister Möllemann, who said in his keynote address to the Leipzig Industry Fair on March 17 that this city had "the great chance of becoming a trade pivot and servicing center for all of Europe, on the condition that it is supplied with a functioning system of transportation."

"The realization of a Transrapid line from Berlin via Leipzig and Erfurt to Frankfurt, could create between 25,000 and 40,000 new jobs," said Möllemann, who declared the commitment of his ministry to lend whatever financial resources were available to such a project.

On hand at the Leipzig Fair was Günter Gross, the chairman of German Boxcar Manufacturing, Inc., who said March 19 that such a modern railway technology project should be welcomed, because it would send a signal to the entire transportation sector in east Germany.

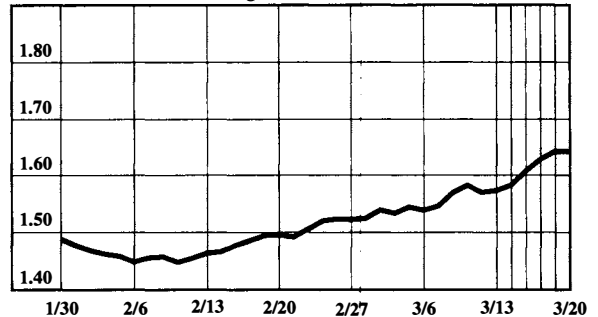
The signal goes beyond that. The "Berlin Capital" and the Berlin-Frankfurt Transrapid projects are leading the way from the pragmatist approach which is only capable of reacting to the disasters caused by an inappropriate economic policy, toward a systematic approach of developing the nation's infrastructure, industry, farming, research and development, as well as stable trade relations with Germany's eastern neighbors.

Helga Zepp-LaRouche, in her address to the Schiller Institute's Berlin conference, emphasized that the resurrection of the economies of the East from the "rubble-heap of socialism" will only be possible with such a coherent policy, an inspiring policy. "Over one year ago," she said, "I emphatically pointed out that, in my view, we would only succeed in seizing Europe's great historic opportunity if we tied the prospect of a comprehensive European development plan with a Christian-humanist renaissance. The events of the last year have shown us where the lack of these values has brought us. It is high time that we correct our errors."

Currency Rates

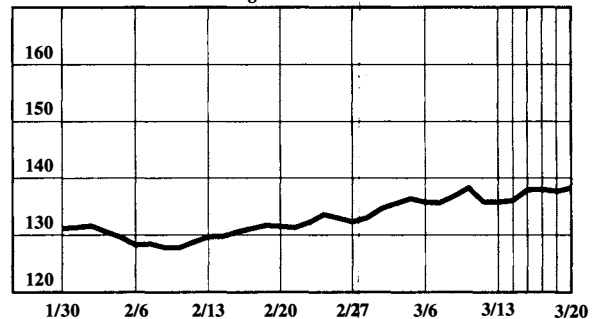
The dollar in deutschmarks

New York late afternoon fixing



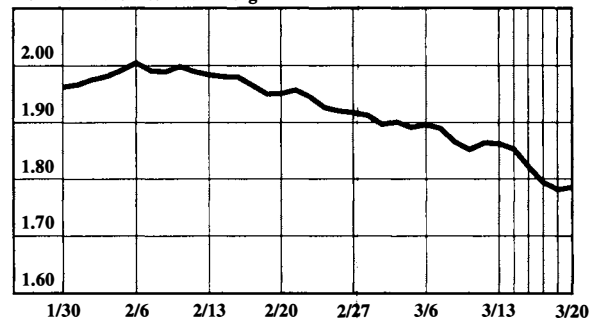
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



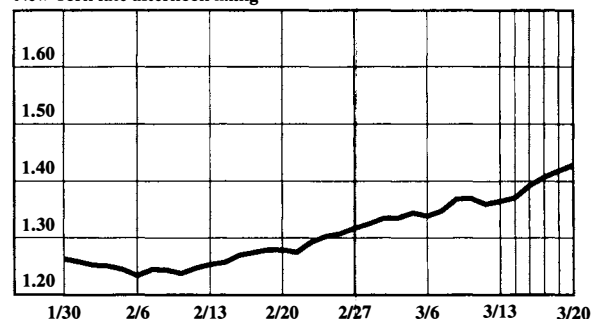
The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing



Peru minister blames Fujimori for cholera

by Valerie Rush

Peruvian Health Minister Carlos Vidal Layseca resigned the week of March 18, charging the Fujimori government with the deliberate sabotage of efforts to control and contain the cholera epidemic now spreading at an escalating rate throughout the population. Said Vidal, "Some wanted us to say the cholera epidemic didn't exist, to say that it was acute diarrhea of unknown origin. That was unacceptable." He added that if the epidemic had begun with 2-4,000 deaths, the response of the administration might have been a serious one. But since the deaths came from the poorest sectors of the population, said Vidal, "there was no such reaction from the state."

In fact, the Fujimori government's policy of murderous austerity coupled with criminal neglect is being explicitly dictated by its creditor banks. It is no accident that Citibank President John Reed declared a few months back, "Certain countries are going to disappear. . . . Peru and Bolivia are going to disappear."

'Emergencies cost too much'

According to Vidal, his resignation was triggered by a head-on confrontation with Economics Minister Carlos Boloña because, under current conditions, "one cannot cut the health sector by 10%." Vidal had demanded in February that a national emergency be declared to deal with the cholera contagion. Then-Economics Minister Juan Hurtado Miller had refused, saying, "No state of emergency will be declared, because that would demand extraordinary expenditures which are not now needed." Boloña announced in mid-March that he would continue and "intensify" the economic policies of his predecessor.

Vidal also charged a deliberate withholding of funds. Those same charges were made by Chimbote bishop Monsignor Luis Bambarén Gastelumendi, who resigned March 13 from the Chimbote presidency of the Special Commission to Fight Cholera after promised funds to build sanitation projects in the slums of that city were never delivered.

The former health minister was also in constant conflict with President Fujimori and his Fishing Minister Félix Canal, who have repeatedly and publicly insisted that consumption of the Peruvian dish *ceviche* (marinated raw fish) posed no threat of contagion—despite charges by Vidal and the Peru-

vian medical profession that a sharp rise in the number of cholera victims followed Fujimori's televised promotion of *ceviche* as entirely safe to eat. Said Vidal, "There are two kinds of *ceviche*: that of the poor and that of the rich." Fujimori's dish was prepared from deep-sea fish, unlike the average Peruvian's *ceviche*, which is made from fish caught in Peru's severely polluted coastal waters.

Water cutbacks will spread cholera

Latest official estimates of cholera cases in Peru are 72,000, although scores of thousands more victims are believed to be in more isolated interior regions of the country. While the death rate is still at a low 0.5%, doctors are predicting that it could soon skyrocket to 40-70%. A major factor will be the decision by the Lima water authority to reduce water allocation to much of the city by 30%, blaming drought conditions and a labor strike. Hardest hit will be the already water-poor shanty towns that surround Lima where, according to the head of one Lima hospital, "there are people who don't have enough water even to wash their hands."

On March 20, UPI news service reported that "Thousands of Peruvians have begun to bring pots and pitchers to Lima fire stations, parks, and state-owned businesses, waiting on long lines to obtain enough water to prepare food and perform minimal hygiene. . . . More than 35% of the population in Lima and 65% of rural residents live in neighborhoods without access to running water or sewage services."

The cholera epidemic has spread from Peru to Colombia, Ecuador, Brazil and, now, Chile as well. Outbreaks are also reported in Argentina and Bolivia. The Colombian weekly *Semana* said scientists fear the contagion will follow drug-trafficking and contraband routes, causing "a tragedy of gigantic proportions," since the necessarily clandestine nature of such activity prevents medical and sanitary control over cross-border movements. Mexico and, especially, poverty-stricken Guatemala are believed to be high-risk targets of contagion as well.

But cholera is just "the tip of the iceberg," according to Mexican journalist Antonio Hernández Montoya, who wrote in *El Día Latinoamericano* March 11, "The cholera epidemic which is ravaging Peru, which has already arrived in Ecuador and which threatens to spread across the region, is only the most spectacular aspect of the difficult situation threatening the area health-wise, as a result of the persistent economic crisis of what has been called [Ibero-America's] 'lost decade.' "

Indeed, it is now reported that at least 3 million Brazilians in 10 states could be victims of a yellow fever resurgence. In the state of Bahia, according to Brazil's health ministry, they have also recorded outbreaks of bubonic plague, the Black Death of the Middle Ages. Finally, the Pan-American Health Organization is predicting that the number of AIDS victims in Ibero-America—currently estimated at one million—will double by the year 1995.

Sudan calls for food aid

The U.S. Committee for Refugees stands exposed as an instrument of those using food as a political weapon.

On March 18, the Washington embassy of the Republic of the Sudan issued a news release, "Food Situation in the Sudan: An Update." The statement called for international help to make up a gap of up to 1.2 million tons of grain needed by June. The shortfall results from two years of drought, on top of decades of impoverishment imposed by the International Monetary Fund.

According to the February *Food Outlook* report of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, the 19 nations of sub-Saharan Africa need 3 million tons of cereals in grain relief in 1991, after harvest shortfalls last year. However, the Anglo-American wing of the world food and refugee organizations is practicing food relief warfare: withholding food and agricultural inputs, and creating refugees.

The Sudanese government statement singled out for criticism the "unfortunate and prejudiced position" of the U.S. Committee for Refugees, as given in a March 7 press release titled, "Famine in Sudan Begins to Kill Thousands," which charged that the Khartoum government is causing hunger and death for its own people.

The Sudanese statement said, "The director of this organization, Mr. Roger Winter, does not hide his open hostility and his sustained negative political attitudes to the Sudan government. He developed the habit of discrediting the Sudan government by circulating unfounded information and calling for punitive measures and the use of food as a political weapon to hurt the Sudanese population at a time when all the international com-

munity need to come together to meet their humanitarian needs.

"According to our knowledge, Mr. Winter has not been to Sudan for the last decade and has never sought information from the embassy. He keeps his agency surviving on stereotyped repeated reports in hearings on Sudan and some other countries. His release of March 7, 1991 provides ample evidence of his lack of knowledge and his zeal to discredit the government of Sudan."

It is an open secret in Washington, that the U.S. Committee for Refugees is a front group for the Department of State. Funding for the committee comes from the State Department and the top Eastern Establishment foundations—the MacArthur and Ford Foundations, John Merck Fund, and others. The U.S. Committee for Refugees has active operations against other nations of Africa, as well as South America (see its January 1991 issue, "Running the Gauntlet") and other Third World regions.

The Bush administration has targeted Sudan for purely political reasons: because the government of President Omar El Bashir opposed the stationing of U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf from the beginning, and also has a policy of attempting to become food self-sufficient in two years. Moreover, Sudan has rich oil deposits, besides agricultural potential. With 25 million people, of whom three-quarters are Muslim, its position along the Red Sea makes it a cultural bridge between Arab West Asia and black Africa.

There has been a campaign of vili-

fication against the Khartoum government by U.S. officialdom and media. A Feb. 23 *Washington Post* piece, headlined, "Sudan's Government Still Won't Ask for Help as Drought Grows Worse," blamed Khartoum for starving its own people. Such stories fail to report that Bush suspended aid to Sudan, and last October even diverted a commercial ship with 45,000 tons of wheat headed for Port Sudan. Meantime, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees cut the outlay of \$46 annually for each Ethiopian refugee in Sudan to \$38 a person.

Winter's refugee front group is circulating a 15-page discussion document in Washington that calls for U.N. non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the U.S. government to conduct "cross-border" food relief, "with or without Sudan government approval." He says, "United States' policy toward Sudan needs to be people-friendly, not government-friendly."

There is an act pending for introduction to Congress called the Horn of Africa Recovery Act, which would authorize U.S. action in the region of Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Djibouti, *bypassing* governments and of providing "relief" through NGOs.

Opposing this violation of national sovereignty, an emissary of Pope John Paul II visited Khartoum on March 13 to discuss peace and to invite President El Bashir to the Vatican. El Bashir expressed appreciation for the Pope's efforts for international peace.

Dr. Abdalla Sulayman al-Awad, the head of the Islamic African Relief Agency, active in nine African nations, also stressed cooperation in a statement March 11. He called for relief aid from the European Community and others, and said that this is no time for arguments. "We need actions now, and not excuses and squabbles."

Failing banks and Bushspeak

Bush's banking bill goes to Congress, the tab goes to the taxpayers, and worry grows that the patch won't hold.

The Bush administration's alleged solution to the U.S. banking crisis is about to be presented to Congress as we go to press, amidst signs of growing opposition to key components of the plan.

The most pressing measure is the recapitalization of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.'s Bank Insurance Fund, which stood at a mere \$8.4 billion at the end of 1990, or 43¢ in coverage for every \$100 in insured deposits. The FDIC projects that coverage will drop to 19¢ per \$100 in deposits by the end of this year. Regulators consider \$1.25 in coverage for every \$100 in deposits to be a safe level.

Under the administration's plan, as disclosed in a March 15 letter from Treasury Undersecretary Robert Glauber to FDIC chairman William Seidman, the administration has decided to replenish the BIF by allowing the FDIC to borrow up to \$25 billion from the Federal Reserve. The FDIC already has the authority to borrow up to \$5 billion from the Treasury, and under a formula based upon its net worth, another \$65 billion from the Federal Financing Bank. If Congress approves this plan, it would allow the FDIC to borrow up to \$95 billion.

The administration, in its Orwellian Bushspeak, is presenting this plan as an alternative to a taxpayer bailout of the banks. In theory, the loans from the Fed will be repaid by raising the deposit insurance premiums the banks pay to the FDIC, but everybody knows the bankrupt banks can't fund their own bailout. Once the money is borrowed, the government will issue

its usual "who could have known this would happen?" statement, and the taxpayers will cover the bad loan. Under the guise of protecting the taxpayer, the Bush administration plans to stick the public with another \$95 billion. And, as the ongoing savings and loan fiasco demonstrates, that's just the down payment.

How Congress will react to this proposal remains to be seen. The narrow passage of the \$78 billion for phase two of the S&L bailout shows the growing uneasiness in Congress for voting for taxpayer bailouts.

The Fed is not happy about aspects of the Bush banking plan either. Federal Reserve Board governor John LaWare recently publicly reiterated the Fed's opposition to the provision that would remove the Fed's authority to regulate the biggest U.S. banks.

While the administration fiddles with its smoke and mirrors bank policy, the banking system continues to hemorrhage. The banks claimed an aggregate profit of \$1.4 billion for the fourth quarter of 1990, the fourth consecutive quarterly drop in earnings and 65% below the earnings for the third quarter. For the year, the banks claimed a profit of \$16.6 billion, or \$1 billion more than they earned in 1989.

The domestic operations of the U.S. banks earned a net \$1.1 billion in the fourth quarter, the lowest level since the FDIC began keeping statistics in 1983, and about half of the profit of the previous worst quarter. For the year, domestic operations netted \$14.8 billion in 1990, down \$6.7 billion from 1989.

While profits were dropping, non-performing loans were on the rise, hitting a record 2.9% of all loans. The biggest losses were from real estate loans, and net losses nearly tripled during 1990 at banks in the Northeast, and nearly doubled at banks in the Southeast and Central regions. At year's end, \$36 billion in real estate loans were reported as delinquent, compared to \$22.5 billion in 1989.

To cover these rapidly deteriorating loans, the banks wrote off \$8.3 billion in loans in the fourth quarter. For the year, the banks wrote off \$29 billion, up 27% from \$23 billion in 1989. Despite the higher writeoffs, the banks ended the year with \$19.8 billion in repossessed real estate, compared to \$12.5 billion in 1989.

The banks also added a record \$11.5 billion to loan loss reserves during the fourth quarter, bringing the yearly loan loss reserve addition to \$31.7 billion. While that figure just slightly exceeds the \$31 billion added to reserves in 1989, a much higher percentage of those reserves were devoted to domestic losses. In 1990, the banks set aside \$1.5 billion to cover losses on their loans to the less-developed countries, compared to \$10 billion in additions in 1989.

FDIC chairman Seidman characterized the condition of the banking system as "bleak," and described the fourth-quarter bank profits as "severely depressed."

"I don't find much in here that says the first quarter of 1991 will be characterized as anything but bleak, but perhaps not as bleak as the last quarter—if you can have degrees of bleakness," Seidman said. "I want to emphasize, so people don't think that the whole system is in a state of collapse, that the banks made \$16.6 billion. . . . The problems that we're seeing are clearly not comparable to the S&L industry."

Washington's man in Lima

The U.S. State Department is financially and politically backing Hernando de Soto, Peru's "informal President."

Serious charges that he is an agent of the U.S. government have been leveled against Hernando de Soto, head of the Institute for Liberty and Democracy (ILD) in Peru and the man who has become known as the "Rasputin" of the Alberto Fujimori administration. According to the March 11 issue of the Peruvian magazine *Oiga*, "among the contributors to the ILD is the U.S. State Department, through its Agency for International Development (AID). Given the size of its donations—much larger than that of private U.S. organizations and foundations—the State Department has great decision-making influence inside the ILD, which practically makes Hernando de Soto an official of the United States government."

Oiga reports that Sen. Javier Alva Orlandini is demanding that a congressional committee be formed to investigate the source of ILD funds, since "if it isn't financed by Peru, and it is financed by American agencies, and it has been participating in government decisions and in negotiations such as the anti-drug agreement, the country's sovereignty will have been damaged."

De Soto is universally acknowledged as the power behind the throne in Peru, a power which has pursued two deadly policies:

- 1) the legalization of the cocaine trade, by legalizing Peru's coca farmers; and

- 2) the elimination of the constitutional institutions of government through a "popular consultation" mechanism which would be run by De

Soto's ILD, and which would funnel all political decision-making directly to the President.

As *Oiga* wrote on Feb. 18, "In competition with the Shining Path" narco-terrorists President Fujimori "and his favorite, Don Hernando de Soto," assault "all institutionality. . . . The Fujimori regime, like Shining Path, wants to destroy everything in order to build a new state from the ashes of the ruins."

This is the project the U.S. State Department is financing.

Oiga revealed on March 11 that in a document sent in 1985 to Peru's Economics Ministry, the ILD "acknowledges having received three donations: one of \$500,000 from AID, another of \$240,000 from the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), and a third of \$30,000 from the Smith Richardson Foundation, Inc." CIPE is a wholly owned subsidiary of Project Democracy, and the Smith Richardson Foundation is linked to the CIA.

Oiga also mentions the Heritage Foundation as "one of the private institutions which has done the most to help De Soto in his negotiations toward the signing of the anti-drug pact" with the United States. The anti-drug proposal, considered De Soto's personal creation, maintains that the drug trade should *not* be repressed, but that coca crops should be "substituted, little by little," while creating "business zones where economic activities are going to be unregulated" or "informal."

Oiga goes further: "That the hand

of the State Department is behind the drafting of this pact can be seen in the fact that the Peruvian government admits in it that the causes of the drug trade lie in coca cultivation and the trade of cocaine paste in Peru. This new posture, which tosses out the principle of co-responsibility which the governments of Fernando Belaúnde and Alan García put forward in their time . . . is very dangerous for our sovereignty."

Oiga notes that the text of the anti-drug agreement with the United States repeats the arguments of Coletta Youngers and John Walsh, which are included in the book *Coca, Cocaína y Narcotráfico: Laberinto en los Andes*, (*Coca, Cocaine and the Drug Traffic: Labyrinth in the Andes*), edited by the Andean Commission of Jurists. Youngers and Walsh maintain that, "generally, [U.S.] government officials argue that coca cultivation is the most vulnerable link in the production of narcotics and in the trafficking chain," and that it is easier to find and destroy coca crops than laboratories or smuggling routes.

The U.S.-Peru agreement explicitly states that "it is easier to locate, identify, and strike a deal with 100 or 200,000 persons grouped in communal organizations from the supply side, than to try to confront the problem from the demand side, where millions of people are involved."

The point, concludes *Oiga*, is that the United States is now proceeding on the false assumption that without drug production, there will be no consumption. Secretary of State James Baker told Americans in November 1988 that the drug trade is a national security threat. Keeping this in mind, and also George Bush's bloody adventure in the Persian Gulf, says *Oiga*, "nothing is preventing Bush from invading the coca-producing Andean countries."

Business Briefs

AIDS

CDC report finds prisoners infected

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia reports a high rate of AIDS infection among prisoners, especially women. A nationwide survey of 11,000 inmates found that rates of HIV infection ranged from 2.1% to 7.6% among men and 2.5% to 14.7% among women.

The researchers from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and the CDC said in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* that these HIV infection rates are much higher than previously reported, except for a survey which found much higher rates in studies of only New York and Maryland, states with high AIDS incidence. This study took areas of moderate and high AIDS incidence for its survey.

The study showed that at nine of the 10 correctional facilities examined, female prisoners had higher rates of HIV infection than their male counterparts, and overall, minorities were much more likely to be infected than whites.

Research

South Korea, Germany launch joint projects

South Korea and Germany have agreed to accelerate exchanges of scientists and joint research projects in such fields as laser, robot-application, and magnetic levitation technologies, according to the *Korea Times*. Science-Technology Minister Kim Chin-hyon and German Research-Technology Minister Heinz Riesenhuber agreed to promote the transfer of advanced German technologies to Korea in their meeting on March 2.

Under the agreement, the Korea Science and Engineering Foundation (KOSEF) and the Deutsche Forschungs Gemeinschaft will expedite scientist exchanges and hold joint seminars. The Koreans will also send more post-doctoral trainees to Germany each year.

KOSEF-supported science research centers and engineering research centers at univer-

sities will set up cooperative ties with Germany's Max Planck Institute for joint use of research facilities. It was also agreed that the Korea Institute of Science and Technology will jointly develop new materials for aircraft use with a German aerospace research institute, and advanced robotics technologies in cooperation with the Fraunhofer Institute.

Also under the agreement, the Korean Institute of Machinery and Metals and Braunschweig University of Germany will conduct joint research for the development of maglev and plasma-assisted material surface manufacturing technology. The Korea Research Institute of Ships and Ocean Engineering will sign an agreement with Fraunhofer shortly to set up a laser center.

Trade

Turkey pursues Black Sea economic zone

President Turgut Özal of Turkey is actively pursuing the creation of a Black Sea economic zone centered on relations with neighboring Soviet republics. He was interviewed by TASS on March 10, just before his visit to the Soviet Union.

Özal said that in post war West Asia, "the need arises to create a model of cooperation to link all countries in the region and complement the security system. The economic aspect of the system to be established in the region must ensure economic interdependence, because economic imbalances prove to be sources of conflicts in the region. . . . Its democratic system and an effective market economy make Turkey the only Muslim country which can serve as a model for postwar arrangements in the region."

Özal condemned Saddam Hussein's aggression, and favored the payment of war reparations to create a "special development fund and development bank, with which to coordinate efforts to ensure sources of finance coming from the region's oil extracting countries" and "fulfilling pivotal projects for building oil and gas pipelines and solving water supply problems."

Özal signed a friendship treaty with Gorbachov on March 12, which included inter-government agreements on trade, and eco-

nom, scientific, and technological cooperation. Turkey is one of the Soviet Union's biggest trading partners.

Foreign Debt

Warn of African chaos, starvation

"Africa will sink into the depths of despair . . . with bloodletting, starvation, and chaos, unless the [foreign debt] burden is relieved in the near future," Ugandan President Museveni has told the European Parliament, in his capacity as chairman of the Organization of African Unity.

Museveni said that in addition to the \$202 billion debt, Africa is crippled by the cross-currents of the East-West conflict, complete dependence on raw materials and commodities exports, and the lack of an integrated African market. He urged not only that debt relief be granted, but also that prices be boosted on raw materials, and EC agricultural subsidies be revised to allow African produce to compete.

Museveni also said that the EC should not lift sanctions against South Africa until apartheid has been completely eradicated.

Development

Swiss labor union seeks solidarity with E. Europe

Rejecting calls for the Swiss Army to be deployed to police borders against Eastern European economic refugees, the Swiss Christian Union federation has called for "real solidarity" with Eastern Europe, in the words of its leader, Ugo Fasel, through "financing infrastructure and investments, realizing a privileged economic cooperation between the regions of the east and west, [and] opening our markets to products of the post-communist countries."

This union is sponsoring courses for groups of unionists from Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Romania, to teach them Western union methods, in an attempt to pre-

Briefly

vent them from passing "from one yoke to another. Freed of communism, there's the danger that they will be subjected to the most cruel market laws."

The ultimate aim of the courses is to "help build free unions in the post-communist countries, and foster the transition to a free market system which respects social needs."

Science

Naval weapons lab duplicates cold fusion

A cold fusion researcher at the Naval Weapons Lab in China Lake, California has used the so-called cold fusion process to obtain excess heat and helium-4 in a basic electrolyte cell. Dr. Melvin Miles, working in collaboration with Dr. Ben Bush at the University of Texas at Austin, said that the correlation of helium-4 and excess heat matches theoretical computations concerning cold fusion. His paper will be published in the next issue of the *Journal of Electroanalytical Chemistry*.

Despite continuing successes in cold fusion experiments since it was discovered by two University of Utah researchers, including three experiments that have mastered a triggering mechanism to turn the heat-producing cells off and on, the scientific establishment continues to proclaim that cold fusion is dead. A spate of reviews of a new book entitled *Too Hot to Handle: The Race for Cold Fusion*, treat cold fusion as a hoax.

Infrastructure

Germany to help Italy build high-speed train

A letter of intent on Italian-German cooperation in high-speed train technology was signed between Siemens Transport Technologies of Germany and Ansaldo Transport of Italy in mid-March. Another prominent Italian firm, Breda Ferroviaria, is engaged in talks to join the project.

Joint research and development, as well as joint projects for the production of high-speed

train systems, is envisaged between Siemens and Ansaldo.

Potential joint ventures in Italy include a north-south rail link between Milan and Naples, and an east-west link between Trieste and Turin. They are projected for completion by the end of this decade. Experts estimate the total investment for both tracks at DM 50 billion. They would permit travel at 250-300 kilometers per hour. A private consortium is embarking on a third high-speed line between Milan and Genoa.

There was wrangling in Italy over whether to solicit German aid or conduct Italian-only rail projects. Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti settled the matter after the sudden death of the State Holdings Minister a few months ago, which made Andreotti the interim minister.

Nuclear Technology

Call for moving Pakistan program forward

The Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) has brought immense economic, technological, industrial, and agricultural benefits to the nation, the *Pakistan Times* wrote March 10, in an extensive article documenting the necessity of continuing to move the country's nuclear program forward.

"Despite embargos and restraints on the supply of spare parts and nuclear materials, the Karachi nuclear powerplant has already generated over 5 billion kilowatt hours of electricity." It says that Pakistan "has the largest research and development facilities in the nuclear field in the entire Muslim world, and is the second-largest in the whole of the Third World."

PAEC's agricultural research institutes have developed 13 new varieties of cotton, wheat, rice, and mungbean through nuclear techniques. The Nuclear Institute of Agriculture and Biology, it says, "has ushered in a cotton revolution in the country and given an impetus to local textile industry."

Similarly, at its nine nuclear medical centers, PAEC has been handling thousands of patients every year, providing cancer treatment and diagnostic services.

● **YURI VERSHININ**, the chairman of the Soviet Union's Tyumen Gas and Oil Association, has warned that "within a year or two, we will have to buy oil abroad," and "our powerful sector is on the brink of collapse." According to TASS, "More than 40 million tons of fuel has already been lost due to reduced financing, shortages of resources, and arguments over prices."

● **THE SWISS** National Parliament has given the go-ahead to two tunnel projects crossing the Alps. A new rail transfer tunnel at the St. Gotthard pass is to increase the capacity from a daily 400 containers/truckloads to 1,000. The other tunnel through Simplon will serve private cars and trucks. The projects are expected to be approved by the Swiss senate and President shortly.

● **GRUMMAN AIRCRAFT** is laying off 110 workers from its Space Station Program Support Division in Reston, Virginia, the *Wall Street Journal* reported March 14. An additional 60 workers will be fired at subcontractors. Because of federal budget cuts, Grumman plans to have only 755 workers in the division by late April, compared to 1,046 at the beginning of 1991.

● **CHINA** has launched a five-year program to repair the leaky toilets that plague those few households lucky enough to have one. There are only 20 million household toilets in China (one for every 60 persons), and 8.5 million of them leak so badly that 300 million cubic meters of water are wasted every year.

● **SOVIET** Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Maslyukov arrived in Beijing March 10 for talks on a 1 billion Swiss franc credit China will grant the U.S.S.R. to buy Chinese food, textiles, and light industrial goods. The agreement will allow China to reduce vast stockpiles of consumer and other goods that have built up in the past 18 months, because Chinese consumers have not bought them.

Beijing hosts superpower huddle on Cambodia

by Linda de Hoyos

During March 11-13, Beijing was the site of a hectic round of diplomacy concerning the Cambodian conflict, with the simultaneous, but supposedly uncoordinated, arrival in the Chinese capital of Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Maslyukov; Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachov, Russia's point man on Indochina negotiations; U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern and Pacific Affairs Richard Solomon; and the leaders of the "resistance coalition"—Prince Norodom Ranariddh, KPNLF's Son Sann, and the Khmer Rouge's Khieu Samphan.

The frenetic pace of the bilateral meetings among all parties conjures up images of the Marx Brothers door-dodging scene in "Night at the Opera." Solomon met separately with Prince Sihanouk; Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Xu Dunxin, Beijing's chief negotiator on the Cambodia conflict (a reported three-hour meeting); with Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Liu Huaqin; Soviet negotiator Igor Rogachov; and French Ambassador to Beijing Claude Martin.

Rogachov's Chinese interlocutors have not been named, but he is known to have conferred with Vietnamese Ambassador to Beijing Dan Nyem Hoan and French Ambassador Martin, at their request, according to TASS March 13. Joining the fracas, the Japanese Foreign Ministry announced March 12 that Tadashi Ikeda, adviser to the Japanese embassy in Bangkok, would soon arrive in Beijing to meet with the resistance coalition leaders.

The cause for the diplomatic scurrying is the fact that the agreement of the United Nations Permanent Five—the People's Republic of China, the United States, the Soviet Union, France, and Britain—on the Cambodian conflict, an-

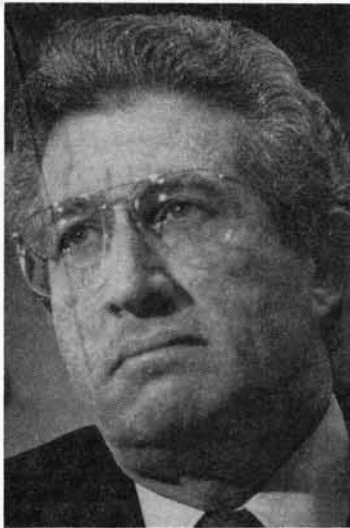
nounced in August 1990, has, as this news service warned, not advanced the "peace process" in Cambodia one step. The Permanent Five called for a U.N. administration to take over the affairs of Phnom Penh and for the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh government to self-dissolve, while the U.N. oversees a cease-fire agreement and the disarming of all parties in a process leading to national elections.

In October, as all parties were deciding who would sit where on the Supreme Council, the U.N.-designated new, titular government of Cambodia, the Phnom Penh government voiced its objections to its dissolution, saying that it would open the way for the Khmer Rouge's unhindered political and military penetration of the country.

Twenty-one years of war

The diplomatic impasse has hardened the Cambodia conflict, as the country this spring enters its 21st year of war, begun in 1970 when the Nixon administration pulled the plug on the Sihanouk government and launched its secret bombing.

In early February, *Jane's Defence Weekly* reported that Beijing was reopening arms shipments to the Khmer Rouge. Earlier reports had surfaced that China was supplying the Khmer guerrillas with tanks for the first time. The Chinese had claimed that they had not provided any military assistance to the Khmer Rouge since the August Permanent Five agreement. On March 1, Anatoli Ivanovich Valkov, Soviet ambassador to Thailand, announced in Bangkok that the Soviet Union would keep arming Phnom Penh. "A unilateral stopping of supplying of arms is not a solution," Valkov



Dramatis personae of the diplomatic deal in the works: The State Department's Richard Solomon; Son Sann of the KPNLF; Prince Norodom Sihanouk; and Khieu Samphan of the Khmer Rouge.

said. "We are for stopping the supply of arms but every side participating in the conflict must do the same."

On March 8, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Duan Jin finally made public Beijing's arming of the Khmer Rouge, reverting to the standard formula for such announcements: "The end of [military] assistance is a component of a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian question."

Meanwhile, the official Vietnamese daily *Nhan Dan* warned on March 2 that the Khmer Rouge was using the Persian Gulf war as a veil to "intensify their sabotage activities in northwestern Cambodia." With the beginning of the dry season, the tempo of military actions is increasing. Phnom Penh forces reportedly retrieved a ruby-mining town on the Thai border from the Khmer Rouge in early March. On the other side, Khmer Rouge radio broadcasts claim that the Khmer Rouge carried out grenade attacks against the central market and Defense Ministry in Phnom Penh itself, and launched attacks in the suburb of Stoeng Meanchey, according to the March 11 *Bangkok Nation*.

That report, if verified, would indicate a high level of Khmer Rouge penetration in the country, as charged in November by Raoul Jennar, a consultant to the Belgian Senate who surveyed Cambodia in October under the auspices of the Forum of Non-Governmental Organizations in Cambodia. In his report issued Nov. 6, 1990, Jennar wrote: "The Khmer Rouge have succeeded in reestablishing themselves deep into the country and can in future undertake the encircling and strangulation of cities as they did in November 1974 to April 1975, which resulted in the fall of Phnom Penh."

There are two axes of resistance penetration of the country, reported Jennar, one running from the camp of O'Trao on the northern border with Thailand, where Khmer Rouge leaders Ta Mok and Khieu Samphan are based, which runs

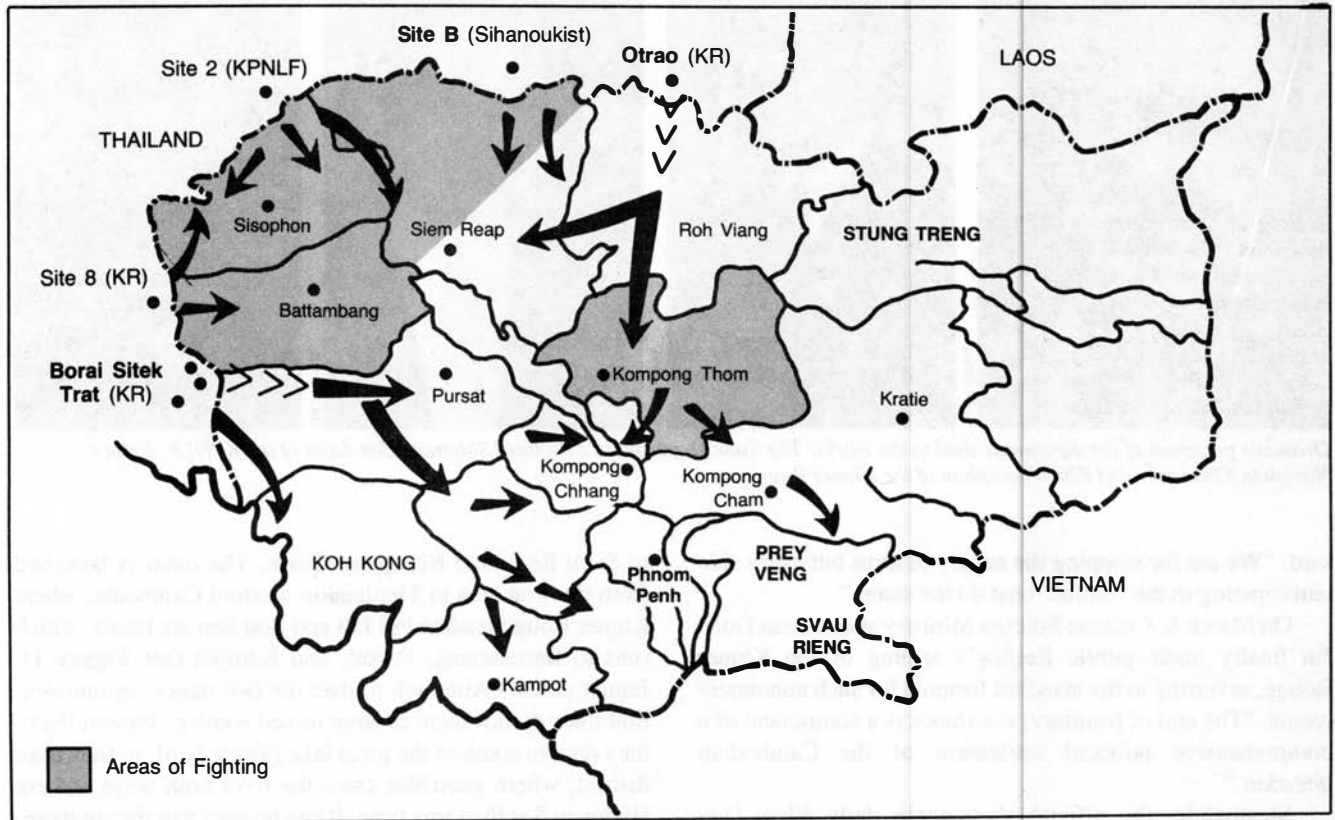
to Siem Reap and Kompong Cham. The other is launched from the Trat area in Thailand in western Cambodia, where Khmer Rouge leaders Pol Pot and Son Sen are based, which runs to Battambang, Pursat, and Kampot (see **Figure 1**). Jennar notes: "Although to date the two major communication lines do not seem to have joined south of Phnom Penh, they do join south of the great lake [Tonle Sap], in Bari Baur district, where guerrillas cross the river both ways and cut Highway 5 at the same time. It can be seen that the southernmost points of the axes are situated 25 miles southwest and 60 miles southwest of Phnom Penh. These two points are 140 miles apart."

Jennar reports that the behavior of Khmer Rouge troops coming from Trat is "subtle. Terror and massacres are combined with purchases of rice at higher than the market price and other similarly attractive practices." There are reports that the Khmer Rouge have moved refugees into the "liberated" areas of Cambodia by force. "The resistance wants to populate the liberated areas with the refugees, not only to control the areas but also to keep their hold on the people," said Jean-Jacques Fresard, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Thailand, as quoted in the *Bangkok Nation* Jan. 15. In early 1989, for example, the Khmer Rouge moved 4,000 refugees across the border into Cambodia.

Militarily, there is continual fighting in 14 out of 19 provinces of Cambodia. Analysis of the Khmer Rouge's military activities, Jennar said, "indicates that the operations now involve the mobilization of increased manpower (sometimes 200-300 men). This means that they are able to transport reserves of weapons and ammunition deep into the country. . . . Finally, this means that from now on they can do without their bases back in Thailand and would not suffer from a possible closure of the frontier if Bangkok decided to do this."

FIGURE 1

Khmer Rouge penetration of Cambodia



The possibility of options

Although no word has yet emerged on the results of the meetings in Beijing, on March 13, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin pointed the way to a possible superpower compromise, assuming that what pleases Beijing also pleases Washington. Churkin reported from Moscow that the Soviet Union was in agreement with proposals made by Vietnam Feb. 28 for an immediate cease-fire in Cambodia and resumption of activities of the Supreme National Council, reported TASS. The cease-fire is the precondition for ensuring that the Khmer Rouge operations are stopped, under conditions in which Phnom Penh is supposed to give way to U.N. administration.

The call for reviving the Supreme National Council would, at least on the surface, appear to be a concession from Phnom Penh and Vietnam, that the Khmer Rouge—which is seated on the council—is indeed a party to any settlement. And to underscore the point, Churkin stated that “it is important that peace initiatives should be in tune with the known plan put forth by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council”—the plan heartily endorsed by the P.R.C. and rejected by Vietnam as a violation of the U.N. Charter and of Cambodian sovereignty.

A more interesting initiative is on the way from Japan, whose Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama will visit Beijing and Hanoi for talks on Cambodia. Although the Japanese proposal is not yet disclosed, according to a March 13 Agence France Presse wire, it centers on increasing the role of the United Nations. According to Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe, the plan includes “concrete measures on the implementation of the suspension of war” and to “prevent the revival of genocide.”

Last month, then-Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan had floated a Japan-backed plan which calls for the rehabilitation of Cambodia’s infrastructure—roads, railways, and airfields—in both resistance- and government-controlled areas, even before a peace settlement is in place. Chatichai proposed that the construction plans be carried out by the all-party Supreme National Council, using the Cambodian embassy in Bangkok as a base of operations. “Thailand would serve as a ‘coordinator’ with the U.N. and with donor countries, particularly Japan, which has offered to finance the rehabilitation scheme,” reported the Bangkok *Nation* Feb. 12. The plan has been endorsed by Prince Norodom Ranariddh, son of Prince Sihanouk, but has been greeted with silence by the other Cambodian factions so far.

Mekong Project is the pathway to peace

by Linda de Hoyos

In all the hundreds, if not thousands, of hours expended by Moscow, Washington, and Beijing in diplomatic wrangling over the conflicts in Southeast Asia since World War II, very few have been spent on the economic development of the region, specifically the training and harnessing of the Mekong River. However, in 1990, as negotiations were proceeding for a comprehensive settlement in Cambodia, plans for developing the Mekong were given new impetus in diplomacy coming from Thailand.

The initiative came from then-Thai Foreign Minister Subin Pinkhayan during an October visit to Vientiane, Laos, where the Thai official called for the revival of the Interim Mekong Committee, a multinational body which has directed the feasibility studies on the Mekong Project since 1957. Behind Subin's proposal for the Mekong was then-Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan's idea to turn the Cambodian "battleground into a marketplace."

In October and November, Subin consulted with both Phoun Sipaseut of Laos and Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach on proposals for a joint dam and reservoir project on the Mekong along the Thai-Lao border. Subin, who is a hydraulic engineer, told the *Bangkok Nation* Nov. 2, "I am very interested in these projects, which were mapped out back when I was a student. Later, I studied these projects at university and I was also involved as an adviser to the Mekong Interim Committee."

Thach's blessing, reported the *Nation*, for Mekong projects was solicited to "make Laos feel comfortable about entering into Thai-Lao power development cooperation, which far surpasses Thai-Vietnamese cooperation within the framework of the Mekong Interim Committee." Thach was reportedly "enthusiastic and open-minded," describing the long-shelved major power development projects as "Sleeping Beauties and Thailand as Prince Charming." The two projects immediately in question are the Pa Mong dam on the Mekong River and the Nam Theum dam project in a Mekong tributary inside Laos.

As the *Nation* further noted, "Foreign Ministry sources familiar with Subin's thinking said that the minister sees hydropower as the 'cheapest and cleanest' source of energy as an alternative for Thailand to import crude oil imports. Thailand now imports about 60% of its crude, which has risen markedly since the advent of the Gulf crisis." Subin had also brought up the Mekong Project in a visit to Beijing in mid-November.

Prime Minister Chatichai, in discussions with his Lao coun-

terpart Kaysone Phomvihane in November, also called for the construction of two to three more bridges to link the countries across the Mekong. One bridge is now slated for construction this year, with Australian funding, and will contain a railway link. It must be hoped that despite the February military coup against the Chatichai government, the Thai military's promise that foreign policy will not change includes a continued commitment to the Subin initiatives for the Mekong.

Who is interested?

At the end of November, the Mekong Interim Committee met for its 32nd annual session. Under the leadership of the Canadian-born Chuck Lankester, the committee is focusing on four projects: the Low Pa Mong, the Luang Prabang, Chiang Khan, and Nam Theum I. In early November, Lankester toured Europe looking for funds. The meeting also became a focal point for pulling together the regional unity needed to carry out the dam projects. Cambodia has not been represented on the committee since 1976, when the Khmer Rouge took over Phnom Penh. The Interim Committee now includes Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam. In a press conference held Nov. 27 after the session, Vietnamese president of the National Vietnam Mekong Committee, Dinh Gia Khanh, called for the inclusion of China and the Union of Myanmar (Burma) in a program for Mekong-centered regional development. It was high time, Khanh said, that all six countries sharing the Mekong coordinate efforts to utilize its potentials to capacity.

Beijing has agreed only "in principle" to participate in Mekong projects, a Thai Foreign Ministry spokesman reported Feb. 8, and China has agreed to exchange technical information with the Interim Committee. However, the projects are not likely to be welcomed by Beijing's subsidiary, the Khmer Rouge. The Khmer Rouge has rejected the plans by Thailand to begin the reconstruction of Cambodia, making the full acceptance and implementation of the Permanent Five plan for a U.N. takeover of Cambodia a precondition. This stance derives not only from the perceived advantages handed to the Khmer Rouge in the U.N. plan, but also from the Pol Potist Maoist ideology.

At international meetings in the last 10 years, the Khmer Rouge has feigned rejection of the nihilistic tenets which led to the deaths in 1975-79 of nearly one-half of the Cambodian population, either through murder or starvation. However, in February, it was revealed that the anti-human Pol Pot has banned the killing of animals in territory it controls. With this, Pol Pot joins with the World Wildlife Fund of Britain's Prince Philip, for whom economic development is anathema.

The Mekong is the pathway by which the Southeast Asian nations can join efforts in achieving mutual benefits that can end the persistent degradation of its people, who have long suffered as pawns of the superpowers. Far from being a non-issue in negotiations on the Cambodian conflict, the attitude toward the vast opportunities it presents is the litmus test to see who wants peace and who does not.

Mekong development plan: It is time to awaken the 'sleeping giant'

by Uwe Henke v. Parpart

For almost four decades, war, the hopes for lasting peace in Indochina, and the Mekong Project of large-scale hydroelectric and irrigation development in the lower basin of Asia's third largest river have been closely intertwined. On three separate occasions since World War II, when peace seemed close at hand—upon the signing of the 1954 Geneva Accords, in 1972-73 as the Vietnam War was winding down, and again in 1990—plans for harnessing the Mekong River have been put forward to foster regional stability and cooperation. And even in the midst of war, in the 1960s, P.T. Tan, one of the project's main architects, wrote: "If we wait until wars are over before starting any project, we will all be finished before even having made the first step. We have nothing to lose in starting a project which will raise the standards of living of the people in the Lower Mekong Basin. Perhaps by raising their standards of living, the warring factions will realize that poverty is the real enemy of the people and that they should stop fighting against each other and join hands, pool their resources to fight poverty, and achieve the objective of prosperity for all."

This idea was struck again during the visit of American statesman Lyndon LaRouche to Southeast Asia in the summer of 1983. Upon his return, LaRouche wrote a report published by *EIR*, "The Development of the Asia-Pacific Basin," which specified five "great projects" designed to unleash the tremendous productive potential of the region and encourage regional cooperation across political, factional, religious, and ethnic lines. Along with the construction of a second Panama Canal, a Kra Canal through southern Thailand, the development of the Ganges-Brahmaputra river basins, and the construction of the North-South Canal in mainland China, LaRouche specified the development of the Mekong River basin as opening the possibility of creating an agricultural and industrial powerhouse in Southeast Asia.

Today the lower Mekong drainage basin has a population of approximately 50 million, representing over one-third of the total population of the four riparian countries of Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam **Table 1**. At average per capita annual incomes of \$100-350, the basin area's people, including those in rural northeastern Thailand, are among the world's poorest.

In startling contrast to such abject poverty, the basin's water resources potential is unquestionably among the

world's highest for regions of comparable size. Current consumptive use of the basin waters for irrigation and water supply amounts to less than 1%. At 254 megawatts of installed capacity, the degree of exploitation of hydroelectric potential is also estimated currently to be 1%. By any measure, the river's energy and irrigation potentials are immense.

The Mekong is the world's eighth largest river in annual flow. Like the Yangtze Kiang and Burma's Salween, it rises in the Tanghla Range of northeastern Tibet, at an elevation of 5,000 meters. Running initially in a southeasterly direction, it soon turns due south, and flanked in the west by the Salween and in the east by the Yangtze, cuts through the eastern mountains and plateaus of China's Yunnan province. Leaving Yunnan, the river has traveled almost 2,000 kilometers, dropped 4,500 meters, and reached a width of 400 meters. After forming the border between Burma and Laos for the next 160 km, it enters its lower basin area at the common Burma-Laos-Thailand frontier point.

Below Burma, the Mekong still has some 2,400 km to go before reaching the South China Sea, draining on its way the Korat Plateau of Thailand, most of Cambodia, and the westward slopes of the Annamite mountain chain. At the junction with Thailand's Mun River, where it ceases to form the Thai-Lao border, its span has widened to 1,600 meters. After traversing southern Laos, plunging over the Khone Falls, and running through northeastern Cambodia, the Mekong becomes navigable for small ocean-going craft below Kratie. At Phnom Penh, it becomes connected to Cambodia's natural catch-basin, the Tonle Sap, alternately—depending on the season—feeding or being fed by the Great Lake. After the point of conjunction with the Tonle Sap River, the mainstream divides into two forks, and as these twin streams continue south and enter Vietnam, they in turn divide and fan out over a vast, fertile delta, emptying into the South China Sea through numerous mouths.

Along its course, the Mekong drains a total catchment area of 795,000 square kilometers—well over twice the land area of Japan—including some 185,000 sq km along its upper reaches in China and Burma. The over 609,000 sq km of its lower reaches drainage basin comprise almost the whole of Laos and Cambodia, one-third of Thailand, and one-fifth of Vietnam. The average annual discharge is more than 475,000 million cubic meters of water, with large seasonal variations.

TABLE 1

Population and economic data for the Mekong Basin

	Cambodia (1985)	Laos (1987)	Thailand (1987)	Vietnam (1988)	Total
Total population (millions)	7.97	3.88	54.34	63.73	129.9
Basin population* (millions/% of total)	7.41/ 93	3.67/ 95	19.78/ 36	15.00/ 23	145.85/ 35
GDP					
National (\$ bil)	0.7	0.7	48.0	10.8	60.2
Basin (\$ bil/%)	0.7/ 95	0.6/ 98	6.0/ 13	4.0/ 37	11.2/ 19
Per capita income					
National (\$)	100	156	1,014	180	
Basic (\$)	100	140	325	240	

*All population figures for 1988.

The tremendous power potential of this river can be precisely specified. Based on total average annual discharge into the sea, runoff from various parts of the basin, and differences in elevation between the center of each unit surface and the mean sea level, the theoretical hydroelectric potential has been calculated to be 58,000 megawatts of installed capacity and 505,000 gigawatt-hours of annual energy generation. Of this, 37,650 and 194,000 GWh per year have been found to be technically feasible by latest studies.

By comparison, Thailand's total present electricity consumption is only about 40,000 GWh, or 20% of that generation potential. However, between now and the end of the century, electricity demand in the four riparian countries can be expected to rise by close to 100,000 GWh over present levels, and by another 100,000 GWh by 2005, and thus will rapidly approach the total Mekong potential. A full 84% of the Mekong's potential power would come from Laos and Cambodia, with Thailand and Cambodia providing the market.

The lower Mekong's irrigation potential is estimated to be a minimum of 6 million hectares of cultivable land. This is about ten times the present reliably irrigated area. Since crop yields per hectare in irrigated areas are two to three times higher than in naturally rainfed areas, there exists a massive agricultural production increase potential, even with partial utilization. Furthermore, the development of the Mekong will end the cycle of flood and drought that afflicts many in its basin, particularly in Thailand's Northeast.

Rich history of regional development

The Mekong has been described as a "sleeping giant—neither spanned by bridge nor slowed by dam." Although it is bridged in China at several points, including by an iron suspension bridge where the famous Burma Road crosses the Mekong east of Baoshan, for the lower reaches of the river,

the description is apt.

This was not always the case. The ancient, strongly Indian-influenced Mekong delta civilization of Funan (first through sixth centuries A.D.), with its capital of Vyadhapura in the modern Cambodian province of Prey Veng, had laced the delta with a complex series of irrigation and communications canals. Many of these are still in use. Others, long silted and overgrown, have been revealed by aerial photography. There is good evidence that the second delta fork of the Mekong, the Bassac, was originally a man-made canal, which, if true, would constitute a remarkable hydraulic engineering feat.

In the seventh century, Funan was absorbed into the newly emerging Khmer state of Chenla, located in present-day southern Laos and northeastern Cambodia, with its capital of Isanapura at the modern site of Sambor Prei Kuk, in the lowlands between the Mekong and the Tonle Sap. The Khmers of Chenla developed sophisticated hydraulical techniques for agriculture, notably the "captive water" technique, which dammed water to be distributed by canals to less-elevated regions. This technique was later to be exploited to its full in the complex irrigation systems of Angkor.

The Angkor period of the Khmer Empire dates from the early ninth century to its final demise and the abandonment of the Angkor site in 1444. The first, great artificial reservoir-based irrigation works of the Angkor period were constructed under King Indravarman I (877-889) near Roluos, west of the Tonle Sap and just below Angkor. His successor, Yasavarman I (889-900), added a new system, fed from a large reservoir, the *baray oriental*, or eastern baray of modern times, fed by the Siemreap River. A final system, based on another large reservoir, the western baray, and again substantially increasing the cultivable area in the region around Angkor was built under Udayadityavarman II (1050-66).

These elaborate artificial irrigation systems, permitting



The Mekong River development plan is one of the great projects Lyndon LaRouche presented to this historic meeting in Bangkok in 1983, for developing the Pacific and Indian Ocean basins.

the assured exploitation of lands that otherwise would have remained unproductive, allowed the Khmers at Angkor to maintain a densely populated and highly centralized state in a relatively limited area. The Angkorian state reached its high point of advanced cultural development and influence in the early 12th century. After that, employing its manpower resources in costly and futile wars of conquest and squandering its engineering skills in the construction of huge monolithic temples, it went into decline. The temple complex of Angkor Wat, completed in 1150, in all its apparent magnificence, marked the beginning of the end of the Khmer Empire.

The modern efforts to develop the Lower Mekong Basin began shortly after World War II with the creation in 1947 of the U.N. Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE), headquartered in Bangkok, Thailand. In May 1952, ECAFE's Bureau of Flood Control produced a study under the title "Preliminary Report on Technical Problems Relating to Flood Control and Water Resources Development of the Mekong—An International River." The study cited exciting specific engineering possibilities such as the development of hydropower between the Lao capital of Vientiane and Luang Prabang and the diversion of the flow of the Mekong for irrigating vast areas of northeastern Thailand.

But military action in the eastern part of the basin precluded any immediate followup. After the 1954 signing of the Geneva Accords attention turned again to the Mekong. In 1956, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, at the request of the riparian states, produced a "Reconnaissance Report—Lower Mekong River Basin," which became a basic document for planning the river's development. In addition, in April-May 1956, the above-quoted P.T. Tan of ECAFE, with a team of special consultants from France, India, and Japan, surveyed the Mekong basin. Their report—"Development of Water Resources in the Lower Mekong Basin"—identified five mainstream multi-purpose dam projects: at Pa Mong and Khemarat between Laos and Thailand; Khone

Dalls on the Laos-Cambodia border; and Sambor and Tonle Sap in Cambodia. These would provide over 32,000 million kilowatt-hours of electricity per year.

The Mekong Committee is formed

The report also cited the need "to establish an international clearing channel or clearing house for the exchange of information and plans and the coordination of projects." On ECAFE's recommendation, a "preparatory meeting" of the four riparian countries—excluding Burma and China for political reasons—was held in Bangkok in September 1957, and adopted the "Statute of the Committee for Coordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin." The "Mekong Committee" was born, and has overseen Mekong project studies, planning, and implementation ever since.

The "Preparatory Meeting" also asked the U.N. Technical Assistance Administration to help recruit a team of water resources experts to review the Mekong development studies already carried out. The U.N. Technical Assistance team under the chairmanship of Lt. Gen. Raymond Wheeler (ret.) of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers produced a report in 1958, entitled "Program of Studies and Investigations for Comprehensive Development of the Lower Mekong Basin." The "Wheeler Report" called for a five-year program of investigations and an initial investment of \$9.2 million for development. The "Wheeler Report" formed the basis for much of the work done on the Mekong through the 1960s, along with a 1962 Ford Foundation study of the economic and social impact of the proposed projects, and a 1959 reconnaissance survey of Mekong tributaries under the leadership of Yutaka Kubota. The work centered on the five project-sites as the 1956 report of P.T. Tan—Pa Mong, Khemarat, Khone, Sambor, and Tonle Sap, and in addition, called for four top-priority projects on Mekong tributaries—at Nam Ngum, Nam Pong, Stung Battambang, and Aw Ab. Costs for the hydropower portion of the projects were estimated by the Ford Foundation to be \$6-7 billion.

TABLE 2

National projects: key parameters, 1987 revised indicative plan

Projects	Unit	Laos	Thailand ¹	Vietnam	Total
Power					
Generation capacity	MW	—	536	504	1,040
Energy production	GWh/year— ²	492	2,850	3,342	
Total investment	Mil. 1987 U.S.\$	8.3	245.8	547.4	801.5
Irrigation					
Total area	Hectares	19,800	100,000	300,000	419,800
Incremental paddy production	Tons/yr.	53,000	247,000	1,450,000	1,750,000
Direct employment	Labor places	7,300	46,000	260,000	313,300
Total investment	Mil. 1987 U.S.\$	32.4	244.7	413.9	691.0

1. Including investments in the period 2001-2005 (U.S. \$171.7 million)

2. Transmission line

By 1969, data collection and feasibility evaluations had been carried out for several major projects, and several smaller projects, such as the 150 MW Nam Ngum dam in Laos, were under construction. But work on the larger projects such as Pa Mong were stalled, due to the Vietnam War. In 1970, the Mekong Committee commissioned a team of independent international consultants to prepare a new comprehensive development plan for 1970-2000. This plan came to be called the "1970 Indicative Basin Plan." The 600-page report identified a total of 180 possible development projects. Those listed as "short-range," indicating smaller-scale projects for construction 1970-80, have been largely completed in Laos and Thailand, but war and lack of funds precluded construction in Cambodia and Vietnam. The Cambodia conflict has also acted to forestall the implementation of the long-range scheme, which called for the five major projects put forward in the Tan report and seconded in the Wheeler report.

Since 1976, Cambodia has had no representative on the Mekong Committee, and hence it has been dubbed the "Interim Mekong Committee." Still, it has not only survived but by 1988 had managed to increase its funding from negligible amounts in the mid-1970s to \$10 million in 1989. The Mekong Secretariat in Bangkok comprises 91 staff, including 44 professional staff. In 1987, the committee updated the 1970 report, publishing "Perspectives for Mekong Development."

For reasons of "political and financial realism," the only mainstream dam included in the 1987 Interim Basin Plan of the five listed in the long-range category in the 1970 report is the Pa Mong, reduced in elevation from 250 meters to 210 meters (see **Table 2**). Nonetheless, project planners and engineers at the Mekong Secretariat are confident of the technical and economic feasibility of the full range of the 1970 projects, although with some significant modifications.

The Mekong Project outlined here then includes the full mainstream "Mekong Cascade." Total project costs would be in the range of \$20 billion (1990)—that is, 4% of the

annual take from the world drug trade.

How the Mekong Cascade would work

The Mekong Cascade is an integrated system of dams and reservoirs that would regulate the lower 2,000 km of mainstream flow of the numerous systems studied since 1956. The cascade begins with the High Luang Prabang dam, 2000 km from the mouth of the Mekong, to the Pak Lay dam at 1,800 km; to the Pa Mong at 1,600 km; to Bung Kan at 1,400 km; to Ban Koum at 950 km; and Tonle Sap at 700 km; to the Stung Treng alongside it; to Sambor at 500 km from the mouth (see **Figure 2**).

The plan envisions the construction of five power projects: a 115 kilovolt transmission line in the Lao People's Democratic Republic from the existing Nam Ngum power plant to Luang Prabang; a 400 MW pumped storage plant at Nam Chern, Thailand; a 136 MW hydropower plant at Pak Mun, Thailand; and a staged development of hydropower plants at 24 MW and 480 MW respectively at Yali Falls, in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. The last projects would act to provide electricity to Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam (formerly Saigon), which often goes without power for hours at a time.

Aside from electric power supply, the cascade's main economic impact will derive from river flow regulation (see **Table 3**).

As a snow-fed river, the Mekong has a perennial flow. Lower basin flow, however, is dominated by the large annual rainfall variation. The river begins to rise at the onset of the southwest monsoon and the "wet season" in May-June, attains maximum water level between August and October, then rapidly falls until December, and afterwards recedes slowly during the "dry season" to reach its lowest level in mid-April. The enormous volume of excess water during the wet season results in severe flooding and crop and property damage in lowland areas along the mainstream and tributaries almost every year. By contrast, serious flow reduction in the

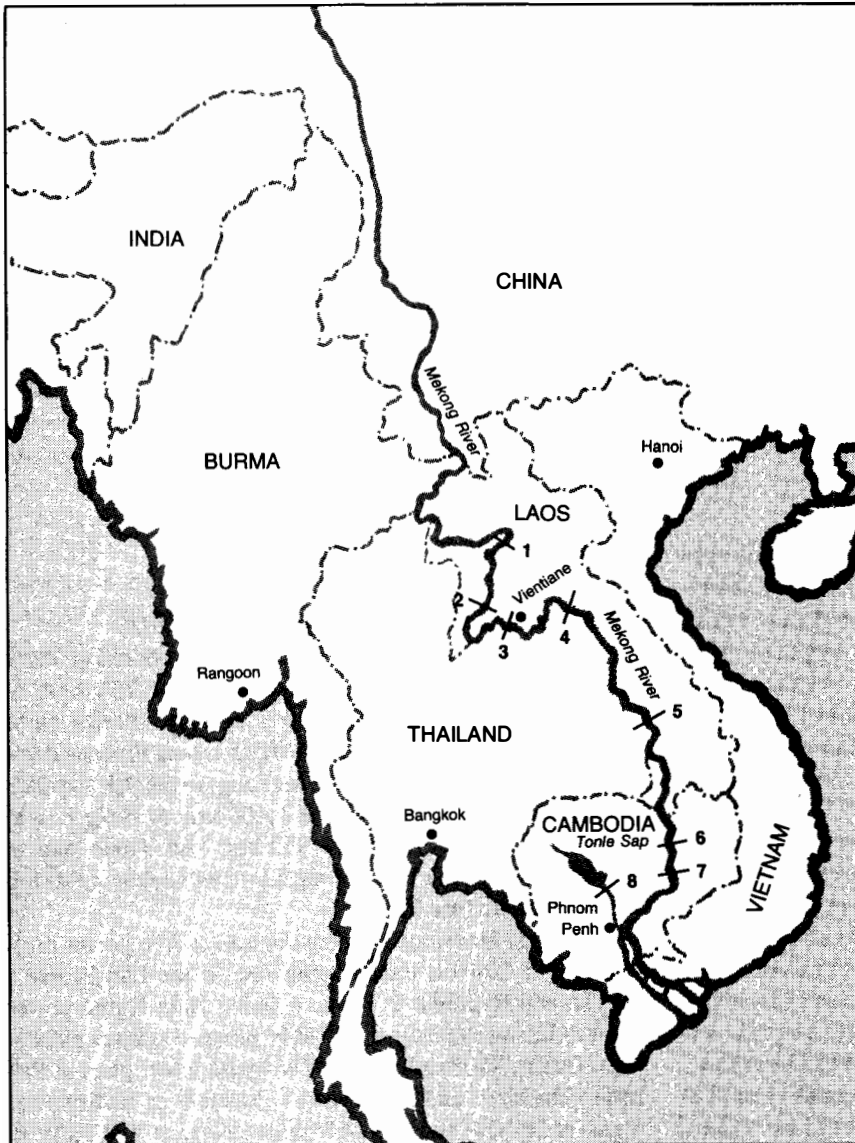


FIGURE 2
The proposed Mekong
Cascade

- 1 Luang Prabang
- 2 Pak Lay
- 3 Pa Mong
- 4 Bung Kan
- 5 Ban Koum
- 6 Stung Treng
- 7 Sambor
- 8 Tonle Sap

TABLE 3
The Mekong Cascade

Project*	Reservoir elevation	Reservoir area (sq km)	Net Storage (mil.m)	Installed capacity (MW)	Annual energy GWh	Lowflow increase m/s	(mil. \$)
High Luang Prabang	355/320	780	15,390	3,200	16,210	850	2,560
Pak Lay	275/255	370	5,580	2,500	12,730	430	2,190
Pa Mong	210/192	610	7,310	2,250	10,700	470	2,000
Bung Kan Regulator Dam	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ban Koum	125/123	400	620	2,400	11,230	120	2,260
Stung Treng	80/75	5,000	18,900	5,400	25,840	1,460	4,100
Sambor	40/38	1,160	2,500	3,200	16,200	260	2,850
Subtotals		8,320	50,300	18,950	92,910	3,590	15,960
Tonle Sap	10/3	61,360	54,470	NA	NA	2,500	2,600
Totals		69,680	104,770	18,950	92,910	6,090	18,560

*Numbers such as 355/320 indicate elevation in meters above MSL (mean sea level) of reservoir full supply level (FSL) and low water level (LWL) respectively.

dry season, when the river discharge even in normal years drops to 2,000 cubic meters per second, results in deep intrusion of salt water into the coastal plain of the Mekong delta, where an area of 2.1 million hectares is regularly affected by salinity intrusion.

In combination, the Mekong Cascade projects would augment low flows by some 6,000 cu m/s, quadrupling current natural flows. Not only would this go a long way toward solving the delta salinity intrusion problem, but it is also the precondition for realization of the full irrigation potential in other basin areas. And while by themselves the cascade reservoirs cannot entirely prevent lowland flooding during peak flow periods, inundation depths would be considerably reduced. Embankments in the delta and elsewhere could then accomplish the rest.

The Pa Mong controversy

The Pa Mong site some 20 km upstream from Vientiane where the Mekong breaks out of the uplands into the plain, is easily the most studied location for a major mainstream dam as the centerpiece of the entire cascade. The Interim Mekong Committee has contracted Acres International Ltd. of Canada to carry out new studies on the dam. A sedimentation study has already been accomplished by the Asian Institute of Technology, and an irrigation study by a Thai-Lao consultant will be completed in June 1991. The Japanese government has indicated interest in carrying out the environmental studies, and the Interim Committee will carry out a power system study with the Thai and Lao electricity authorities.

The current Interim Mekong Committee plan calls for the dam to be 210 meters, scaled down from the original proposal to have Pa Mong be 250 meters proposed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation study of 1963.

The Bureau of Reclamation proposed a concrete gravity dam, 115 meters high, with a crest length of 1,360 meters. The reservoir would have a storage capacity of 98,300 cubic meters and a surface area of 3,722 sq km, necessitating resettlement of some 250,000 people. Stage I electricity generating capacity was to be 4,800 MW and ultimate peak capacity 10,200 MW. Irrigation potential was estimated to be 40,000 hectares initially, ultimately increasing to 1-2 million hectares in the dam region and by another 2 million hectares downstream.

The Pa Mong dam was scaled down, due to concerns about the large number of people to be resettled. However, the former director of the Mekong Secretariat's Agriculture Division, W.J. van Liere, has argued that substituting Low Pa Mong for High Pa Mong could be a big and systematic mistake. His principal argument is that Pa Mong 250, but not Pa Mong 210, is able to perform the crucial task of dramatically improving the hydraulic conditions of the lowlands all along the Mekong mainstream and tributaries below the dam site.

When in flood, the Mekong peak flow at Vientiane is 17,000 cu m/s in normal years and as high as 26,000 cu m/s

in flood years. This flow does not remain confined to the river channel, but enters extensive floodways on both sides of the river as well as the low, wide floodplains of the tributaries in Laos, Thailand, and Cambodia. So much of the peak flow may be diverted into the tributaries that the Mekong is sometimes called "the river that flows backwards."

Pa Mong 250 would allow regulation of even the highest peak flow, reducing it to 10,000-20,000 cu m/s. All tributaries would drain into the mainstream year round. Flooding as far down as Cambodia would be regulated to the extent that 75,000 hectares of the most fertile land on the riverbanks there would become cultivable year round. On the other hand, Pa Mong 250 would by itself help increase dry season flow by 3,000 cu m/s. Furthermore, Pa Mong 250 would not only improve the hydraulic conditions of the lowlands along the mainstream and tributaries, it would also permit gravity irrigation of significant portions of northeast Thailand. Pa Mong 210 has virtually no such potential.

Thus, "social acceptability" and environmental concerns and the introduction of the ill-defined concept of "sustainable development" into Mekong Secretariat planning may have fostered a planning decision which in the long run will turn out to be neither environmentally sound nor lead to the optimizing impact for the entire project.

Although the resettlement problem is both real and difficult to overcome politically under current conditions, implementation of High Pa Mong, rather than Low Pa Mong, will create large, positive economic, social and environmental spinoffs that will readily offset the drawbacks of large-scale resettlement.

First, large-scale resettlement under environmental duress is already ongoing in parts of Laos and northeast Thailand without the dam, precisely because of unsatisfactory lowlands-hydraulics. In recent years, with implementation of few measures to break the perennial lowlands cycle of floods and droughts, and simultaneous greater market value of upland cash crops, there has been a surge of people towards the uplands. As a result, the uplands are becoming deforested and denuded at an ever-increasing pace. In Thailand, there has also been large-scale migration from the deforested and drought-plagued Northeast to the already hopelessly overcrowded Bangkok region. A similar situation exists in Vietnam, where the delta region is grossly underpopulated.

High Pa Mong could do a great deal to reverse these uncontrolled and economically, socially, and environmentally unsound population movements, in comparison with which well-thought-out resettlement of even several hundred thousand people displaced by the Pa Mong reservoir is a relatively minor problem in terms of social cost. High Pa Mong's effect of creating stable lowlands land use practices will induce movement of people back from the uplands. It will permit, for example, the cities of Vientiane and Udon Thani to become agro-industrial centers, and will create the conditions for uplands reforestation.

U.S. civil rights struggle: a crucial lesson for today

by Carol White

This spring, the Schiller Institute is publishing a new edition of Amelia Platts Boynton Robinson's book, *Bridge Across Jordan*, in which she describes her experiences in building the civil rights movement. This is an event of major importance, because Mrs. Robinson bridges in her person, the more than 200-year fight for freedom by black Americans and the international resistance movement of freedom fighters.

Since 1930 when she moved to Selma, Alabama, she has devoted her life to this cause. Last year, her speeches before East German audiences—just as the Berlin Wall was finally coming down—had a profound effect, emphasizing for them the universal nature of their own struggle against captivity.

Over the last two years in particular, we have seen an upsurge in the resistance movement, beginning in China and then shifting to the East bloc and Germany. The particular quality of that movement is typified by the fact that Friedrich Schiller's great poem the "Ode to Joy," as set by Beethoven in his Ninth Symphony, has become the anthem of that movement.

The civil rights struggle in the United States marched to the song "We Shall Overcome"—surely no great work of art, but still an expression of determination and optimism and of the commitment of that movement really not to *civil* but to human rights. Despite the brutality of American culture today—which extends to every sector of the population, from the ghettos where children are poisoned with drugs and shot while they are at play, to the vast majority of Americans who were willing to cheer George Bush's "victory"—despite this, the civil rights movement which Amelia Boynton Robinson played an important part in building, laid the foundations for the next phase of the freedom struggle in the United States.

Mrs. Robinson's story, the story of the movement which she and her husband Samuel William Boynton, and countless other brave Americans, built along with Martin Luther King, must be understood if we are to succeed in reaching the goal which they set. At the end of his life, Dr. King was moving to universalize the



Amelia Robinson lays a wreath at a statue of the poet Friedrich Schiller in Weimar, Germany, Nov. 10, 1990. With her is Renate Rumpf of the Schiller Institute. Mrs. Robinson's speeches to East German audiences, about her experience in the civil rights movement, gave them a profound sense of the universal fight for human rights of which their struggle is a part.

struggle against discrimination. He recognized that black Americans were not the only victims of oppression in the United States, and he bitterly opposed the resurgence of colonialism as evidenced by the war in Vietnam. For that reason, he was killed. For the same reason today, Lyndon LaRouche is a political prisoner.

Mrs. Robinson has been a freedom fighter for 60 years. Her story is about the continuity between the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s and the international movement which Lyndon and Helga LaRouche are building today.

In the image of God

The civil rights struggle of the 1950s and 1960s, led by Martin Luther King, was an affirmation that mankind—all men and women—have been created *in imago viva Dei*—in the living image of God. With the murder of Martin Luther King and John and Robert Kennedy, the United States began a turn away from Christian culture, toward cultural barbarism.

The U.S. South, in the post-Reconstruction period, was ruled by a racist, masonic cabal, typified by the white-sheeted, cross-burning Ku Klux Klan. Political brutality against blacks and poor whites, and a backward economy which virtually replicated the economic conditions of slavery, meant that the South was a virtual feudal despotism. Yet it existed under conditions in which the United States claimed to be the "leader of the free world" internationally.

Americans then had not accepted the vicious axiomatic assumptions of malthusianism, that some people are useless eaters and have forfeited their right to life. The American population was, by and large, family-oriented, pro-science and technology, and culturally optimistic; they believed in progress. Racism, therefore, was in contradiction to other cherished values, and these values could be appealed to by the civil rights movement.

Martin Luther King's movement was nonviolent. This was not merely a tactic made necessary by the fact that blacks in the United States are a minority of the population; King understood that the civil rights movement could only succeed by reaffirming the central value of Christian culture—love for one's fellow man. This did not mean appeasing evil: To the contrary, King led his followers to put their own bodies on the line, in order to dramatize the fight against injustice and reawaken the conscience of the nation.

In this way, blacks who had internalized their role as a downtrodden people would rise to their full human dignity, and at the same time their oppressors and those who passively tolerated this oppression, would be shaken out of their complacent assumption that they could be moral and yet accept (or tolerate) the degradation of their fellow men and women.

Now, not 25 years later, the moral qualities of broad layers of the population, upon which King relied for the success of his movement, have been blunted. With the spread of the counterculture and the concomitant erosion of family values and moral decency, has come toleration of amoral

brutality, as witnessed by the sports fever cheering by Americans as their pilots reduced Iraq to a rubble heap.

Rather than being a force for good, the United States today has become the battering ram of a new imperialism. This in no way overshadows the moral premises upon which King built his movement; instead it makes moral regeneration of the population an even more urgently pressing task.

Bridge Across Jordan

Amelia Platts Boynton Robinson and the Rev. James Bevel, two of King's leading associates, are now working with the Schiller Institute, which they see as the lawful continuance of the civil rights struggle of the 1960s to the struggle for human rights today. In the preface to *Bridge Across Jordan*, Mrs. Robinson discusses why she views Lyndon LaRouche as a successor to Martin Luther King:

"I have found such Americans in the organizations associated with Lyndon LaRouche, the political leader and economist, who today is serving a 15-year prison sentence because of his political views. I am a board member of the Schiller Institute, which was founded in 1984 by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, wife of Lyndon LaRouche and a leader in her own right in Germany. The Schiller Institute's goal is to achieve freedom for all nations of the world—"that all men might be brothers"—as Friedrich Schiller, the great German Poet of Freedom, for whom the Schiller Institute is named, stated in his famous *Ode to Joy*.

"I joined the Schiller Institute because I found it to be continuing the civil rights struggle, in the footsteps, as it were, of Martin Luther King. As a board member who has worked with the Schiller Institute since its inception, I have found this organization more able to carry out the program of Dr. Martin Luther King in the economic area than any other that I know. The organization may not be the most popular, but this is because it is continuing the struggle for civil rights throughout the world, fighting drugs, corruption, injustice, and discrimination. It was just such fighting against corruption and challenging the highest political officials for which Dr. King gave his life. The Schiller Institute has picked up the broken pieces of Dr. King's dream.

"Today, as it was during Dr. King's life, members of the Schiller Institute, and of other organizations associated with Lyndon LaRouche, are being persecuted and thrown in prison, as LaRouche himself was, because they have dared to preach the truth about this country and the evil into which it has fallen. Knowing this, I know that this is my fight, too."

Recently, I had the occasion to talk with Mrs. Robinson about her recent series of speaking engagements against the war in the Persian Gulf, which had taken her to a number of college campuses and high schools. I asked her how she viewed LaRouche's contribution, and she gave the following response:

"I think, number one, God makes leaders, and they become strong as they come up against adversities—that is, if

they are real leaders. First they have to purify themselves, and make a turn, in order to look at the world as it should be rather than as it is. That is what all of us who are called to be leaders have to do.

"I think Lyn is a sacrificial person. I think he is the most selfless person I have encountered since the deaths of my husband and Martin Luther King. I think he is a man who has struggled and he knows that in this world, somebody has to make a sacrifice. And he is selfless, he is sacrificial. His aim is to see a change. He knows that if there isn't a change, the whole world is going to collapse. And he is not looking through the eyes of the oligarchies, of the people who are running this world, of the racists, of the selfish. He is giving us to look at people as people, because all men are created equal. All men should have the opportunity to reach their potentials, whatever they might be. There should be no segregation, no discrimination. Everyone should have a chance.

"Now, that's the way I look at Lyndon LaRouche, as far as I can see. And he has proven himself. What other man in this era would be in jail and forget about himself in order to make a ripple in the waters of the improvement of this country and this world? This is how he spends his time, even in jail. But we are going to have to get him out there, so that he can expand his ability to achieve his program, which is built on a solid foundation of human dignity, human respect and love for everybody."

LaRouche has written a foreword to the new addition of Mrs. Robinson's book, situating the civil rights movement in the broader sweep of human history. In particular, he points to the role of the principle of Christian love, *agapē*. LaRouche writes:

"The secret of great revolutions, of great civil rights movements, as Dr. King's example illustrates, is this capacity, which the Greek New Testament called *agapē*, which Latin called *caritas*, which the King James version of the Bible calls *charity*, which we otherwise know as *love*. Whenever this power of love, this recognition of that divine spark, setting us above the beasts, prevails, wherever people can approximate that view of the sum total of their lives, as if from 50 years after their deaths, whenever movements arise which, out of love, produce people who are willing, not fruitlessly, but for a purpose, to *lay down their lives*, so that their lives might have greater meaning, for this purpose—there you have the great revolutions of history.

"If we were to project events on the basis of what is taught in the schools about revolutions and other struggles of the past, then the human race at present were doomed. If we say that people struggle against this and that oppression, and so forth, and out of rage or whatnot, overthrow their cruel oppressor, we should lose; the human race would lose. However, if we touch the force of *love*, the spark of divine reason, we unleash a force, a creative force, a divine force, which is greater than any adversary, and we win.

"Those revolutions, which are based upon the appeal to

this divine spark of reason within the individual, prevailed. Those which worked otherwise produced abominations, or simply failed.

“Yes, we must struggle against injustice. But it is not enough to struggle out of anger. We must struggle out of love. And that we learn best, who have had to walk as leaders of one degree or another, through our own Gethsemane, with the image of the Cross before us.

“That is the best I can say. I might say it better, but what I try to say with these poor words, is the best I can say summarily, on the subject of current history. I believe, that the great upsurge of humanity, implicit in the optimism I express, is now in progress. I am persuaded that we shall win, provided, that each of us can find in ourselves, that which makes us the right arm of the Creator, a man, a woman of Providence, within the limits of our own capacities and opportunities.”—*Dictated from prison, Rochester, Minnesota, Jan. 17, 1990.*

Mrs. Robinson’s story

Mrs. Robinson’s life and that of her late husband Samuel William Boynton are a testament to precisely that quality of the human spirit. The Boyntons had organized in Selma, Alabama for more than 30 years before the great Selma marches of 1965. She introduces the first chapter of her book, with a quotation from Dr. Booker T. Washington, “Cast down your bucket where you are,” which guided her and her husband in their decision to fight the long fight, despite apparent setbacks.

Reflecting on this long fight, in which she is still active, she opens the chapter with these words:

“I was born in 1911 and reared in Savannah, Georgia, in a family of mixed heritage, like most Americans—African, Indian, and German on both sides. As I grew to be a young adult, the principle of ‘doing unto others as you would have them do unto you,’ and the religious training we received in our little church, Church of God, made an impression upon me, which prepared me for whatever the future held for me.

“Now I am neither a tot nor a young adult, but a seasoned, experienced woman, having climbed through many thorns, thistles, and rough and rugged mountains of life. Despite many adversities, I am still here, endowed by our Creator with more than a reasonable portion of health, strength, and presence of mind. I believe that, surely, God means for me to work toward spreading his message of truth and justice.”

In Savannah, her mother was active in the fight to give women the vote. She describes this introduction to political activism in the book: “I clearly remember going about with mother in her horse and buggy in the city of Savannah in 1921, when I was 10 years old. My induction into politics was knocking on doors and ringing doorbells, giving women the proper information, taking them to the registration board and/or taking them to the polls to cast their votes.”

After attending Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Ala-

bama, Amelia Platts became a home extension agent in Selma, Alabama, where she met her future husband, also employed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture extension services to teach black farmers how to improve their farming techniques. Life in Selma for the Boyntons was difficult. From the beginning, they tried to organize the black community to fight brutal political and economic oppression which they faced. Because the Boyntons were uncompromising opponents of the feudal plantation system, they not only ran up against the white supremacists who were in political control, but they were repudiated by members of the black community who feared reprisals in a place where whites could murder blacks with impunity.

In her book, Mrs. Robinson recounts one particularly poignant incident where she had to struggle with herself for *agapē*, the higher form of love, in the face of injustice.

The incident involved the frameup of two black youths, while the white murderer of a black woman was let off scot-free. She writes:

“In spite of the many people who were involved in atrocities and who told me nothing would be done even if an African-American took a white man to court, I could not believe it. But although I knew the white man’s ideas of justice were warped, I saw some things in the courthouse that defied comprehension.

“Almost everybody involved in the major court cases as offenders was known to my husband or to me. We took special interest in the cases of those we felt were not guilty or who had no legal guidance. Many were members of the farm groups or clubs in the rural section where we had worked for so long.”

The two cases were tried on the same day.

The case against the two boys was precipitated by violence against them and their family. Because they had refused to work on their day off, the overseer of their plantation had gone to their farm with some white friends to *discipline* them. Not finding the boys at home the gang began to beat their mother and a younger brother, whereupon the boys emerged from hiding and began peppering the gang with birdshot to drive them away. They were arrested and subsequently tried and sentenced to 30 years in prison, at hard labor.

The second case, tried by the same judge, involved a 70-year-old woman who had been beaten to death in her own house by an officer of the law. He was trying to seduce her granddaughter, and the woman refused to tell the officer where the girl was living.

Mrs. Robinson writes about this case:

“When the court reconvened, the officer charged with the killing was calm, cool, perfectly at ease. Few witnesses were called. The defendant was never called to the stand, and neither of the lawyers seemed to have been digging deeply into the practice of law. In summarizing to the jury, the lawyer for the defense said, ‘Gentlemen, this was a poor, old, ignorant nigger. Her days were just about done, she had

nothing to offer the world.' In other words, he was saying that old people, especially blacks, are rejects; worn-out tools. That was bad enough, but when he ended his summation, I was even more shocked. He said, 'Gentlemen, if you find this officer of the law, this fine, promising gentleman, this white man, guilty, then no white man will have the freedom to go to any nigger's house.'

"During the 20 to 30 minutes the jury was out, I had a strange feeling—frightened and sick. I could not afford to get sick; I must see this through. Will they give him the electric chair? No, I am sure that would be too much like justice. Would they give him life? I was sure not, because it was a black he killed. But they are bound to give him more than they gave the two brothers, who were sentenced to 30 years each. They would have to give more to justify their discrimination, I thought.

"Here comes the verdict, I said to myself. I held my breath, and heard, 'We find the defendant *not guilty*,' from the foreman. How in the name of God's green earth can a man be found not guilty when his uniform, his gun, and his shoes were spattered and soaked with the blood of the dead woman? How? How? How?

"I was as angry as I have ever been in my life and it did something to me inside. It seemed as though it tore from me all trust and confidence I had in the law, the courts, the judge, the jury, and the *white man*. They were all rotten and unjust and I hated all of them now for the first time, and I wished I could go some place where there were no white people at all. Oh, how I hated them!"

Mrs. Robinson sees this incident as a turning point in her life. She was in danger of allowing bitterness at injustice to warp her own soul. Her husband, Bill Boynton, rescued her by recalling her to *agapē*. She concludes with this passage:

"Several hours passed before Bill could get me to talk rationally. He finally said, 'Amelia, you have damaged yourself so terribly that your heart seems to be just as bad or worse than those who dish out injustice to our people. Who are you hurting by feeling like you do? Are you hurting the white people or are you hurting yourself? Hatred is one thing that hurts the hater, not the hated.'

"I now listened to his admonition with an open mind, and I had to admit that I was damaging myself and becoming worse than those who would take a gun and blow my brains out. I didn't want to be like those people; hate caused them to do as they did. I should do differently, otherwise I was a black white-hater, whereas they were white black-haters—and what is the difference?

"This was the turning point of my life. I had to change within. Just as all blacks are not alike, certainly all white people couldn't be alike. Little did I realize that, later in my life, I would have such close communication with a different segment of the white race, and that I should learn to love them as my sisters and brothers."

The fight to face injustice without becoming crushed by

it, was not only fought by blacks on the political battlefield, but fought within each family, as loving parents faced the challenge of explaining racial segregation to their children. How in the South of that day, to raise children who would have confidence in their God-given potential to become creative and useful adults, in face of the abuse meted out to them and their fellows on a daily basis; how to do this while encouraging and yet tempering their child's bitterness and urge to revolt against injustice?

Marching for freedom

This was the setting for the great Selma marches of 1965. These were the conditions which led parents and children together to courageously face the terror tactics of the local white power structure and Gov. George Wallace, and to overcome them. Mrs. Robinson was one of the great heroes of this struggle.

She describes this high point of the civil rights movement in her book at length. Here it is only possible to excerpt a few quotations. She begins her account with a tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr.:

"Dr. King was not a self-made leader. He was one like Moses who was chosen by God. He reminded us many times of the most meaningful Negro spiritual, 'When Israel was in Egypt's land, let my people go. Oppressed so hard they could not stand, let my people go. Go down Moses, way down in Egypt's land, tell ole Pharaoh to let my people go.'"

She situates the struggles of the 1960s in the broader framework of the decades-long struggle that she and other black leaders had been fighting. "The fight against segregation began, as I have said, many years before Dr. King came to Montgomery and Selma, Alabama. It began in little ways all over the South, as African-Americans, spurred by the initial successes of the nascent civil rights movement in the 1950s, awakened to their rightful heritage and began to fight for the rights which were guaranteed them in the U.S. Constitution."

One instance of this was Amelia Boynton's own campaign for Congress, in 1964, which she and her friends used to spur on the movement for voter registration.

"By running for Congress," she writes, "I hoped to accomplish two things: First, to release the African-American from his fear of the white man and get him to go down in large numbers and register, recalling that he is a tax-paying citizen; and second, to arouse the African-American to the fact that nonviolent resistance and going to jail were God-given rights, be he black or white. If the African-American reclaimed his duty to fight to register and vote, bad government could be voted out and good government put in office." Needless to say, in a state in which the ballot box was controlled by Governor Wallace, and few blacks were registered voters, she did not win. The next step by her and her friends was to confront the governor directly.

She recounts the story of the march:

“We knew that the crux of the trouble in Alabama lay in our governor, George Wallace, and we decided to march the 50 miles to the state capital [of Montgomery] and hand our grievances to him. The march would begin the next day, Sunday, March 7, 1965.

“The city knew of our plans for the march, but did not know how to stop it. Meetings were held day and night to map out strategy by which we could appeal to the conscience of the diehards. People had begun to come in from all over the country to lend assistance in the registration and voting drive. The county board of registrars refused to permit African-Americans to vote, the county officials kicked them about for asking to register, the governor of the state gave them mountains of legal questions that were impossible to answer, and the Congress in Washington was still filibustering and allowing the Southern bigots to twist their arms. We were left no alternative but to walk 50 miles to the capital, not to ask, not to plead, but to demand the right to register and vote.

“The night before the march, we gathered at the church and talked with the citizens, asking them to walk with us regardless of the cost, even if it meant ‘your life.’ I was afraid of being killed and I said to myself, ‘I cannot pay the supreme price, because I have given too much already.’ But I also then thought, ‘Other mothers have given their lives for less in this struggle and I am determined to go through with it even if it does cost my life.’ At that moment, a heavy burden fell from my mind and I was ready to suffer if need be.

“The next morning I rose early, cooked breakfast, and fed the 15 guests staying with me. I went to Brown’s Chapel to offer my assistance before the march. Little did I know that that day would mark one of the greatest struggles for freedom in modern times. Little did I visualize what would really take place, and what effect it would have on the nation at large. That day I met such people as the former governor of Florida, LeRoy Collins; Walter Reuther, labor leader; and other dignitaries, and I began to understand more deeply than before that we were not alone. . . .

“As we approached the Edmund Pettus Bridge, which spans the Alabama River, we saw the sheriff, his posse, deputies, and men plucked out of the fields and stills to help ‘keep the niggers in their place.’ As we crossed the bridge, I saw in front of us a solid wall of state troopers, standing shoulder to shoulder. I said to my friend Marie, ‘Those men are standing so close together an ant would get mashed to death if it crawled between them. They are as lifeless as wooden soldiers.’ Marie pointed to the troopers on the sides of our marching lines and said, ‘It doesn’t take all of them to escort us.’ But a second look convinced us that trouble was brewing for the nearly 1,000 marchers.

“Each officer was equipped with cans of gas, guns, sticks, or cattle prods, as well as his regular paraphernalia. Beyond them, men on horses sat at attention. I remembered the words of a little girl, who wanted to go with us because

she wanted to be free, and prayers that were being offered on our behalf, and the old lady who said she would stay on her knees while we were away. I knew we would need all those prayers as I looked on the faces of these men, who were just waiting for a chance to shed human blood.

“Part of the line being across the bridge, we found ourselves less than 50 yards from the human wall. The commander of the troops, on a sound truck, spoke through a bullhorn and commanded us to ‘stop where you are.’ Hosea Williams of SCLC and Cong. John Lewis and all the line behind them halted. Hosea said, ‘May I say something?’

“Major Cloud retorted, ‘No, you may not. Charge on them, men.’

“The troopers, with their gas masks on and gas guns drawn, then began to shoot gas on us and the troopers in front jumped off the trucks. Those standing at attention began to club us. The horses were brought on the scene and were more humane than the troopers; they stepped over the fallen victims.

“As I stepped aside from the trooper’s club, I felt a blow on my arm that could have injured me permanently had it been on my head. Another blow by a trooper as I was gasping for breath knocked me to the ground and there I lay unconscious. Others told me that my attacker had called to another that he had the ‘damn leader.’ One of them shot tear gas all over me. The plastic rain cap that Margaret Moore gave me may have saved my life; it had slipped down over my face and protected my nose somewhat from the worst of the fumes. Pictures in the paper and those in the possession of the Justice Department show the trooper standing over me with a club. Some of the marchers said to the trooper, ‘She is dead.’ And they were told to drag me to the side of the road.

“There were screams, cries, groans, and moans as the people were brutally beaten from the front of the line all the way back to the church—a distance of more than a mile. State troopers and the sheriff and his men beat and clubbed to the ground almost everyone on the march. The cry went out for ambulances to come over the bridge and pick up the wounded and those thought to be dead, but Sheriff Clark dared one of them to cross the bridge. At last a white minister and a black citizen told him, ‘If you don’t let the ambulance over the bridge, these people are going to retaliate by killing some of you and you may be the first one.’ The ambulance was then permitted to pick us up. I also heard that I was taken to the church after being given first aid on the way, but when I did not respond, I was taken to the Good Samaritan Hospital.”

Finally, after another march just to the bridge, which occurred without incident, on March 20, the demonstrators received assurances of federal government protection, and planned the successful, third Selma to Montgomery march. “This,” she writes, “was the signal we were waiting for. Dr. King said the long-planned and twice-blocked trek would be the most massive march ever staged on a state capital in the

South. He had called on friends and well-wishers to meet him in Selma, and preparations were made for 3,000 people to start out the next morning, Sunday, March 21. The route would take us through the downtown section, across the Edmund Pettus Bridge again, down Highway 80 to Montgomery. . . .

“It was a beautiful scene. Black and white and backed by the armed might of the United States, 3,200 persons marched out of Selma on the first leg of an historic venture in nonviolent protest. Hundreds of army and federalized state troops stood guard in Selma and lined the highway out of the city to protect us. The troops were authorized by President Johnson, after Governor Wallace said that Alabama could not afford the expense of protecting the marchers. With federalized troops on each side, helicopters over our heads, and being led by Almighty God through our leader Dr. King, I felt that no harm could befall us now.”

From then to now

Martin Luther King was murdered on April 4, 1968, at a point when he was moving to broaden the civil rights movement to become a human rights movement for all people. In particular, he bitterly opposed the Vietnam War. What he had to say then, against the brutality of the U.S. intervention in Vietnam, stands true today against the equally unjust war against Iraq.

In the 24 years since King spoke out against the Vietnam War, things have only gotten worse—domestically in the United States, and most emphatically in the whole of Africa, and throughout the so-called developing sector. The following excerpted statement by King is taken from the biography of him by Stephen B. Oates, *Let the Trumpets Sound*. It is from a speech given at Riverside Church in New York City, on April 4, 1967.

King said, answering critics who claimed that the fight against the war and for civil rights did not mix: “Since I am a preacher by trade, I suppose it is not surprising that I have several reasons for bringing Vietnam into the field of my moral vision. There is at the outset a very obvious and almost facile connection between the war in Vietnam and the struggle I, and others, have been waging in America. A few years ago there was a shining moment in that struggle. It seemed as if there was a real promise of hope for the poor—both black and white—through the Poverty Program. There were experiments, hopes, new beginnings. Then came the buildup in Vietnam and I watched the program broken and eviscerated as if it were some idle political plaything of a society gone mad on war, and I knew that America would never invest the necessary funds or energies in rehabilitation of its poor so long as adventures like Vietnam continued to draw men and skills and money like some demoniacal destructive suction tube.”

But the war was doing more than merely blasting the hopes of the poor who longed for a real war against poverty

at home. The war, King said, “was sending their [black] sons and their brothers and their husbands to fight and die in extraordinarily high proportions relative to the rest of the population. We were taking the black young men who had been crippled by our society and sending them 8,000 miles away to guarantee liberties in Southeast Asia which they had not found in Southwest Georgia and East Harlem. So we have been repeatedly faced with the cruel irony of watching together for a nation that has been unable to seat them together in the same schools. So we watch them in brutal solidarity burning the huts of a poor village but we realize that they would never live on the same block in Detroit.”

In the speech he made the broader criticism as well. The war in Vietnam was not a just war. “And as I ponder the madness of Vietnam and search within myself for ways to understand and respond in compassion, my mind goes constantly to the people of that peninsula. I speak now not of the soldiers of each side, not of the junta in Saigon, but simply of the people who have been living under the curse of war for almost three continuous decades now. I think of them too because it is clear to me that there will be no meaningful solution there until some attempt is made to hear their broken cries.”

“They must see Americans as strange liberators,” King said, recounting how the United States forced Ho Chi Minh into the arms of the Soviet Union by supporting the French in their post-World War II efforts to recolonize Vietnam. Then he described the atrocities committed by the U.S. forces against the Vietnamese population. Water supplies were poisoned, huts were razed to the ground, bombing was unrelenting. He also charged that the United States was using Vietnam as a test ground to demonstrate the capabilities of new weapons, just as the Nazis had tested new medicines and tortures in Europe’s concentration camps.

In a stirring call for a change in U.S. policy, he concluded, “We must find new ways to speak for peace in Vietnam and justice through the developing world—a world that borders on our doors. If we do not act, we shall surely be dragged down the long dark and shameful corridors of time reserved for those who possess power without compassion, might without morality, and strength without sight.”

It is striking that George Bush has seen the slaughter in Iraq as completing the unfinished business of Vietnam. For Bush, the only thing wrong with U.S. conduct of the war against the Vietnamese people, was the fact that we did not win. The truth is that both in Vietnam and in Iraq, the United States fought an unjust war in the interest of a racist Anglo-American oligarchy. This is the message which Mrs. Robinson has been bringing before student audiences, black religious and secular leaders, and supporters of the Schiller Institute.

Since August, when the United States landed its troops in Saudi Arabia, she has been touring the United States and Europe. She is an international spokesman for the Schiller

Institute of which she is a director. She is also a member of the board of the Martin Luther King Center for Non-Violent Social Change.

In Norfolk, Virginia, on Feb. 19, she issued the following call, which was endorsed by the audience:

“We deplore the refusal of the government of the United States to negotiate an end to the bloody war now being waged in the Middle East.

“We further deplore the targeting of civilian populations in the area and the senseless destruction of water and electrical supplies, thereby causing great harm and needless suffering.

“While we support our soldiers as citizens, we believe the only appropriate action is to end the conflict immediately and bring the troops home. Thus we call upon President Bush to declare an immediate cease-fire and initiate a process of extensive negotiations to resolve the conflict.

“Negotiations must begin with the immediate restoration of all water and electrical generating facilities to halt the dying.

“We recommend a longer term reconstruction of the region along the lines of a new Marshall Plan which should be accompanied by a comprehensive solution to all the outstanding political issues.

“We call upon all civil rights leaders and other responsible citizens to join our efforts to end this conflict.”

Where the movement stands

At the point last summer when George Bush began to send American troops to the Gulf, he appeared to be in serious trouble at home, due to the growing awareness that the U.S. economy was in deep crisis. There was the congressional budget crisis, the failure of the banking system, and the fact that state and local governments were facing bankruptcy. Basic industries were shutting down; unemployment was increasing. Now the war is over, but the same problems remain, and as people begin to wake up from the temporary euphoria of the victory in the Gulf, this reality is sinking in.

The strongest domestic opposition to George Bush's immoral war against the Iraqi nation, came from the black community. Partly this was because they were disgusted by the racist stench of Anglo-American imperialism. They rejected the idea that black Americans should die to preserve in power a Kuwaiti royal family which owns slaves. They recognized that the all-volunteer Army which was being sent to the Gulf had a disproportionate number of blacks and Hispanics in its ranks, because they were driven to join the Army by the fact that they could not get work elsewhere. Blacks' opposition to the war was reflected by the Black Caucus, after the rest of the Congress by and large joined in the cheering section for Bush. Now black political officials are voicing the mounting discontent among Americans at the economic crisis, which is throwing white and black alike out of work, and closing down state and local governments.



Amelia Robinson in Dresden, Germany, Nov. 22, 1989, shortly after the Berlin Wall was opened.

Since 1968, the United States has been on a downward track economically, politically, and morally. The problems which King tried to address remain with us. Even before his death, the civil rights movement was in trouble. For all the real gains of the movement in protecting fundamental rights of black citizens—from the right to vote, to freer access to schools and public facilities—the fact remains that blacks (and Hispanics) still suffer economic discrimination. More to the point, they suffer from the overall deterioration of the U.S. economy, in which the standard of living of the poorest is becoming untenable.

The prospect of unemployment looms for all working people, but it is so bad for blacks, that in major U.S. cities, 50% of employable black males cannot find work. Similarly, the cuts in public services such as hospital emergency rooms, food stamps, and Medicare, hit them hardest.

One might perhaps be tempted to conclude, therefore, that the life work of Martin Luther King and Amelia Boynton Robinson was a failure—but that would be tragically in error. King did not find a solution to the problems facing his nation—that remains for us to do—but he left a heritage which has ennobled us all. The most important transformation which occurred as a result of the civil rights movement which he catalyzed, was not in the institutions of the United States, but in the people who joined the movement, who learned how to fight for what they knew to be right, regardless of the consequences for them personally, and in accordance with the principle of Christian love, *agapē*. It is his commitment to this same principle, which has drawn civil rights leaders such as Mrs. Robinson to Lyndon H. LaRouche, and to the Schiller Institute, founded by Helga Zepp-LaRouche.

Anglo-Americans drive to kill, dismember Iraq

by Joseph Brewda

Despite the informal cease-fire between the United States and Iraq that was announced on Feb. 28, the Anglo-American war against Iraq is continuing. U.S. and British policy centers on murdering possibly millions of Iraqis through epidemics, starvation, and civil war. The Anglo-American policymakers intend to destroy Iraq's capacity to rebuild its once-modern economic infrastructure, and to ensure that the population that survives will remain in living conditions approximating those of the most oppressed regions of Africa.

Moreover, it seems increasingly likely—as we go to press on March 21—that an Iranian invasion of Iraq, covertly supported by the United States, might soon begin. The occupation, at least for the short term, of the northern region of Iraq by Turkey and the southern region by Iran, seems to be U.S. policy.

The reason for this savage treatment is primarily to present an object-lesson to the Third World on what the “new world order” actually means: Any nation which rejects Anglo-American dictates, as Iraq did, will be crushed. However, even those states, such as Iran, Syria, and even Turkey, which cut a deal with Washington, might soon find that they too will become targets for annihilation. After all, just 18 months ago, Saddam Hussein and Iraq also trusted the Bush administration.

Civil war threat looms

Shortly before the cessation of the ground war, the Anglo-Americans put into operation the second phase of their assault against Iraq: an insurrection by the non-Arab Kurds in the north, and by the Arab Shiite religious denomination in the south. Barring an Iranian invasion, these revolts will

probably fail to establish any sort of state, but they probably will succeed in plunging Iraq into a lengthy civil war. It may be that the Anglo-American intent is to prevent any side from winning, in order to continue this civil war as long as possible. This was the same method that Henry Kissinger and the U.S. government used to destroy Lebanon.

The Kurds, who reside in the adjoining border regions of Iraq, Iran, Turkey, and Syria, have long been patronized by British intelligence, the CIA, the Israeli Mossad, and French intelligence. Last September, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker III traveled to Damascus, Syria, to enlist the support of President Hafez al-Assad in supporting this planned Kurdish insurrection, while similarly successful overtures and demands were made on Turkey and Iran.

By November, Kurdish terrorist organizations previously headquartered in such cities as Amsterdam, London, and Paris, began opening up offices and training facilities in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, as part of this project. These Kurds were armed and equipped by U.S. Special Forces teams. They now are in action in the project to dismember Iraq.

Meanwhile, Iranian official reports say that even prior to the ground war, the Iranian government had infiltrated some 35,000 armed men into the southern Iraqi city of Basra. The Shiite insurrection, so-called, which began in the south, has really been an Iranian-led insurrection, involving Iranian units and arms. That Iraq's Shiite religious population is loyal to Sunni-governed Iraq rather than to Shiite Iran, was proven during the eight year Iran-Iraq war.

There is another feature of this foreign-sponsored civil war which is generally ignored. One of the main purposes of these Kurdish and Shiite insurrections is the spread of chol-

era, typhus, and other epidemics, as well as mass malnutrition and starvation.

The U.S. Air Force systematically destroyed power plants, sewage facilities, factories of all kinds, and other civilian targets during the air war. This bombardment, involving 120,000 sorties, had no military purpose. It was only carried out to create the conditions for mass death of the Iraqi population, primarily following the war. The U.S.-dominated United Nations Security Council has continued its sanctions and embargo against Iraq—including restrictions on the supplies of medicine and water treatment equipment, to increase mass death. Civil war prevents even minimal emergency efforts to restore clear water and food to that population.

That this is the policy largely behind the insurrection, was indicated by one candid Saudi official who told this news service, off the record, "Better an Iraq of 9 million people without Saddam Hussein, than an Iraq of 18 million people with him."

'Great Satan' promotes Iran

The virtual elimination of Iraq as a functioning nation is tied to the Bush administration policy of increasing the power of the Iranian government at the expense of the Arabs.

Despite Bush's statements on March 13 that an Iranian land-grab of southern Iraq would be "counterproductive," and that the United States is opposed to Iranian interference in Iraqi affairs, actual U.S. policy is quite different. American and Israeli intelligence knew of the Iranian infiltration of Basra prior to the land war, and did nothing to stop it. Since that time, U.S. units now occupying the southern portions of Iraq have refused to block Iranian operations.

The shooting down of an Iraqi fighter-bomber by a U.S. F-15 over Iraq on March 20 shows what U.S. policy actually is. A few days prior to the incident, Bush stated that any flights by jets or helicopters within Iraqi territory, especially for use against the Iranian-linked insurrection, could lead to the resumption of the war. Without such active intervention and earlier threats, the insurrection could never have reached the proportions that it now has.

It is noteworthy, in this regard, that the overseer of the ongoing Kurdish revolt is U.S. Ambassador to Turkey Morton Abramowitz. When Abramowitz was head of State Department intelligence during the second Reagan administration, he played a key role in arming Iran during the Iran-Iraq war. Former Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Perle, now an adviser to the Turkish government, has also been deeply involved in the Kurdish project. Perle worked closely with Abramowitz, and with the Israelis, in arming Khomeini's Iran. It is also striking that U.S. Central Command chief Gen. Norman Schwartzkopf's father, Gen. Norman Schwartzkopf, Sr., directed U.S. intelligence operations in Iran in the 1950s, where he maintained close ties to several influential Iranian religious leaders.

It should not be forgotten that the Iranian revolution of 1979 was overseen by the U.S. National Security Council under Zbigniew Brzezinski, and much more importantly, British Petroleum and British intelligence. The Anglo-American view has been that the type of Islamic fundamentalism represented by Ayatollah Khomeini would be more effective in controlling Iran than the discredited Shah of Iran, and could be effectively used to undermine other states in the region.

On March 14, Bush administration spokesmen told the *Washington Post* that the United States intended to upgrade relations with Iran, while Bush told Arab interviewers that day that he did not think that Iran should be "treated forever as enemies by all the countries in the region."

In fact, the shattering of Iraq opens up the Arabian peninsula to Iranian domination for the first time in centuries.

Rearranging the map of the region

Since the Anglo-Americans are devoted to Henry Kissinger's balance-of-power doctrine, it is likely that their increased support of Iran will be accompanied by other measures to check Iran. Thus, some Arab analysts say, if the United States endorses the creation of an Iranian satrapy in southern Iraq, then it will sponsor the creation of a Turkish-controlled Sunni Kurdish entity in northern Iraq. As a further check, these sources say, the United States will overthrow the Iranian-allied Syrian government of Hafez al-Assad, and replace him with a Sunni government, tied to the United States and opposed to Iran. This is not difficult to do, since Syrian intelligence, including Assad's own bodyguard unit, is heavily infiltrated by the Mossad.

That the United States is considering moving against Syria was indicated by statements by White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater on March 12, denouncing the Syrian regime's record of torture and involvement with terrorism, two days after a CBS television special on that theme. Earlier, the Israeli government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, which is controlled out of London, escalated its propaganda campaign against Damascus, just as it had done last spring against Iraq, when the war against Iraq was being prepared.

However, it also cannot be discounted that the United States has been encouraging Iran to invade Iraq, for the same reason that it earlier encouraged Iraq to invade Kuwait: to lay a trap. The United States could also then move against Iran.

Other targets in this dirty balance-of-power game are Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. That the Anglo-Americans are considering dumping the ruling Al Sabah family in Kuwait was signaled by U.S. media targeting of that family for overseeing the butchery of Kuwaiti Palestinians—actions that the U.S. military is actually secretly encouraging. The Bush administration seems to believe that replacing the Al Sabah clan with Kuwaiti dissidents under U.S. control would increase its control of the region. The corrupt Saud family of Saudi Arabia is also ripe for the same treatment.

Gorbachov, Yeltsin 'win' in Soviet referendum—now what?

by Konstantin George

The voters of nine of the fifteen republics of the U.S.S.R. voted March 17 in the referendum called by President Mikhail Gorbachov on whether they supported the continued existence of the U.S.S.R. in a still not totally defined "renewed federation." The preliminary overall results based on tallies released by the Soviet government on March 19, proclaimed a 77% "yes" vote, based on half the vote having been counted, and a U.S.S.R.-wide 82% voter participation. At first glance this gives the appearance of a resounding victory for Gorbachov. But to what extent was the referendum indeed a victory for Gorbachov, what do the voting results actually signify, and, above all, how important is the referendum as such, measured against the real on-the-ground situation in the country?

As we shall see, the results do have an importance, especially when the fine points are critically reviewed, but this importance pales before the impact of the storms about to break out across the Soviet empire this spring.

'Contain, postpone, buy time'

First, to get even an approximately correct analysis of the outcome in the nine republics which did participate, one must ignore the irrelevant category of "U.S.S.R.-wide." The astute observer must focus on the singular ethnic and regional components of this amorphous mass, and see what actually happened in each case.

Broadly speaking, the referendum was boycotted in the Soviet Union's six Christian non-Slavic republics: the three Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, the republic of Moldova, and the republics of Georgia and Armenia in the Transcaucasus. All of these republics have small populations, ranging from 1 to 4 million people. The nine republics which held the referendum, embracing the empire's Slavic core and the Turkic Muslim republics of Central Asia and Azerbaidzhan, contain the overwhelming bulk of the U.S.S.R.'s population.

In nearly all of these nine republics, a carefully constructed second question, varying according to each republic, which followed the lead question on the new Union Treaty, was placed on the ballot. The aim of this tactic was to use the anticipated large "yes" vote on the lead question to pro-

vide the Moscow regime with a mandate for containing the process of dissolution, while the anticipated "yes" vote on the second question would open up the most critical battlefronts in the raging internal crisis—in the populous republics of Russia, Ukraine, and the Muslim republics—new political safety valves to postpone or contain future pro-independence and anti-regime upsurges in these regions.

Moscow's priority task is to achieve at least relative stability in the Slavic core and the Muslim republics. If it succeeds in this, it can deal with the current drive by the other six smaller republics to achieve full independent statehood.

The initial results

In Russia and Ukraine, majorities of over 75% voted to accept a new Union Treaty. Similar majorities approved on the second question on the ballot. In Russia, the second question was whether the president of Russia should be elected by popular ballot. Thus, Gorbachov got his victory on question one, and his arch-rival, the Russian populist President Boris Yeltsin, emerged victorious on the second question, given that Yeltsin is the only conceivable Russian presidential candidate of nationwide stature and popularity, and would win any direct vote. The vote pattern provided a clear profile of where potential mass ferment is greatest, namely, in the large cities. While for Russia as a whole the "Yes" vote for direct presidential elections was 71%, it was 78% in Moscow, and 86% in Yeltsin's native city of Sverdlovsk.

This vote is being heralded in Western media as a "victory" for Yeltsin and a "defeat" for Gorbachov. The truth is that the vote has been a qualified victory for both. The vote has saved Yeltsin from early demise by stopping what would probably have been a successful vote of no confidence to topple him in the Russian Parliament after it convenes March 28. In reality, Yeltsin pulled off a short-term coup, but, over the mid term, committed a probably fatal blunder in having confined the second question to the matter of electing a President; in other words, the voters were not told to call for new Russian parliamentary elections as well. This means that the anti-Yeltsin majority will continue to sit in the Russian Parliament, biding their time until something occurs to sour Yeltsin's fortunes, and then they will strike.

A similar pattern with different predicates occurred in the Ukrainian vote. Gorbachov won his vote on Ukraine accepting a new Union Treaty. But the degree of anti-Moscow mass ferment in the republic was clearly shown in the resounding "Yes" to the second question, which called on the "Ukrainian Supreme Soviet" to put into practice the far-reaching "Declaration of Sovereignty" adopted by that Parliament on July 16, 1990. However, as in the Russian Federation case, there was a catch to this. The resolution that was voted up specified "sovereignty . . . within the Union," i.e., keeping Ukraine in the empire, and, worse, by mandating the "Ukrainian Supreme Soviet," i.e., the present Parliament with its two-thirds communist majority, to put sovereignty into practice, quietly dropped the promise that Moscow had made last autumn at the height of the mass strikes and demonstrations in Ukraine for "free elections" in 1991 to elect a new Ukrainian Parliament.

Gorbachov was most successful in the Muslim republics, where under the not-so-democratic guiding hand of the local party mafias that run these fiefdoms, votes of 90-95% were scored for the new Union Treaty. The same huge majorities were produced for companion questions, calling for full sovereignty for each of these Muslim republics.

For Gorbachov and for the Moscow leadership as a whole, these qualified successes come at a critical juncture, where mass ferment against the economic debacle is rising fast and threatening to explode. Spearheading this is the nationwide coal miners' strike, which on March 22 will enter its fourth week. What began on March 1 in the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine, has since spread to involve some 300,000 miners in over 165 coal mines, and to affect every major coal region of the U.S.S.R.: Donetsk, the huge Kuznetsk Basin in Central Siberia, the huge Karaganda coal fields in Kazakhstan, the Rostov on Don region in southern Russia, the Vorkuta mines in the far north of Russia, the coal mines of western Ukraine; and as of March 19, the strike had spread to the coal mines of the Chelyabinsk region in the Urals.

The Kremlin's tough attitude toward the striking coal miners, refusing to give in to their wage and other economic demands in total contrast to the posture adopted by Moscow in previous miners' strikes, reveals how supercharged the political atmosphere is. Moscow has chosen the policy it sees as the lesser of two evils, preferring to take the production losses and ripple effect on other industries on the chin, rather than granting the miners a victory, and thus opening the floodgates for strikes in Soviet industries across-the-board, which would create far greater economic damage and unforeseeable political consequences.

For Gorbachov, it's far easier to win a "mandate" on paper than to win the people's support in practice. The March 17 referendum was not a crucial test, but merely an episode. The real test will come in April as the mass unrest seething just below the surface comes closer to erupting.

Yugoslavia

Odd bedfellows act to avoid civil war

by Konstantin George

As of this writing on March 20, the Yugoslav Federation may have pulled back from the brink of civil war. The threat of catastrophe has been building up over weeks, as the Federation's largest republic, Serbia, is pitted against the independence-seeking northwestern republics of Croatia and Slovenia, and the Serbian-dominated Armed Forces have actively threatened a military coup. Fear of the totally unpredictable consequences should that Rubicon be crossed, however, has produced a new constellation of political forces, both in Croatia and Slovenia, and most emphatically in the ranks of the Serbian elite, to pull back from the abyss. These forces, while having no love for each other, have, ironically, a common interest in preventing a civil war this spring.

The tactical form this operation has taken is the drive to undermine the key player seeking to plunge Yugoslavia into civil war, the demagogic bolshevik who is President of Serbia, Slobodan Milosevic.

A series of events that occurred on March 19 points to likely success for the operation to declaw, if not dethrone, Milosevic. To start with, a declaration by the Serbian-led Yugoslav General Staff, read on Yugoslav TV, confirmed that the Yugoslav Army will not stage a military coup as had been desired by Milosevic. The General Staff declared categorically that the Army will "not interfere in the political conflicts" in the country, and "under no circumstances" will the Army allow the situation to devolve into "armed clashes" let alone "civil war."

Beyond that, the Army issued demands which were remarkably balanced, in that while some of these were directed against Croatia and Slovenia, others rejected the Milosevic policy of trying to forge a Greater Serbia this spring by force of arms, through detaching Serb-inhabited territories from Croatia and the central republic of Bosnia, sandwiched between Serbia and Croatia.

The part of the declaration aimed at Croatia and Slovenia was: 1) the demand that the Territorial Forces of the Army be again placed under the command of the Yugoslav Army (last year, Slovenia and Croatia had removed their Territorial Forces from the central command of Belgrade); and 2) the demand that the financing of the Armed Forces be guaranteed (Croatia and Slovenia had considerably reduced their contributions to the federal budget, above all to the Armed Forces).

Defense spending comprises 30% of the total Yugoslav federal budget.

However, the Army stated in the strongest language that it will not allow any territorial encroachment by one republic against any other: "The borders in Yugoslavia will be secured from any kind of threat and no changes will be allowed." This fires point-blank against Serbian leader Milosevic, as no other republic except Serbia has ever advanced territorial claims on other republics.

Without the support of the Army, the position of Milosevic has become all but hopeless. He had to have Army backing to pursue his planned confrontation with Croatia over its regions of Pakrac and Knin, inhabited by ethnic Serbs.

Within hours of the General Staff declaration, the turning point in the crisis came, as Belgrade TV announced that "it has been decided" to hold a meeting of the Presidents of all six republics in the Croatian capital of Zagreb on March 21, to work out a solution to the crisis. This is tantamount to an order summoning Milosevic to appear in the capital of his arch-enemy, Croatia. If the Serbian leader shows up, he will be humiliated and lose. Should he decide to boycott the meeting, he will be more isolated than ever. Either way, he cannot win.

Serbian elite dumping Milosevic

The current phase of the Yugoslav crisis opened with mass demonstrations earlier in March in Belgrade, by the anti-communist Serbian nationalist opposition to Milosevic, centered in the Serbian Renewal Party led by one Vuk Draskovic, an avowed Serbian chauvinist like Milosevic, but of the pre-war monarchist stripe. These almost daily demonstrations are the public face of a deep split in the Serbian elite over how to proceed to create a "Greater Serbia." A large part of the Serbian elite, in the Armed Forces, and above all in the Serbian Orthodox Church, had concluded that Milosevic had become a hopeless liability, and that his "flight forward" was plunging Serbia to disaster.

This conclusion had been reached already last year, but at that time, Milosevic was unassailable—riding high on a wave of popularity gained by his brutal suppression of ethnic Albanians who live in the then-autonomous province of Kosovo, which is within Serbia's borders. However, the worst winter economically since the early postwar years has destroyed the former popularity of Milosevic (George Bush, take note!). The "bread factor" has become paramount. The economy of Serbia is plagued by hyperinflation, mass unemployment, and the threat of shutdown of large industrial enterprises. The crisis is qualitatively even worse than what is going on in Russia.

To distract attention from the shattered economy, and as the only way to recoup his eroded position, Milosevic decided to launch a war against Croatia by no later than May 15. Until that date, the Serb Borisav Jovic will be Yugoslav State President, under the rotation system among the six federal

republics, and presumably, would collaborate with Milosevic in calling on the Army to annex for Serbia the Knin and Pakrac regions of Croatia.

This was the last straw for the strong opposition faction in the Serbian elite behind Vuk Draskovic. Had the Milosevic plan gone ahead, it would have unleashed not only a full-scale civil war between Serbia and Croatia, but forced Slovenia and Bosnia into the war as Croatia's allies. On top of that, the Albanian resistance in Kosovo, which Milosevic had contained, but never crushed, would have exploded in Serbia's rear.

The 'British factor'

The constellation of forces acting to prevent civil war is by no means confined to native Yugoslav parties. British interests are actively meddling to block the imminent threat of uncontrolled disintegration, by toppling the Serbian Communist regime of Milosevic. This policy, while having the beneficial by-product of preventing a bloodbath at this time, is aimed at restoring the pre-war hegemony Britain had exerted in the Serb-dominated Kingdom of Yugoslavia, 1918-41.

From the British imperial standpoint, the only viable counter to the German and other Central European interests who are actively boosting the republics of Croatia and Slovenia, which historically had been part of Central Europe, as provinces of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire, is to build up Greater Serbia. Never one to support an obvious loser, Britain has no use for the vehicle of the discredited, weak, and mentally unstable Slobodan Milosevic, and the institution of the Communist Party.

There is strong British support for the anti-Milosevic "Greater Serbia" faction around Vuk Draskovic and his Serbian Renewal Party. Draskovic, in an interview broadcast on German TV March 15, declared that "the day I become President of Serbia," replacing Milosevic, "the first thing I will do is bring back Prince Alexander" from his London exile to become "the King of Serbia."

Unlike Milosevic, Draskovic is not opposed to Yugoslavia becoming a loose confederation of sovereign states, and, indeed is not opposed to Croatia becoming independent as such, as he stressed in the cited interview to German TV. However, like Milosevic, Draskovic, as he repeated in the interview to German TV, will never allow an independent Croatia within the present borders: "The Serbian regions must join Serbia. . . . If Croatia refuses, that means war." Tactically, however, Draskovic is willing to take his time in creating a Greater Serbia—British style.

Thus, Yugoslavia will probably avoid going over the brink this spring, but no one should become complacent over the breathing space achieved. The underlying political factors, centered above all in the Serbian elite's unswerving goal of creating a "Greater Serbia" out of the ruins of Yugoslavia, mean that the civil war, now on "hold," is at some point all but inevitable.

'There is no way to address the Palestinians but as a people'

Faisel Hussein is one of the best-known Palestinian leaders in the Israeli Occupied Territories. On March 12, he led a 10-man Palestinian delegation which met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Jerusalem, a meeting which had been proposed by the United States. The stated purpose of Baker's trip, in order to meet with the Israeli government and the Palestinian delegation, was to find a solution to the Palestinian problem, in the aftermath of the war with Iraq.

In his remarks before Congress on March 6, President George Bush referenced U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338, which demanded that Israel withdraw from the Occupied Territories. Bush and Baker have also claimed that the Palestine Liberation Organization and its chairman, Yasser Arafat, are "discredited" and not relevant to the peace process. The Israeli leadership has rejected the concept associated with these U.N. resolutions—"land for peace." It also insists that it will not meet with the PLO.

Hussein was interviewed by telephone by Joseph Brewster on March 17.

EIR: Mr. Hussein, you met with Secretary of State Baker together with other Palestinians last week on possible new U.S. initiatives toward Arab-Israeli peace and a solution to the Palestinian problem. How would you characterize the meeting and your view of the U.S. position?

Hussein: I believe the meeting was a frank meeting, and straight to the point from both sides. I believe that it was constructive because of that. We were facing the reality as it is.

From our side, we make it clear that there is no way to address the Palestinian people except as a people. Not as inhabitants of a certain place, not as refugees, not as a minority, but as a people. Because of that, we asked Mr. Baker to respect the will of the Palestinian people, the structure of the Palestinian people, which is the PLO, which is an organization which has been elected by the Palestinian people, and to respect the PLO leadership, which has been elected by the Palestinian people. We can discuss the differences, the misunderstandings, and the difficulties between the leadership of our people and the leadership of other nations. But, at the same time, this discussion can only take place within the context of respect between our leadership and other leader-

ships in the world.

We made it clear that there is no way to try to create any alternative leadership, because there is no alternative leadership in the area. And the reason for that is that we would like to solve the whole problem of the Palestinian people, so that we can solve the problems of the Middle East. The only one that can deliver the whole Palestinian people is the PLO.

From Mr. Baker's point of view, he was trying to tell us that there are difficulties, because the Arab states are not ready to talk with the PLO, that Israel is not ready to deal with the PLO, and that there is a very high level of criticism of the PLO leadership. Because of that, he would like to go on trying to solve the problems step by step, gradually, and not go to the main problem. We cannot accept this, because we believe that the Israeli government is just trying to gain time. By trying to avoid the main problem, this government of Israel will succeed yet another time to win another 14 months, as they did the first time [that Baker conducted negotiations, earlier in the Bush administration]. And we will find ourselves in the end at the same point that we started from.

EIR: During the war and even before, the Israeli government imposed a curfew in the Occupied Territories that led to malnutrition, and carried out arrests of Palestinian leaders on various pretexts. Now we see aggressive statements by figures in the Israeli government, notably the new minister, Rehavam Zeevi, but also Foreign Minister David Levy and others. What do you consider the policy of the Israeli government, in the aftermath of this war, toward the Palestinians? Do you see a new policy of expansion, a new effort to crush the Palestinians?

Hussein: Actually, the Israelis' main concern is not the PLO, or who will represent the Palestinians. It is not the Palestinian people. The main thing which is worrying the Israelis is the land. This government is working to keep the land in its hands. It is because of that, that they refuse the principle of land for peace. They want the Occupied Territories. They want these territories for their use in the future, for immigration. It is because of that, that they are against any solution. And so they are using the reality of the PLO, the reality that the Palestinian people are inside and outside, as

People cannot travel to their factories, to their fields. What we are seeing is a complete destruction of the economy. People have no money to buy, and so the producer is not able to produce, and closes his factory.

a pretext not to withdraw.

Because of that, any attempt by the external world, and especially by the U.S., to start solving this problem, must begin by insisting that Resolution 242 be implemented, and the principle of land for peace be respected. After that, they will find that the Israelis will change their minds and be ready to talk with the PLO, when the Israelis find that there is no way that they can avoid withdrawing from the Occupied Territories.

EIR: What about the clear policy of the Israeli government to settle Soviet Jewish immigrants on the West Bank, in order to permanently alter the demography of the region? Did you address that point with Baker, and what is your view of that situation?

Husseini: Yes, we addressed this matter with Mr. Baker and especially the settlements themselves. Maybe the Israelis will not send any Soviet immigrants to the West Bank; but what they could do, is put them inside Israel, and push others onto the West Bank from the old communities within Israel. So we made it clear to Mr. Baker that we are against any settlements in the West Bank and Gaza strip, regardless of where the people come from. I believe that, in this case at least, he is in full agreement with us.

EIR: There have been various plans floated in the *Washington Post* and *New York Times* of forming some sort of Palestinian entity without full sovereignty, so-called self-rule, along the lines that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir proposed last year, which in effect would create a supposed Palestinian state, but without control of much of anything, except garbage collection and matters like that. Is that being pushed by the Israelis and the Americans again?

Husseini: The Americans did not say anything about that in particular. But they tried to go back and ask about finding a solution in stages, about the old initiative of Mr. Shamir. Our answer was that we are ready for any proposal if it is a package deal where it is clear that in the end there will be a Palestinian state. We can talk about stages, we can talk about schedules, we can talk about timing, but not before reaching this understanding that in the end there will be a Palestinian state.

Other matters, from our point of view, just lose time, and allow the Zionists to change the reality in this area. By the way, Mr. Shamir himself said that the aim of everything he

is doing, saying, and proposing, is just to gain time so he can have a greater Israel, a stronger Israel, which can force the Arabs to accept what he will offer them, and no more than that.

EIR: There are reports of Kuwaiti military units slaughtering the Palestinians in Kuwait, with the implicit or explicit backing of U.S. troops. What can you say on that situation?

Husseini: What I can say is that this is one of the reasons that we are in need of a homeland, of a state. Those Palestinians in Kuwait did not stay there because they wanted to stay in Kuwait during the war, with the bombs, guns, and fighting. And when they stayed after the Iraqis withdrew, it was not because they wanted to stay there. It was simply because they had nowhere to go, they have no passport, they are not acceptable anywhere. So the only thing they can expect is to face a massacre. This is the tragedy of the Palestinian people, and because of that we would like to build a homeland for them, to protect them from such a destiny. We said the same thing in Lebanon. We are facing this in Kuwait, and we faced the same thing in Syria and other places. We are a people who have no homeland, no state, no identity, no passport, and we need a state so that we can protect our people and ourselves.

EIR: There are indications that the Israelis are considering stepping up massacres of Palestinians within the Occupied Territories, either in a supposed response to some stabbing incidents, or other incidents, which provide the Israelis a pretext for massacring Palestinians. Do you think this represents a danger over the coming days?

Husseini: It is not necessary to be a physical massacre. What they are doing now is an economic massacre, a moral massacre, the humiliation of the Palestinian people, the destruction of the infrastructure of the Palestinian people. Forbidding people from working, forbidding them from traveling to their own factories, closing down the West Bank into sectors so that you can not move from one sector into another without permission, forbidding Palestinians from going to Jerusalem, forbidding them from going to Gaza, forbidding them from going anywhere. So it is another kind of massacre. But I also believe that in time, the soldiers in the Occupied Territories will be ready to implement [a massacre] when they are asked.

Today I was stopped at a checkpoint in Jerusalem, and some soldiers started to talk to me when they recognized me.

They told me that there is no way to go but the policy of Ze'evi, which is, "You Palestinians must leave this area and go to Jordan; this area is only for the Jews." They told me, "Look we were waiting and dreaming for the moment that we could meet you, just to kill you, but now we would like to talk." So they didn't kill me. But I believe even those people who are saying all of these things are saying them because of the influence of their government, their parties, against us. I'm sure that after my talk with those soldiers, their attitude changed completely. Unfortunately, Israel is ruled right now by a government which is the main obstacle and the main element against peace and any political solution.

EIR: Is the policy continuing of firing large numbers of Palestinians and replacing them by Soviet Jews?

Husseini: Yes. Not only this. Now our laborers are losing their work inside Israel. So there is no more income for these laborers. At the same time, our people who had been working in the Gulf, and who sent their money to us, also have lost their jobs and their ability to send money. So they came back here to try to find jobs, and now the number of unemployed has become even greater. Third, those people in the Gulf who were sending money for their families that lived here, are now themselves in a desperate situation in Amman or Kuwait and other places, and so we are funding them ourselves and sending them our money.

At the same time, because of the curfews inside the West Bank and Gaza strip, because of this policy of cutting the West Bank and Gaza strip into zones which can't communicate with each other, we cannot send the production of one zone into another. People cannot travel to their factories, to their fields. What we are seeing is a complete destruction of the economy. People have no money to buy, and so the producer is not able to produce, and closes his factory. Now we are really in need of international protection, the implementation of the Geneva Convention [protecting refugees], and not to be left to the Israeli government. This is the responsibility of the U.N. and the U.S., because the U.S. came up with the idea, this idea of a new order, this idea of respect for Security Council resolutions, and U.N. resolutions, and international legitimacy. The only thing we are asking of the Israelis to respect these things, to respect international legitimacy by respecting the Geneva Convention, to respect the U.N. by respecting their resolutions and withdrawing from these areas, and to allow peace in the Middle East.

Unfortunately, we see that until now the Americans are not really pushing. When the matter concerns the Palestinians, they are so tough. Even if it comes to a Security Council resolution against Israel, the U.S. will not use their veto. But, after that, we do not see the U.S. actually push to implement these Security Council resolutions. This is a disaster. Everyone here feels that there is a double standard again in dealing with matters in this area.

Palestinians and the 'new world order'

by Hanna Siniora

The following article has been made available for English language publication in EIR by Mr. Siniora, the editor of the Jerusalem Arabic daily Al-Fajr.

What do Palestinians in the Occupied Territories think about the "new world order" that everyone is talking about? Do they feel that it would open up the possibility of solving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in a manner guaranteeing their inalienable rights, particularly those of self-determination and statehood? *Al-Fajr* interviewed Palestinians from all walks of life in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Hilmi Hanoun, mayor of Tulkarm, said that the "new world order" people refer to is still so unclear that it is difficult to judge its impact. What is important, he said, is not to deviate from the current track of pursuing international legitimacy. The Palestinian issue, he said, is a test case for the world community.

Bashir al-Barghouthi, editor-in-chief of the Jerusalem-based Arabic weekly *Al-Tali'a*, thinks the Palestinian question will not be long at the top of a priorities list for the American administration. He foresees the Americans spending more time strengthening the alliance they established against Iraq and turning it into a strategic coalition. He said the strategic alliance will most likely tackle internal problems and avoid anything the members of the alliance may not be ready to handle, namely an American solution to the Palestinian question. Barghouthi sees the Americans strengthening the alliance by allowing it to work toward common goals, first and foremost being the establishment of a military-economic alliance already under way; toppling the Iraqi regime; and changing the PLO leadership or finding an alternative to it altogether. Barghouthi fears such developments would set the stage for a Camp David-like solution to the Palestinian question.

The deposed mayor of Nablus, **Bassam Shaka'a**, said the dismantling of the socialist camp and the problems resulting with the Soviet Union have created a feeling in the West that the international arena is a fair game for all manner of imperialist ambitions. Shaka'a thinks this reflects negatively on the international scene and on the nations of the developing world, particularly since international developments and the rapid move toward détente did not coincide

with internal or external economic developments, meaning their people are no closer to fulfilling their aspirations than they were before. This paralyzed the Soviet Union, rendering it almost useless, and certainly powerless to stop the American and Western vision of the new order from taking shape. The West's vision, he said, is clearly to hegemonize the world and solve international and regional problems in a way that suits their interests and consolidates their control.

Dr. Haidar Abdel Shafti, head of the Red Crescent in the Gaza Strip, notes that American intervention in the so-called Gulf crisis, although based on Security Council resolutions, has proven that liberating Kuwait was not their essential goal, but was rather intended as a means to destroy Iraq as a regional power and hegemonize the region. Abdel Sharif said that when one studies American tactics, it no longer appears strange that the United States, while committing this aggression despite the condemnation of the world, talks about a new world order based on international legitimacy, human rights, and the U.N. Charter. The U.S. is trying to placate the region, he said, adding that the Palestinians will have to wait and see how the United States will work toward this alleged goal. He said he didn't expect much other than a tightening of the American grip on the region.

Dr. Abdel Sattar Qassim, of an-Najah University in Nablus, told *Al-Fajr* that he believes the U.S. idea of a new world order is not based on an objective conception of international détente, but rather on what the United States deems to be international détente. He said he believed the United States had a specific point of view on how the world should be ordered, and that it saw itself as hegemonizing power over the world and thus implementing any arrangements it thinks fit. Qassim said that such arrangements would not take into account the norms of peace and justice, but would stem from American interests in the first place and the interests of its allies in the Western world in the second place. Israel and its interests will fit into the Western slot, he said.

Qassim said that Iraq was an example of how America will confront a challenge. It unleashed its military might, he said, so that all nations could see that the price of insurrection was very costly. This means that the world will face a new order of dictatorship and tyranny.

Qassim said he saw really two choices for the Palestinian movement regarding the new world order. They could accept it and try to function from within it, or reject it and act on a national level to wrest the Arab nation out from under American control. Qassim said the first choice would almost certainly mean autonomy, maybe under the slogan of a state of Palestine, although its security and fate would be in the hands of Israel, meaning only a disguised occupation. Qassim said the other choice would mean a lot of hard work but would eventually result in a real solution to the Palestinian question, and would be preferable to surrendering to the new world order.

Dr. Mahmoud al-Zahhar, from Gaza, doesn't see any-

thing "new" in this world order. The world has witnessed similar orders several times in history and has suffered much from them. He sees this order as merely another attempt at Western hegemony, like the Crusades. Zahhar describes the main characteristics of this order:

1) The subjugation of the Eastern bloc or what is left of it, namely the Soviet Union, to America, following an era of corruption and decay.

2) The United Nations no longer functions as the seat of justice for the poor. The ignored resolutions of the Security Council and the veto are flagrant examples of injustice. The stand of this institution on the problems of oppressed nations like the Palestinian nation, and its position toward the Gulf crisis, are clear indicators that should be taken into account when the role of this institution is discussed.

3) The role of the major powers is prominent. Colonialism is disguised as help for the oppressed, and the colonial lackeys are normally local. The positions of some Arab countries, their media, and the statements of their leaders, as well as those of some Islamic countries, are very clear examples.

Dr. Zahhar said the question remains how long the Arab nation will continue to be ruled by idiots and agents of the cheapest variety.

Fayez al-Qawasmeh, a Hebron businessman, said that the new world order amounts to nothing more than the ascension of one country to the throne of the world, and the hegemony of the strong over the weak. Recent statements by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that his country would not impose a solution to the Palestinian question but would only help to find a solution, reflect the duality of the U.S. position. Qawasmeh said the Palestinian people and the PLO as their leadership should insist on the implementation of the U.N. resolutions.

Writer and journalist **Ribhi al-Shuwaiki** said the United States has kept most of its ideas about this new world order secret. "We didn't read about it in the papers or see it in the official statements. But we felt it," said Shuwaiki, "through more than 1,000 air sorties daily; and the more than half a million soldiers equipped with the most advanced weaponry against Iraq." Shuwaiki said he didn't think such a world order stemming from the barrel of a gun would mean international détente.

Jiryis Khoury, former chairman of the Bar Association in the West Bank, said the United States never presented a concept of any new order. The gist of the matter, he said, is that statements were made by some U.S. leaders in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis about what they called a "new world order." He says these are not concrete ideas, but rather visions of an international political situation lucrative for them and an embodiment of their hegemony over the world today. He said it is difficult to indicate the place the Palestinian question will take in such an imagined world order, not because the Palestinian question is minor, but because the voiced order is not yet clear.

Palestinians meet with John Paul II

by Umberto Pascali

In a discussion with the director of the Jerusalem-based Christian-Islamic Al-Liqa Center, *EIR* received what may be the first public statement to date on the content of the historic message sent to Pope John Paul II this month by the highest Islamic authority of Jerusalem.

Dr. Geri Sa'ed Khoury told us: "In his letter to the Pope, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem restated the unity of the Palestinian people, both Christians and Muslim, and stressed that the position of the Pope is welcomed positively by both people. The Grand Mufti also thanked John Paul II for his continuous appeals for peace and expressed the hope that international legality be applied to every country of the world, and the hope that the Pope will continue helping the Palestinians."

The letter was delivered by a personal representative of the Grand Mufti, Thiab Ayyoush (see his interview in *EIR* of March 22), during the meeting of the Holy Father with an Islamic-Christian delegation from Jerusalem on March 14. Thanking the Pope for his efforts to keep the Persian Gulf war from setting Muslim against Christian, Dr. Ayyoush said he told the Pope: "You have fought for mutual understanding among the religions, and thus we did not feel the war was a religious war."

Hope against hope

The Pope opened that audience with a surprising departure from his written text: "I express my desire to go to Jerusalem, and *contra spem speravi* [I hope against hope]. These words of St. Paul could have been also the words of our common father Abraham. Abraham, too, received a promise marked by a deep contradiction, and I hope for my visit to Jerusalem as I hope for my visit to Lebanon, a visit to pray and to be with everybody."

The meeting with the delegation, led by the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Michel Sabbah, can be considered as the first concrete step of the new peace offensive in the Mideast, launched by the Vatican after the ad hoc religious summit of March 4-5, where all the Patriarchs of West Asia gathered to meet with the Pope, along with the bishops of the countries involved in the Gulf war. "You belong," the Pope told his guests, "to a group conducting a dialogue between Muslims

and Christians who have chosen this not always easy road, to reach mutual understanding and to help bring about justice and peace."

He then proposed: "Your group should grow and develop and broaden its horizons. It is already a valid testimony, above all when, after the suffering and the injustice increased by a recent conflict, it seems that there are the first signs of a quest for a solution. . . ."

Toward an ecumenical dialogue

Another leading member of the delegation, Father Nicola Bux, told *EIR*: "The Pope asked us explicitly to broaden our activity. He said, broaden your group, broaden all your activities!" Father Bux is the director of the Europe Near East Center (ENEC) based in the city of Bari, in southern Italy. Bari has been the historic reference point for many commercial, political, cultural, as well as religious exchanges between Europe and the Arab world, especially through the annual *Fiera del Levante*, the Fair of the Levant.

Father Bux explains: "The delegation from Jerusalem, consisting of the leadership of the Christian-Islamic Al-Liqa Center, was accompanied and sponsored by us at ENEC. Our chairman, Sen. Pietro Mezzapesa, gave the Pope our statute in three languages, to symbolize our commitment. So the Pope invited Al-Liqa to broaden its activities, its dialogue with non-Christian entities, and ourselves at ENEC to support the Christian community."

What are the chances to relaunch a real ecumenical dialogue in the Arab world? "The situation," says Father Bux, "is ambivalent. First of all, one must say that Islam's genuine message is not aggressive or bellicose toward other believers. Yes, there has been a danger to view the Gulf war as a religious war. But the Holy See's stance appears to have averted that terrible danger. When Islam doesn't get flattened into simplistic or reductionist political positions, it is clearly much freer to start a religious dialogue."

"In fact, I think that the initiative of the president of the Pan-Islamic Conference, to send a letter to the Pope just during the summit with the Patriarchs at the Vatican, is extremely symbolic. And the fact that the Grand Mufti sent a message is a clear recognition of the role played by the Catholic Church, by the Holy See, at this time. Thus it is rather difficult to argue still that the Catholic Church and the 'West' are identical and that the warmongering position of a part of the West is that of the Church.

"It is clear that there are forces in the Islamic world, as the bishop of Algiers pointed out recently, who tend to lump together apples and oranges, but the shrewdest authorities, who are the majority, have realized this. . . . On the other side, it is evident that Israel is categorically refusing to accept any discussion of Jerusalem, because they have annexed Jerusalem. But it is also true that the United Nations has not recognized that annexation at all. Now we should see, as happened for Kuwait, whether there is the strength to enforce

the U.N. resolution calling for Jerusalem to be a *corpus separatum*. In reality, the Holy See no longer insists on the *corpus separatum*, but rather speaks about an internationally guaranteed special statute. As Monsignor Tauran, the Vatican 'foreign minister,' said, this means requesting a series of international guarantees concerning the Christian communities, access to the holy places, their juridical status."

Father Bux continues: "It is clear that besides these basic points, there has not yet been real progress. So much so, that two years ago, Patriarch Sabbah asked the ENEC to work out a study to give content to this formula. Now we are preparing an international seminar in Bari, during the *Fiera del Levante*, with the participation of scholars of law, history, diplomacy, and so on. We will put out a draft to define what this Internationally Guaranteed Special Statute means. After that, we must submit it to an inter-Catholic discussion forum and then to the analysis of the several Christian denominations present in Jerusalem, and finally to Muslims and Jews. This is the beginning of the process."

While Bux explains the broader plan from the standpoint of an expert in law and history, Patriarch Sabbah expressed this same concept in pastoral terms. The dialogue among believers, he said in his address to the Pope, "will help politicians to strengthen the dialogue, in mutual respect and with the aim of carrying out justice, as the only secure borders and the only way to protect the two peoples in conflict. . . . Both Palestinians and Israelis must have the same rights and the same duties guaranteed: the right to freedom, independence, to decide their political future; and duties of mutual respect and recognition, both being protected in their dignity as human beings and children of God, both protected by one justice and free from fear, from the spirit of revenge, and from any oppression."

In his address to the Pope, the director of Al-Liqa, Dr. Khoury underlined a sentence from a speech made by John Paul II months ago: "The Palestinian problem is my personal problem." Khoury told *EIR*: "I repeated that very beautiful sentence to the Pope, and I told him, if it is your personal problem, then we can be secure that your work for the good of our people will continue what you and your predecessors have already done. I refer to the University of Bethlehem, which was built thanks to Pope Paul VI and can continue to function thanks to this Pope. It is a great thing, which gives thousands of Palestinians the possibility to study and to work. This decreases the emigration of the Christians, just for a start.

"In my speech, I told the Pope twice that the PLO is the only representative of the Palestinians, and that whoever doesn't want to deal with the PLO doesn't really want peace. The Pope listened and was smiling throughout my address. At the end, he thanked me for the present we brought from Palestine. He touched it and was moved. He said, so this is wood from a Bethlehem olive tree? It was a reproduction of Leonardo's 'Last Supper,' inlaid on olive wood."

El Salvador

Superpowers decree FMLN the winner

by Gretchen Small

Elections for the national legislature and municipal governments in El Salvador took place on March 10, but for Moscow and Washington, how the citizens of that country actually voted is irrelevant. The two powers are determined to force El Salvador's government to share power with the terrorists of the Farabundo Marti Liberation Front, who are demanding international recognition of FMLN rule over parts of the country, and the disbanding of the nation's Army, as their minimal conditions for turning in their weapons.

Lest there were any doubt as to the agreement on this strategy, on March 15, Secretary of State James Baker signed a joint statement with his Soviet counterparts calling upon the Salvadoran government to "accelerate the process of negotiations."

Arena won, fair and square

As is now customary for the developing sector, hundreds of foreign observers swarmed over the country on election day to "monitor" voting procedures. At the end of the voting, even the foreigners announced that the elections had been fair, with only minor irregularities.

Initial election results demonstrated once again that the anti-communists continue to hold a firm majority in El Salvador. The ruling, anti-communist, Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena) won around 45% of the vote; the Christian Democrats held onto their second place with some 25%; and vying for third place were an Arena-ally, the National Reconciliation Party (PCN), and the coalition of parties allied with the FMLN, the Democratic Convergence (CD).

This was the first time FMLN supporters had run in elections in their own name, and from the standpoint of the superpower condominium, the crucial issue in the elections was the CD's vote. Western media made clear that the Anglo-American Establishment hoped a large vote for the CD would give the pro-power-sharing forces a majority in the Legislative Assembly, and thus provide a "democratic" cover for what they planned anyway. London's *Financial Times* wrote hopefully on the eve of elections that a strong vote by the FMLN's supporters would "break the right-wing grip on the

National Assembly.”

But the Salvadoran people trounced the FMLN at the polls, giving them somewhere between 10% and 15% of the vote. Despite Arena’s economic Achilles heel—it continues to offer only “free trade” liberalism—the party continues to enjoy, undeniably, the support of a plurality for its anti-communist policy.

Results be damned

Once that reality became clear, the foreign press suddenly declared that there *must have been* election fraud, even though all those observers had thought otherwise.

The first shot in this new campaign was fired by the *New York Times* in a March 14 editorial which asserted that because official results were not issued immediately, there *must have been* vote fraud. The *New York Times* demanded that the Bush administration not release any further military aid to the Salvadoran government until it becomes clear who controls the Legislative Assembly, so critical for the future of negotiations between the government and the FMLN.

Likewise, London’s *Financial Times* declared in a March 19 article that the real result of the elections was that Arena’s “grip on the Legislative Assembly and the powers of state” had been “severely weakened.” Therefore Arena “may be more flexible in negotiations with the guerrillas and more susceptible to pressure from outside forces in favor of a negotiated peace.” The paper admitted that “no massive fraud” occurred, but stated that since “it is clear to everyone” that there were irregularities, and that “the true percentages won by the contending parties may never be accurately known,” the Assembly seats should therefore be simply divided up between the parties through a process of negotiations.

No wonder Miami’s *Diario las Americas*, in an editorial March 10, questioned whether the U.S. Liberal Establishment would accept the fact that “an important majority of the El Salvadoran people” gave their support to Arena. Several years ago, the paper noted, “important figures” in the U.S. Establishment stated that if Arena won the elections, the United States would cut off aid.

“That is,” said *Diario*, “that no importance would be granted to the majority will of the people, which these sectors of this great country say they are so anxious to defend.”

‘Leveling the field’ for the FMLN

One promise that the FMLN kept faithfully, was its pledge to resume its military offensive immediately after the elections. FMLN anti-aircraft weapons shot down a military helicopter less than 48 hours after the polls closed; two days later, they blew up six major power lines in the country, and sabotaged power stations, cutting off 51% of the nation’s electrical supply for more than a day.

This has not affected the foreign FMLN fan club in the least. Instead, the U.S. media chose to feature declarations by Joaquín Villalobos, one of the FMLN’s nastiest com-

manders, that the FMLN has renounced Marxism, and wants to achieve its goals as an unarmed political movement. According to a March 7 *New York Times* report, Villalobos now says that capitalist countries such as Germany, Japan, or Costa Rica are the new models for the FMLN, because they are “closely tied to the United States economy,” and, in the case of Costa Rica, have no army. He reiterated the FMLN’s demand that the military not be simply reformed, but “disbanded.”

Prodigal terrorists

These are the words of “a man whose movement has finally seen the light,” CIA stringer Georgie Anne Geyer wrote in a nationally syndicated column published on March 15 in the *Washington Times*. “These public confessions of inner transformation” must be taken seriously, and the “vicious old rightists in El Salvador” cannot be allowed to convince the United States otherwise, she wrote.

Indeed, from the standpoint of the FMLN, why not negotiate? FMLN spokesmen say “they will sign a peace deal if territories under their control (some 20% of the country) be recognized during a transitional disarmament period when constitutional and judicial reforms aimed at leveling the field for their eventual participation in future elections are to be negotiated,” the *Financial Times* reported March 19. Until the elections, the Army and the government had refused to hand over territory, the *Financial Times* noted, but now “foreign pressure” may change this.

The United Nations, which has been running the “peace” negotiations between the government and the FMLN for the past year, is moving to set up shop permanently in El Salvador to oversee the power-sharing deal. U.N. Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuellar is preparing to dispatch a mission to El Salvador immediately, to finalize plans for a “U.N. presence” in El Salvador, according to the *Washington Times*. Among its plans, according to secret documents leaked to the press, is to help form a “commission of notables” set up under U.N. sponsorship, that should name, one by one, the officer corps of the Salvadoran Army.

Western intervention into El Salvador’s war on behalf of the FMLN has given new life to narco-terrorist armies across the Americas, a point noted unhappily by Enrique Santos Calderón in a column in Colombia’s *El Tiempo* newspaper on March 10. The Communist Party-controlled Simón Bolívar Guerrilla Coordination Front in Colombia has adopted the “Salvadoran model,” and as FMLN documents captured by the Salvadoran Army make plain, the FMLN views “dialogue” as a necessary instrument of its plans to seize power, he wrote. Santos Calderón quoted from the documents: Negotiations are needed “to isolate the regime and change the correlation of forces in favor of the armed struggle. . . . The process of dialogue allows us to gain support and discredit the regime internationally. . . . We must keep up the dialogue to keep the enemy tied to the negotiating table.”

Washington hurls new insults at Japan

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Since the temporary cease-fire went into effect in the Persian Gulf, the Bush administration has been firing a continuous diplomatic barrage at Japan. The latest and most egregious calculated insults came directly from the Oval Office, when President Bush abruptly canceled his long scheduled state visit to Tokyo early this month and then, up until the last moment, refused even to meet with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, who was in Washington on March 20. (The Bush-Nakayama meeting did finally take place, but only after the foreign minister arrived with a \$7 billion check).

Early in March, Ichiro Ozawa, the general secretary of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), had to cancel a scheduled six-day tour of the Middle East when U.S. authorities refused to grant him permission to visit occupied Kuwait. Responding to the cancellation of Bush's Tokyo visit, Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu told a television interviewer March 13, "The conduct of the United States makes me grind my teeth. I think that Japan is not estimated appropriately in the U.S.A."

This Bush administration arrogance has provoked a profound reassessment among policymakers in Tokyo, who see the situation going from bad to worse, but who have so far developed no strategy for confronting the Bush menace.

'A feeling of dismay'

A March 14 article in the *International Herald Tribune* reported that Bush is being widely compared with Franklin Roosevelt, whom many Japanese believe lured Tokyo into World War II. The *Tribune* quoted Prof. Sakuji Yoshimura of Waseda University: "The Gulf war was a trap set by Americans to crush Iraq. . . . It is crucial to recognize that the war began from America's own plan for a monolithic control of a postwar world."

In the March 16 issue of the *Japan Economic Journal*, author Masahiko Ishizuka called on the Japanese government to "end this laissez-faire relationship with the U.S. There is a feeling of dismay about the relentless use of military power by the U.S., the mainstay of the allied forces. By Asian or Oriental standards, the Anglo-American decisiveness in the use of military power—their belligerence—is disquieting and questionable. Many hesitated to call it a just war, with the massive bombing appearing less of a 'sacred mission' than an exercise in self-righteousness and arrogance. . . . Had the Gulf crisis been resolved peacefully, it would have

set a good precedent—contrary to the way things turned out."

Ishizuka continued: "For all its success in the Gulf war, the fact remains that the U.S. had to depend on other countries for meeting an overwhelming proportion of its war costs. . . . In future military conflicts, should they happen, the U.S. will again count on Japan and Germany to be its major supporters, at least financially. . . . If there's anything Japan has learned the hard way from the Gulf crisis, it's the realization that Japan can't continue to be so miserably dictated to by Washington, simply because Tokyo didn't know what to do in the absence of its own firm strategies and policies. . . . Self-assertion and true independence in formulation of foreign policy have been utterly absent for too long. The Gulf war served as a catalyst to the realization by the Japanese that the situation can no longer be allowed to continue."

Washington, meanwhile, continues to escalate its attacks. U.S. Ambassador Richard Armacost, part of the CIA triumvirate running Bush administration East Asia policy (along with Ambassador Donald Gregg in Seoul and Ambassador James Lilley in Beijing), tore into Japan for failing to submit to American free trade demands at the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks. Speaking on Feb. 28 in Tokyo, Armacost denounced Japan's refusal to deregulate interest rate policies and submit to other free trade demands, warning, "The question is whether Japan will act in a timely manner or wait passively and accept the inevitable." On March 8, the Bush administration threatened that it would file a formal complaint at GATT if Japan failed to deregulate its interest rates by the May 1991 deadline set last year by Treasury Undersecretary David Mulford.

Japanese-Soviet diplomacy

In this context, the Kaifu government is proceeding with plans to host Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachov April 16-18. Although Japanese expectations about a successful summit had been dampened by recent Soviet crackdowns in the Baltic republics, on March 14, senior Communist Party official Valentin Falin paid a visit to Kaifu to deliver a message that Gorbachov was ready to make a dramatic breakthrough in their relations at the April meeting. Shortly after, it was announced that LDP chairman Ozawa would probably visit Moscow prior to the summit. Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh will arrive in Tokyo March 30-31.

While the main thrust of the Japanese-Soviet talks will be joint economic projects (Moscow is talking about a "new economic community" involving Japan, China, Taiwan, the Soviet Union, and the two Koreas), Moscow is also hinting that the thorny issue of the northern islands, occupied by the Soviets since World War II, could be resolved. On Feb. 28, Gorbachov's military adviser Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev told Kyodo news service that it was his "personal opinion" that the U.S.S.R. should open talks leading to the return of two of the islands.

Birmingham Six case shocks Britain; some see parallels to U.S. 'justice'

by Our Special Correspondent

On March 14, the Court of Appeal in London reversed the convictions of six Irishmen, jailed for 16 years in Britain for crimes they never did commit. The men, the "Birmingham Six," were accused of having set off bombs in two pubs in Birmingham in 1974, killing 21 and wounding 162.

British Home Secretary Kenneth Baker had to announce in Parliament after the reversal that a Royal Commission will examine the entire British criminal justice system. All recent major prosecutions of IRA "terrorists" have been overturned.

Back in 1974, England was swept by a lynch mob mood like that among Americans today when they hear the word "Iraq." Six unfortunate Irishmen were arrested at Liverpool, boarding the ferry to Belfast hours after the bombings, to attend the funeral of an IRA man. They were dragged to a West Midlands police station, beaten to a pulp, and made to sign confessions. Under English law, a confession, though backed by no other proof, is itself a proof. In 1975, the six were sentenced to life imprisonment. Their trial lasted 45 days, the jury overwhelmed with 132 charges and 100 witnesses. Eight of those days were *in camera* proceedings from which the jury was barred, dealing with the admissibility of police evidence. Mr. Justice Bridge found nothing wrong with that; in summing up to the jury he said he was "lost in admiration for the way these police officers have done their job." Had the death penalty still existed, they would all have hanged.

The government did take the trouble to come up with forensic evidence that two of the accused had handled nitroglycerin. But they did not tell the Crown until 1987 that Dr. Herbert Bamford of the police lab, who swabbed the hands of passengers on the Belfast ferry that night, found two other passengers with apparent "nitroglycerine contamination," which came from adhesive tape used to wrap parcels. Dr. Bamford later said his fellow scientists in the lab agreed the Griess test used was "not absolutely specific for nitroglycerine." It is now known that the Director of Public Prosecutions had heard of Bamford's material in 1987, but *never disclosed it to the defense*. Lastly, the identities of the real murderers were known since 1985 at the latest.

Amnesty International fraud

Defense solicitors like Miss Gareth Pierce and Alistair Logan worked seven days a week for over a decade, taking enormous financial losses. But Amnesty International, which continues to assert that there are no political prisoners in the United States, would not touch these Irish cases in its own front yard—Amnesty is based in London—until a press campaign by the defense lawyers made the thing so hot they could no longer afford to stay out of it.

Amnesty has also refused to touch the case of Lyndon LaRouche until now, calling it "not political," but, in a letter we excerpt here, an English lawyer familiar with both cases says they are both political frameups.

There is a clamor abroad in England now for Lord Chief Justice Lane, who presided over the Six's appeal in 1987, to resign. But can the whole High Court judiciary resign?

"There was no evidence to suggest the Six had received any knocking about in custody *beyond the ordinary*," said then-Lord Chief Justice Widgery, refusing leave to appear in 1976.

"If this action is allowed to proceed to trial, if the six men fail, it will mean that *much time and money will have been expended . . . for no good purpose*. If the six men win, it will mean the police were guilty of perjury, that they were guilty of violence and threats . . . that would be such an appalling vista that every sensible person in the land would say: It cannot be right these actions should go any further," Lord Denning said, in dismissing the Six's civil action against the Home Office in 1980.

The same Lord Denning told the press in 1990: "We shouldn't have all these campaigns to get the Birmingham Six released. If they'd been hanged, they'd have been forgotten, and the whole community would have been satisfied."

Also in 1990, Lord Cowie for the Appeal Court suddenly said: "There is no obligation on the Crown to disclose any information in their possession *which would tend to exculpate the accused*."

Worsthorne: deport the Irish

Then there was the famous October 1988 editorial by

that prophet of the Gulf War, Sir Peregrine Worsthorne, "When Irish Eyes are Suspect," of which I quote a few choice words:

"In the special case of terrorism, 10 innocent men convicted could well be a lesser evil than releasing a guilty one. . . .

In the aftermath of a major IRA outrage, the police trawl for Irish suspects. Doubtless lots caught in the trawl are only Republican sympathizers, rather than terrorists proper. Such people may not positively help the IRA. But nor are they properly speaking, innocent. Certainly they withhold information which would help catch the bombers, and serve the IRA in other ways. Many Irish priests do too, supplying safe houses . . . all these hangers-on are certainly accomplices. . . .

A more ruthless state than Britain would simply deport all Irish Republican sympathizers. As it is we make them welcome, allow them to vote, and enjoy all the other privileges of citizenship. . . .

"Is it really reasonable to expect the police to apply to the Irish population in this country the presumption of innocence that they apply to other citizens? I don't believe that it is. Guilty many of them certainly are of making up that hinterland of support and sympathy without which the terrorists could not do their deadly deeds. . . . Did the conviction of the Guildford Four and Birmingham Six at least temporarily deter that hinterland? . . . There is some reason to suppose that this is what it did."

The Queen made similar, if more veiled remarks, in her bloodcurdling New Year's message for 1991 on Iraq—and Ireland.

U.K. as a theocratic state

Moan as he may, the truth is that England's ruling classes are not the hapless victim of Irish terrorism. The IRA today—with some complications—is nothing but a plaything of British intelligence, part of England's ongoing drive to harry and eventually to overthrow the Republic of Ireland, and an integral part of the machinery for keeping people down inside the "United" Kingdom itself.

The truth is also, that laws have been in force since 1974, giving Sir Perry, known to be close to the Royal Household, exactly what he says he wants.

Under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, passed in the wake of the Birmingham bombings, and overhauled in 1989, the Home Secretary can forbid *British subjects* from Northern Ireland (Ulster) from entering England—even though Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom, and Ulstermen bear British passports. Under the PTA, it is a crime for a man to refuse to disclose identity and movements to police officers questioning him under the act. It is a crime to withhold information concerning acts of terrorism, or which "might help" apprehend terrorists.

English lawyer writes to Thornburgh on LaRouche

The similarity between the Birmingham Six case and that of Lyndon LaRouche is noted in a letter written March 6 to U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh by Ian D. Leigh, Lecturer in Law at Newcastle University England. Mr. Leigh writes in his own name and not as a spokesman for the faculty. Excerpts of the letter follow:

Dear Attorney General:

U.S.A. v. Lyndon LaRouche et al.

I am writing to you as a Constitutional lawyer with particular interests in national security and civil liberties, about a case of serious concern. Although the case is a domestic United States one, it is now raising international concern over the legal process and the recognition of human rights in a similar way to the "Guildford Four" and "Birmingham Six" cases in my own country. Many lawyers like myself who had regarded U.S. protection of civil liberties to be far advanced to that in our jurisdiction are now being forced reluctantly to reevaluate as a result. It involves the conviction of a political activist and former U.S. presidential candidate, Lyndon LaRouche, and a number of his associates on fraud and conspiracy charges on January 27, 1989. . . .

. . . The surrounding circumstances and procedural irregularities at the trial lend considerable credence to the defendants' allegations that they have been the victims of political persecution. . . . I am not qualified to judge whether the allegations that LaRouche's political movement was specifically targeted and smeared by the U.S. federal authorities can be substantiated. However, the detailed allegations made in the case papers (which I have read) seem to me to raise an inference of wrongdoing which at the very least requires detailed rebuttal by the U.S. government and thorough independent investigation. The unimpeded exercise of the rights of political

The new 1989 act gives the police much greater powers to rifle through privileged documents, such as bank records, or even attorneys' files. The police need only say that they want the documents for a "terrorist investigation." Furthermore, the 1988 Immigration Act has given the police a new, non-judicial, procedure to deport people. The Home Office had a field day with that during the Gulf war.

activity and of free speech are fundamental to any democracy, even where, as is my own case with regard to LaRouche's apparent views, the majority may disagree with the views expressed. These rights are also the cornerstone of international relations, recognized in the U.N. Charter, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1976. If it was shown conclusively that employees of the U.S. government had been engaging in systematic surveillance and unattributed discrediting of these defendants, then to my mind, that would constitute more of a threat to democracy than anything LaRouche might say or write. In view of the now acknowledged unfortunate past history of U.S. federal authorities in political surveillance during the 1960s and 1970s (I refer to the details of Cointelpro revealed by Congressional Committees)—which included admitted surveillance of groups, such as NCLC, with which LaRouche was closely associated—these allegations must be taken seriously.

However, as a lawyer I am more directly concerned with some of the unsatisfactory features of the trial process. . . . Three features particularly stand out: the jury selection process, the curtailment of the defense argument, and the severity of sentence imposed on conviction.

By normal standards in complex U.S. trials, the jury selection process appears to have been hastily conducted. . . . The level of prior publicity and public discussion of LaRouche's views over several years and . . . trial in a court district . . . with a very high proportion of federal government employees (including those working for intelligence agencies) both necessitated extra vigilance in the composition of the jury in order to ensure a fair trial. . . . It is clear that had greater time been spent at this stage of the trial, it would have been revealed that one of the jurors was a federal employee of an emergency planning unit with direct intelligence links, and a substantial risk of prejudice. . . .

The judge's pre-trial rulings prevented the defendants from . . . putting their defense that the prosecution was part of a systematic attempt at political persecution. In particular, the defense were prevented from referring to the fact that the government-initiated bankruptcy proceed-

ings which led to the assets of the companies with which the defendants were associated being frozen, were politically motivated, exceptional in the extreme, and the direct cause of the non-repayment of the loans on which the criminal charges were based. Whether or not the defense could have sustained these allegations I am unable to judge, but it is clear that some aspects of them could have been material and that the jury was deprived of hearing these. An earlier trial against the defendants had collapsed when the judge found systematic misconduct by the prosecution over suppressing information relating to these very aspects of the defense. The fact that all these events occurred on what was in effect a re-trial and against the peculiar political circumstances described above, leave the abiding impression that a miscarriage of justice has taken place.

This is a matter within the direct purview of your own Department. Despite the admission by government officials that files exist on LaRouche and his associates, the administration has resisted attempts to gain access to them on national security grounds. Access to these files is an essential prerequisite for the defendants' use of legal processes challenging their convictions. Unless compelling evidence can be produced for the national security claim, the public interest in the administration of justice requires that access should now be allowed. To continue to deny access only adds credence to the defendants' assertions of political persecution.

The sentence imposed after conviction of 15 years' imprisonment appears to have been unusually harsh for the nature of the offense charged, and in view of the fact that LaRouche was a first offender, aged 65. . . . It may be that the United States government will be able to rebut these allegations of a gross violation of human rights. There is clear *prima facie* case for an independent investigation of the investigation, prosecution and the surrounding circumstances. It is now in the interests of the United States government to cooperate in the establishment of an inquiry of this kind to clear what is becoming a major blemish to the international respectability of its investigatory agencies and legal processes and, more generally, a blot on its record for protecting human rights.

That Sir Perry can say what he says publicly, and get away with it, speaks volumes about what Great Britain really is: a theocratic, absolutist state like the Iran of the Ayatollahs, ruled by a warrior caste, a judicial caste, and a priestly caste, and led by a monarch who, as head of the Church of England, is also the English Pope. Cromwell is the model, and Cromwell's atrocities against the Irish and the Scots are

the precedent.

The groundswell building up against these gross miscarriages of justice had better aim at changing what England has become. Otherwise the chickens who bombed retreating Iraqi columns in the Gulf war, will soon come home to roost among the indigent, the Irish, and the unemployed in England itself.

Pope sees 'echo of Grace' in Mozart as example of true meaning of joy

On March 16, Pope John Paul II met with participants in the Plenary Assembly of the Pontifical Council for Dialogue with Non-Believers. They were gathered in Rome for a three-day meeting on March 13-16 on the topic, "The Search for Happiness and Christian Faith." During the audience, which took place in the Hall of the Consistory, the Pope gave the speech printed below.

According to an article in Corriere della Sera, the Milan daily, of March 18, Pope Wojtyla's words of praise for Mozart in this speech are unprecedented from a Pontiff. Although John Paul II had traveled to Salzburg, Vienna in June 1988, at that time he had merely mentioned the city's most illustrious son without even an adjective. Corriere's reporter Bruno Bartolini wrote that the Vatican "foreign minister," Jean-Louis Tauran, a great music lover, is thought to have suggested the tribute to Mozart to the Pope. Tauran, a Lebanese, was also the organizer of the historic March 14 meeting between John Paul II and an ecumenical delegation of Palestinian religious leaders, both Muslim and Christian, which was reported in EIR's last issue.

The Pope's speech has been translated by EIR's editorial staff from the French text provided by the Vatican press office.

Messrs. Cardinals, Dear brethren in the episcopate, Dear friends,

1) It is with joy that I receive you this morning and wish you a wholehearted welcome. Members and consultants of the Pontifical Council for the Dialogue with Non-Believers, you have come together in Plenary Assembly, presided over by Cardinal Paul Poupard, to reflect upon a theme of never-ending timeliness, with profound pastoral repercussions today: man's aspiration to happiness, as an anchoring point for the faith. This anthropological approach to faith and, at the opposite pole, to non-belief, is one of the possible keys to better responding to the dissatisfactions and anxieties, the fears and threats that weigh upon mankind today, and from which it seeks to free itself, in order to open wide the gates of happiness in the joyful light of Christ Risen, "that liveth . . . and have the keys of hell and death" (Rev. 1, 18), He who alone carries the definitive response to human anguish and despair.

I thank you for having proposed this theme of happiness

to the Church's reflection as a landmark on the pathway of faith.

2) How does the quest for happiness present itself today, what characteristics does it reveal?

As it emerges from the results of the inquiry published for the past three years in your review *Atheism and Faith*, the aspiration to happiness is identified among the traditional populations of the Third World with a harmonious integration into the familial and ethnic group, and an elementary material well-being. In contrast, it is characterized by individualism in the societies of abundance, marked by secularization and religious indifference. Your attention is especially drawn to these societies because they are the most afflicted by non-belief; freedom is often conceived there as a capacity for absolute self-determination, exempt from any law. For many, happiness is no longer attached to the accomplishment of moral duty, nor the search for a personal relationship to God. In this sense, we may speak of a rupture between happiness and morality. To seek happiness in virtue becomes an alien ideal, and even strange, for a number of our contemporaries. What takes priority, is the interest in one's body, its health, its beauty, its youth. It is the image of a happiness enclosed within the vicious circle of desire and its gratification. It is true that compassion, benevolence toward others and true generosity, even among those who are distant from the faith, are also characteristics of these societies.

This culture is often identified as narcissistic. The myth invented by Greek antiquity shows how the ancients, already, had an awareness of the sterility of a love closed in upon itself. Not to love anyone but oneself, is to destroy oneself and perish. "For whosoever will save his life, shall lose it," said Jesus. (Mark 8, 35).

Regard for others, forgetting oneself out of concern for others and their happiness, are these not the most expressive images of the divine mystery? The living and true God, whose countenance Jesus revealed to us, is not a solitary God. Among the divine Persons, everything is gift, sharing, communication, in an eternal respiration of love. All the happiness of God and His joy are the happiness and joy of mutual giving. For man, created in his semblance, there is no true happiness outside of the gift of oneself. "Whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the Gospel's shall save it," said Jesus (Mark 8, 35).

3) Another consideration is imposed. Contrary to the ancients who had such a poignant sense of the tragedy of existence, of man's solitude in the world, of his insufficiency before the ideal of the beautiful and the good, of the ephemeral character of all things, and finally of the inevitability of death, the society of production and consumption refuses to integrate the presence and the experience of evil and death into its idea of happiness. It builds out of this fact an image of happiness which is fragile, artificial, and ultimately false. Any system which does not deeply confront the somber enigma of life has little to say to people, and sooner or later they tire of it. Recent history has made this very evident.

4) The Christian conception of life—and of happiness—has its source in Jesus Christ, God made man, in His earthly life among us, in His death freely accepted, and in His victory over death on Easter morning. "The mystery of man," states the Second Vatican Council, "is only truly clarified in the mystery of the Word Made Flesh" (*Gaudium et spes*, §22). The mystery of human happiness finds its key in Jesus Christ, the archetype of all given existence. Jesus Christ abolished the painful antagonisms between heaven and earth, past and present, between man and God. The present time, still weighed down with the consequences of sin and yet already redeemed by Christ, can be lived as a time of happiness, in the hope of its ultimate fulfillment. This world, where evil and death still prevail, can be loved in joy, because the Kingdom of God, which shall achieve its perfection when the Lord comes again, is already present on this earth (cf. *Gaudium et spes* N. 39. §3)—thus constituting the outline, the image, and the prophecy of the new earth and the new heaven. Corporeal reality can be assumed with all its weight of misery and suffering, and death itself can be accepted without despair, thanks to the promise of resurrection. Everything is saved, even everyday banality, even the most painful trials. Forgiveness of his sins is always offered to the sinner. This is the Christian meaning of happiness, the promise of the Beatitudes, the light of which we seek to propagate "like a lamp that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn and the daystar arise in your hearts" (II Peter 1, 19).

5) This year, the bicentenary of the death of Mozart recalls our attention to the message of joy which his work conveys, characterized by a feeling of happiness, like a simultaneous experience of death and of resurrection. Many discover, above all in his religious compositions, a veritable song of joy of creation redeemed and reconciled with God, an echo of Grace, the inexhaustible fountain. Sharing the faith must again become a way of sharing joy. Dialogue, which at times becomes an arid exchange of ideas, can rediscover a higher inspiration in the capacity for wonderment before artistic beauty, the reflection of the eternal and ineffable beauty of God.



The young Mozart sharing his compositions with Franz Josef Haydn.

6) Dear friends, this Plenary Assembly on the aspiration to happiness is a threshold crossed in your brief, but already significant history: you have correctly oriented yourselves toward anthropological reflection. Already three years ago, you established it: The atheistic ideologies and worldviews constructed in the 19th century now have only a diminished influence, and the classics of atheism no longer occupy center stage. Yet the ravages of militant atheism have engendered a kind of new pagan religiosity. This is the temptation to self-deification, as old as Genesis; it is the arbitrary rejection of moral law; and it is, ultimately, the tragic experience of evil. Industrialized societies with advanced technology, with their mentalities conditioned by the mass media, are prey to the depreciation of values and the loss of moral meaning. Therein lies a new ground for dialogue with non-believers, a task which is more necessary than ever.

7) An era of dialogue unburdened by the weight of ideologies opens up with the dawning of the new millennium. I would appreciate your sensitizing the Church to this aspect of its mission, by meetings with your collaborators in various parts of the world. Pursue this work with patience and discernment, while invoking the assistance of the Holy Spirit and the protection of the Virgin Mary, "cause of our joy."

In this difficult and necessary task, my blessing and my prayers accompany you.

Book Review

Lebanon: Who is 'biting' whom?

by Susan Welsh

Pity the Nation: the Abduction of Lebanon

by Robert Fisk

Atheneum, New York, 1990

678 pages, hardbound, \$24.95

Robert Fisk has been a reporter based in Lebanon for two British newspapers, the *Times* and then the *Independent*, since 1976—fifteen years in which that nation has been plunged into unspeakable barbarism. A journalist has to be either very brave or very foolish to stay in such a place—perhaps both.

Fisk makes clear from the outset that his is a journalistic account, not a comprehensive history. "I suggest no answers and offer no solutions," he writes, adding that he sees the job of journalists as "watching and witnessing history and then . . . recording it as honestly as we can."

He reports ably, and the book is rich in vignettes and stories of the tragedy which he has witnessed. For any who think the war in Lebanon can be understood in simplistic terms, the book is a useful antidote. Fisk does not hold back from describing—for those with the stomach strong enough to keep reading—the Israel-backed Phalangist massacres of Palestinians at Sabra and Chatila, or the Palestinian atrocities against Christians in Damour, or the butchery by Syrian President Hafez al-Assad at Hama. For Americans in particular, who like things in black and white ("who are the good guys?"), there are lessons to be learned.

But is the account truthful, as a whole? For historical accuracy and objectivity, it is not enough to have "been there"; you have to have an analysis that makes sense. Despite Fisk's claim that he is leaving the reader to draw his own conclusions, it is impossible to write a book such as this one without expressing one's own evaluation.

Take one example, Fisk's treatment of Gen. Michel Aoun, the man who provoked the most recent act in the Lebanese tragedy by closing down some of the ports through which Syria was running a brisk drug trade out of Lebanon. Aoun, according to Fisk, was creating a "small military dictatorship," and when Fisk interviewed him in 1989, the general

was "surrounded by loyal 'apparatchiks.'" He is, portrayed in sum, as an authoritarian personality, seeking Maronite Christian hegemony in Lebanon, at the expense of everybody else. Fisk ridicules the general's desire to "liberate" his country from the Syrians, and calls "implausible" Aoun's call for a U.N. inquiry into the assassination of President René Moawad, after the Taif Agreement of 1989. Why "implausible"? We are not told; we are left with impressionistic anecdotes about the general's personality, like the report that, during their interview, Aoun's daughter sat with "a look of adoration on her face as she fumbled with a tape recorder. The Napoleon of Lebanon was about to speak from his underground garage."

EIR presented quite a different view of General Aoun, and of Lebanon, in our issue of Nov. 16, 1990 ("Kissinger Destroyed the Nation of Lebanon," by Prof. Bassam El Hashem). Professor El Hashem, a scholar who is one of Aoun's close associates (and by no means a "loyal apparatchik"), gives a compelling argument that there has been *no civil war* in Lebanon, but that the crisis there has been deliberately fostered and manipulated by outside powers, each for its own strategic objectives.

It is impossible to understand anything about Lebanon "from the ground up." Indeed, a glaring omission in Fisk's book, is that Henry Kissinger is nowhere mentioned in the compendious 678 pages of text. Yet it is Kissinger's plan for destruction and partition of Lebanon that is now being implemented.

The beautiful dragonfly

Fisk vehemently rejects any such standpoint of reference, derisively calling it "The Plot," and substituting for it a kind of romantic existentialism:

"The Plot, the *mo'amera*, the *complot*, undefinable and ubiquitous, a conspiracy of treachery in which a foreign hand—Syrian, Palestinian, Israeli, American, French, Libyan, Iranian—was always involved. Edward Cody of the AP and I once came to the conclusion that in every interview we conducted in Lebanon, a special chair should be set aside for The Plot—since The Plot invariably played a leading role in all discussions we ever had with politicians, diplomats or gunmen."

Rejecting this view (but not refuting it), Fisk's thesis is that there is some chthonic quality that makes Lebanon inherently destined to corrupt and destroy both itself and anyone who sets foot there.

Thus, when a leading hashish-grower in the Bekaa Valley tried to get the author to buy dope in 1977, with the sales pitch, "We'll put as much as you need out through Damascus International Airport—to the country of your choice," Fisk draws the following conclusion:

"And that, of course, was the clue. Syria had come to Lebanon and Syria was now being corrupted by Lebanon, as surely as another great army would soon be corrupted. Lebanon's revenge was to welcome all her invaders and then

kiss them to death. The longer they stayed, the longer they needed to stay; and each day, every hour, their presence would be imperceptibly debased and perverted and poisoned.

"Those great hot, balmy fields across the Bekaa concealed from all who went there the dangerous, moist centre of this garden of earthly delights. It was like being bitten by a beautiful dragonfly whose wings were of such splendour that the victim did not even feel the nip in the flesh. Later, the skin would itch and the stranger would scratch at the irritation, trying to remember where he had acquired so strange a mark. Much later, the flesh would swell up and give pain and, very often, it would prove fatal."

It is not only the poor Syrians who are "corrupted" by their occupation of Lebanon. In another location, Fisk describes how, after some particularly nasty Israeli bombing of the south of Lebanon—in which *everyone* was classed as a "terrorist" and could therefore be murdered—he came upon an Israeli roadblock, manned by a blond Russian-born soldier. "Nearly all the terrorists escaped," the soldier told the carload of journalists.

Fisk continues:

"He gazed around at the gentle hills of southern Lebanon, and the distant hulk of Beaufort [castle] through the heat haze. Then he added something quite extraordinary. 'This sure is a beautiful country,' he said.

"He had been bitten by the dragonfly. And he had not even felt its sting."

But who invited that Israeli soldier to cross the border and bombard the villages of Lebanon?

Lebanon in global geopolitics

Fisk himself presents, in passing, plenty of pieces of evidence against his own argument. One of the most striking is his description of the great powers' destruction of Lebanon earlier in this century. During the First World War, the Ottomans and a locust plague produced a ghastly famine in Lebanon; this was followed by an Allied blockade of the Levant, intended to starve the Turkish troops there. The Turks, as could be expected, commandeered the food they needed and left the civilian population to starve, killing at least 300,000 people in Syria and Mount Lebanon—some 120,000 in Lebanon alone.

Was this somehow Lebanon's "fault"?

Yet the author sees his "dragonfly" reaching back even into the 19th century. Fisk finds a British newspaper of 1840 which complained that in Beirut, "Anarchy is now the order of the day, our properties and personal safety are endangered, no satisfaction can be obtained, and crimes are committed with impunity." Fisk, noting that he had just written a similar article himself, concludes: "It was as if there were something in the *nature* of Lebanon that made these phenomena occur."

Among the more interesting hints of the role played by outside players in the current Lebanon crisis, is Fisk's description of his acquaintance Konstantin Kapitanov, a journalist from the Soviet weekly *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, based

in Beirut. In 1986, while Americans and Europeans were being kidnaped and murdered right and left, Kapitanov meets Fisk in Libya, ascertains that the Briton intends to return to Beirut, and makes him a friendly offer: "If you need my help, call me. I can come to the airport to pick you up. Nobody is going to kidnap Soviet citizens in Lebanon."

Why are Soviet citizens so safe in Lebanon? We are never told, and speculation is left to those of us who think "conspiracies" sometimes reflect reality.

Similarly, the unfolding drama of the Iran-Contra affair, involving the exchange of U.S. hostages kidnaped in Lebanon by Iranian-backed militias, for arms to the Ayatollah Khomeini and arms-for-drugs deals with the Nicaraguan Contras, is a crucial part of the story of Lebanon, yet is only mentioned in passing.

Presumably, to delve into it more deeply would be to give credence to The Plot.

What makes a nation?

Author Robert Fisk quotes, as the frontispiece of his book, a remarkable passage from the Lebanese poet Khalil Gibran (The Garden of the Prophet, London, Heinemann, 1934). The reader may find that it applies also to nations other than Lebanon.

Pity the nation that is full of beliefs and empty of religion.

Pity the nation that wears a cloth it does not weave, eats a bread it does not harvest, and drinks a wine that flows not from its own wine-press.

Pity the nation that acclaims the bully as hero, and that deems the glittering conqueror bountiful.

Pity the nation that despises a passion in its dream, yet submits in its awakening.

Pity the nation that raises not its voice save when it walks in a funeral, boasts not except among its ruins, and will rebel not save when its neck is laid between the sword and the block.

Pity the nation whose statesman is a fox, whose philosopher is a juggler, and whose art is the art of patching and mimicking.

Pity the nation that welcomes its new ruler with trumpeting, and farewells him with hootings, only to welcome another with trumpeting again.

Pity the nation whose sages are dumb with years and whose strong men are yet in the cradle.

Pity the nation divided into fragments, each fragment deeming itself a nation.

Church fights abortion

Health Secretary Kumate finally reveals the government's policy for legalized abortion.

The obstacle to legalizing abortion in Mexico "is Catholicism . . . and the influence of the Catholic Church is weighty. And it is intransigent," Health Secretary Jesús Kumate asserted in an interview published in the March 11 issue of *Proceso* magazine.

Kumate went on to say that "for Japanese women, when there weren't pills, having abortions was like putting on makeup." The problem in Mexico, he complained, is "that Catholicism is still very strong, despite the Protestant sects and the Mormons in the southeast. This makes things very difficult; and now there's a big uproar. Every six years it starts up again and we have to get out the thermometer to take the temperature."

The last thermometer reading was on the legalization of abortion (and euthanasia) passed at the end of last year by the Chiapas state congress, most of whose members belong to the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). Because of a very strong popular protest, that legalization had to be "temporarily" suspended. But, the pro-life organization Pro-Vida has charged that with his public statements, the health secretary has now given the go-ahead for this genocidal campaign to the PRI majority in Chiapas, as well as to other state assemblies "studying" the legalization of abortion, such as those in Zacatecas and Aguascalientes.

Health Secretary Kumate is not just anti-Catholic and pro-abortion, but favors Nazi-style euthanasia. In his statements to *Proceso*, he says that it's not clear when a new life begins,

adding that "for me, there is a phase which biologists call pre-embryonic, in which there is still nothing clear, nothing recognized as one's own, something foreign. Some time ago, I wrote an essay about the minimum basis of life in which I identified three criteria. First, the capacity to reproduce, that is, genetics, the nucleus, and chromosomes, the human being's reproductive apparatus."

Second, Kumate continued, "a mechanism of energy transmission which allows [the being] to metabolize, grow, and be nourished. Third, possession of a membrane which creates individuality, and allows differentiation from the environment, a type of dividing line. In the end, I believe that of that cell or that collection of cells, one must ask the same. Because if it can still . . . be one thing or the other, it doesn't have the minimum basis for life."

The argument is false. The zygote, and later the collection of cells which make up the embryo, is distinctively human from the start, and it is impossible to confuse it genetically with that of any other species. From the moment of conception, it possesses all of the genetic elements of a single and specific individual human being—a member of the human species, and at the same time, absolutely unique.

If Dr. Kumate doesn't understand this, he should go back to medical school. As he should know, there is a basis for morality.

Most serious is the theory of eugenics which underlies Kumate's

"reasoning," whose application implies that any individual who doesn't meet the three conditions he establishes can be eliminated by the same criteria the Nazi doctors used, and as the Chiapas PRI officials intend to do. According to the reforms passed in the Chiapas assembly, abortion should be legal in cases "when it can be determined that the 'product' has suffered genetic or congenital alterations leading to birth with serious physical or mental deformities."

Health authorities are also moving forward with a program of voluntary or involuntary sterilization. On March 14, Pro-Vida President Jorge Serrano Limón charged that as of last February, health authorities had "sterilized more than 4 million women nationwide . . . to achieve the goals established by the federal government of reducing the population growth rate by 1% by the year 2000."

Serrano Limón also reiterated that official campaigns to promote abortion are the result of foreign pressures for population reduction. Referring to the Chiapas abortion fight, the Archbishop of Monterrey and president of the Mexican Bishops' Conference, Adolfo Suárez Rivera, said last Dec. 21 that it wasn't enough to oppose legalized abortion, but to also stop "international agencies such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the Inter-American Development Bank" whose credits to the country "come in the form of contraceptives."

But even the abortion campaign hasn't been enough for Kumate. Now he's pushing cholera as well. On March 15, the front pages of all major Mexican dailies showed a picture of him together with Fisheries Secretary María de los Angeles Moreno, eating fish in public "to show," in the style of Peruvian President Fujimori, "that there's no risk of cholera in Mexico."

Anti-military campaign escalates

The Anglo-American establishment would "reduce" the Brazilian Armed Forces out of existence altogether.

Since the end of the Persian Gulf slaughter, there has been a notable escalation in the drive to dismantle the armed forces of Ibero-America, with special focus on Brazil. The guidelines for this campaign were already laid out in the State Department-sponsored study issued in 1990, entitled *The Military and Democracy: The Future of Civil-Military Relations in Latin America*. That volume, designed to encourage so-called "pluralist democracy" in Ibero-America on the ruins of the continent's sovereign military institutions, was reviewed in the Jan. 11 issue of *EIR*.

An article published in the Feb. 27 issue of the magazine *Veja* served as the green light for this latest "turn of the screw." Under the pretext of discussing the military situation in the aftermath of the Gulf war, the article, written by *Veja* director Elio Gaspari, asks, "What are the Brazilian Armed Forces good for? The Brazilian forces are out in the streets because they are fatter than King Momo [the name given to the obese king of Rio's yearly Carnival debauchery]. They appear to be inefficient because they are poorly equipped, but the truth is that they are poorly equipped because their chiefs have become inefficient."

Not accidentally, one of the owners of *Veja*, Roberto Civita, is also a member of the Inter-American Dialogue, made up of leading representatives of the Anglo-American establishment. In its 1986 report, drafted with the assistance of former U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, the Dialogue proposed the creation of a "democratic network" on

the continent to oppose "the military and communists."

Under *Veja's* banner, various commentaries in that vein have been penned by the same species of social democratic intellectual which overpopulates the U.S. State Department. For example, in a March 10 issue of the daily *Estado de Minas*, a report is published by one Clovis Brigagão, currently an adviser to the International Association of Peace Research. Brigagão endorses the Anglo-American offensive against Iraq, insisting that "Brazil needs to have a more mature foreign policy, and not to have relations with such adventurous partners as Iraq." Then, Brigagão attacks the military institution itself: "All salaries are low in Brazil. The unproductive Armed Forces need to provide more service."

Col. Geraldo Cavangari (ret.), director of the Campinas University Center of Strategy Studies, went even further, attacking the nuclear technology projects developed by Brazil's Navy, as well as proposing that "the Armed Forces should be cut, reducing their troops from 300,000 to 100,000."

The Army Ministry retaliated at once, ordering the publication of a paid ad that appeared March 8 in several newspapers: "It is lamentable that there are Brazilians who don't seem to understand the serious state of national life at this moment. . . . These are individuals who, believing themselves to possess enviable efficiency and to be above all suspicion, sit and criticize—not in a positive sense, but with the intention of denigrating the

institution. . . . Perhaps dazzled by the technological magnificence of the war machine used in the Persian Gulf . . . they attack the Armed Forces for their apparent fragility."

The ad reminds the nation of the indispensable role the Armed Forces have played in Brazilian history: "The configuration of the Armed Forces is a direct function not merely of possible armed aggression, but particularly of the levels of socio-economic and technological development of the nation."

During the past two months, high-level representatives of the Anglo-American alliance have paraded through Brazil, with the message that all national institutions which, like the Armed Forces, pose the slightest resistance to Bush's "new world order," will be broken. For example, Elliott "Iran-Contra" Abrams, former Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, arrived on Jan. 29. Abrams is renowned for having made explicit Project Democracy's intention of destroying the most crucial pillars of Ibero-American society: the Church and the military.

Another visitor was Francis Fukuyama, the State Department and Rand Corp.'s newest acquisition. Fukuyama arrived in Rio de Janeiro at the invitation of the Getulio Vargas Foundation, and was sponsored by Citibank and Coca-Cola Co. On a supposed crusade for "democracy," Fukuyama insisted that the worst enemies are those countries which, like Iraq, aspire to sovereign technological development, and whose armed forces have played a central role in such achievements. "Those countries will continue to fight for power and for resources at the expense of others, and will measure forces basically in terms of military capacity." Now, said Fukuyama, "dictators like Saddam Hussein are going to think twice before they act."

Congress debates impeachment

U.S. ships patrol the coastline—another step toward annexation, which is causing fissures in Endara's regime.

Panama's Congress debated in mid-March two separate motions of impeachment against U.S.-installed President Guillermo "Porky" Endara. They charged Endara with "abuse of power" and with "high treason" for his collaboration with a foreign power in surrendering Panamanian sovereignty.

Both motions stemmed from an incident last Dec. 5, when U.S. troops in full combat gear deployed into Panama City and occupied Panamanian government installations. The ostensible pretext for the military deployment—on the eve of the first anniversary of the bloody invasion ordered by George Bush in December 1989—was to put down a purported coup against Endara led by his former chief of police, Col. Eduardo Herrera (ret.), a confessed agent of the CIA who has also worked with the Israeli Mossad.

Panama's legislative body first took up the accusation drafted by attorney Gilberto Medina, a private citizen, who charged Endara with abusing his constitutional powers when he agreed to allow the U.S. soldiers to put down Herrera's rebellion. After more than four hours of deliberations, the rules committee of the legislature voted against the motion to impeach on March 14, because of "insufficient evidence."

The legislators again discussed impeaching Endara on March 19, when they took up a complaint brought by attorney Gonzalo Mocanda Luna, who charged that Endara had committed "treason against the fatherland" when he agreed to the intervention against Herrera. "The President has confessed to a shameful act,

which makes the nation a dependency of the government of the United States," charged Mocanda. The complaint, he said, was intended to warn the U.S.-installed troika—Endara and his two vice presidents, Ricardo Arias Calderón and Guillermo "Billy" Ford—that "if they are thinking of mortgaging the fatherland, it's not going to be easy, because we are not going to stand for it."

The legislators rejected the motion on March 19, in a decision that was not unexpected. What is significant is that the impeachment motions were given serious consideration by a legislature where the government coalition enjoys an overwhelming majority.

This precipitated a crisis between Endara and the rest of the troika. Vice President Ford, a banker who is a favorite of the Bush administration, claimed he was out of the country at the time of Herrera's uprising, and refused to say whether he agreed with the decision to call in the U.S. troops. Endara's wife blamed the impeachment proceedings on the Christian Democratic party of First Vice President Arias Calderón. "The Christian Democrats are against democracy, they are destabilizing the country," she said. The press printed Endara's picture with rifle in hand, and quoted him saying that he would "fight with blood and fire" to keep his post.

The real cause of the cracks in the coalition is the Bush administration's policy of creeping annexation and the economic crisis.

Thousands of those left homeless by the U.S. bombing during the 1989 invasion are still homeless, because

Bush, who insists that Iraq must pay war reparations, refuses to pay for the wanton destruction of Panama. Public employees are being fired, and more than a third of the country's labor force is unemployed. Senior citizens are next: There is a proposal before the legislature to raise the retirement age by five years.

Prisoners taken at the time of the invasion remain in jail without a trial. Such is the case with former legislator Rigoberto Paredes. Drug trafficking is up; so are armed robberies. On March 18, unknown gunmen escaped with \$225,000 from the Bank of India, the 30th bank robbed since December 1989. Such crimes were almost unknown before the invasion.

The aim is to destroy every institution and to discredit every Panamanian official, even those installed by Bush, to ensure that a permanent U.S. presence is seen as indispensable by the natives. For example, on March 21, Endara was to submit to the legislature a number of U.S.-inspired amendments to the Constitution that would abolish Panama's right to an army.

But, that will not mean the demilitarization of Panama. Foreign Minister Julio Linares admits that as of three months ago, the U.S. Army was still patrolling Panama. On March 18, Bush's proconsul, U.S. Ambassador Deane Hinton, signed an accord with Arias Calderón, by which Panama surrenders sovereignty of its territorial waters to the U.S. Coast Guard. The agreement, long sought by the Bush administration, grants the U.S. the right to patrol Panamanian coasts—under the Panamanian flag!

The Endara regime has decided that the accord "is not a treaty in the formal sense" and thus, it will not be submitted to the legislature for ratification, as required by Panama's Constitution.

Mulroney and Bush fail acid test

With a new U.S.-Canada acid rain treaty signed, Mulroney is fully ready to get on with the new world order.

On March 13, George Bush made a stopover in Ottawa before flying to Martinique and Bermuda where, in a vacation-like atmosphere, he would be instructing his senior coalition partners in the Gulf slaughter, French President François Mitterrand and U.K. Prime Minister John Major, on the next phase in the conduct of the new world order.

Bush's Ottawa visit was kept short because Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney is said to be familiar with U.S. expectations regarding Canada's role as the favored junior partner in the Anglo-American-dominated new world order. The purported reason for the visit, the signing of a bilateral accord on acid rain, which President Bush called a "historic moment," settled what had been the big bone of contention with the U.S., and now the Canadian government is ready to get on with the new world order.

But it is Mulroney's very acquiescence to all of Bush's demands, especially during the Gulf crisis, which has been the more recent source of the prime minister's domestic problems; what has bruised Mulroney's ego the most were repeated accusations from the parliamentary opposition that Mulroney is unable to utter any statement or launch any policy without prior White House approval.

Mulroney expects Bush's effusive praise for him and for Canada's "supportive" role in the Gulf to be the quick boost to his popularity rating which, before the bombing of Iraq, was at an all-time low for a Canadian prime minister. Commenting on his guest's alleged 90% popularity rating in the United

States, Mulroney quipped, "We could put both of our ratings together, divide by two and both of us would still come out winners." Later, when a telephone rang in the room where the ceremony in honor of the U.S. President was being held, Mulroney crowed, "It's Gallup, I knew it would go up, but not this fast."

The U.S.-Canada treaty itself recognizes insane environmental actions taken in both nations to control acid rain based on the unscientific approach of decreasing industrial emissions by shutting down industry—part of Bush's new world order. The U.S. Congress passed the Clean Air Act, which Lyndon LaRouche, a political prisoner running for U.S. President in 1992, denounced as the "Gorbachov Clean Air Act."

In Canada, similar policy passed in 1985, when the federal government signed agreements with seven provinces creating the Canadian Acid Rain Control Program. Measures have since been implemented to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions by 1994 to levels 50% of 1980. The Canadian Environmental Protection Act became law on June 30, 1988 and consolidated all existing laws so as to promote the concept of "sustainable" development throughout the federal government policymaking apparatus.

Scientific advice has been ignored. On Jan. 9, 1986, American special envoy Drew Lewis and his Canadian counterpart William Davis submitted their report on acid rain. Their main recommendation was to spend \$5 billion over five years to develop more efficient ways to burn coal. Environmentalists argued that adequate coal-burning technologies

existed and that the money should be spent on controlling emissions.

Similarly, the provisional report of the National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program (NAPAP), submitted on Sept. 17, 1987, argued that it was unnecessary to intensify measures against acid rain in the U.S. The final report was disregarded even though the 10-year, \$600 million study had employed 3,000 of the top scientists in the United States.

From lake sediments, the NAPAP found that the so-called acid lakes simply were returning to their natural state after two centuries of de-acidification caused by man. In the course of intensive logging and farming in the last century, the ground cover changed from forests, to farmlands and tree stands that were regularly burned, making the topsoil and the lakes more alkaline, enabling fish to thrive where they formerly had not. As farmers went out of business and forests grew back in the 1930s and '40s, the topsoil returned to its previous acidic levels.

The NAPAP study concluded that dumping crushed limestone in the lakes at a cost of \$500,000 per year would be far more effective than spending \$8 billion a year to reduce emissions. The Clean Air Act will, in effect, shut down hundreds of factories and power plants without any net benefit to the environment.

But of course the Gorbachov Clean Air Act, the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, and the upcoming "Green Plan" of Canada were never meant to be confused with "recovery bills." They were rather meant to give legal credence to the radical ideology of the anti-science ecology mob. Throughout history, such mobs have been used as battering rams to destroy civilization, and are then usually disposed of by the tyrannical rulers of a new world order.

International Intelligence

The KGB's new image: fighting ecological crime

The KGB is taking on an "aggressive" new role as green police, according to the *Los Angeles Times* of March 14. The program will be run by KGB Gen.-Maj. Aleksandr N. Karbainov, head of the "community liaison office," who says, "The word 'security' has a very broad meaning. We don't just fight espionage, terrorism, drug dealing and organized crime. We also fight ecological crime."

According to the *Times*, "The KGB's growing role as a pollution fighter seems to be part of a general reorientation of the organization, which was known for decades . . . for torturing and imprisoning dissidents and for killing millions at the bidding of dictator Josef Stalin. . . . To improve its image, the KGB . . . chooses a 'Miss KGB' and, with its new public relations office, spotlights current activities."

On the front of "ecological crime," in the Bashkiria Autonomous Republic, "equipment at most oil-producing enterprises is used well beyond its normal life, regardless of the dangers to the environment, the KGB told TASS," wrote the *Times*.

Soviets rescue Honecker from trial in Germany

The Kremlin helped Erich Honecker, the former dictator of East Germany, to escape trial in Germany, flying him by military plane from the Soviet Army hospital in Beelitz, where he has been kept as a fugitive from German law for the past months, to Moscow on March 13.

The action, in violation of German sovereignty, has created a political scandal.

Honecker was to be charged for his role in ordering the shoot-to-kill practice that killed 190 East Germans at the Berlin Wall and other sections of the barbed-wire border between the two Germanys, between 1961 and 1989. The Soviet authorities said the transfer to Moscow had been decided for

"medical and humanitarian reasons."

The move did not proceed without some foreknowledge on the part of the government in Bonn. Government spokesman Friedrich Vogel admitted on German television that Bonn knew in advance that the transfer would take place, but came to the conclusion it was too late to act. Vogel said that there was nothing Bonn could do than verbally insist that Moscow extradite Honecker.

German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher declared, upon his arrival in Moscow on March 17, that the affair must not lead to a crisis in German-Soviet relations. He ruled out economic sanctions or other measures to try to force Honecker's extradition.

Genscher met with Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, and was scheduled to meet with President Mikhail Gorbachov and former foreign minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Thailand anti-drug chief challenges U.S.

Thailand's top anti-narcotics official, Chavalit Yodmanee, responded on March 13 to the U.S. State Department's annual International Narcotics Strategy Report to Congress, containing the U.S. administration's critical assessment of the Thai government's role in narcotics suppression.

If you have any evidence, give it to us, he said.

The State Department report expressed concern over what it describes as the "network of relationships" developed for security purposes between Thai military and government officials and narcotics-trafficking ethnic groups from Burma, which it said creates an environment for narcotics-related corruption. The report said the United States had expressed its concern to the previous Thai government, which was ousted in a military coup on Feb. 23.

The *Bangkok Post* on March 14 quoted Chavalit: "As for allegations that Thai military and government officials were involved in narcotics trafficking," he said he would

ask the United States to provide evidence to back legal action against Thai politicians and officials believed to be involved in drug trafficking. "Our country stands to be damaged if there is no evidence to support this."

Zero security for Colombia's judges

The Colombian Supreme Court has sent an open letter to President César Gaviria, protesting that the country's judges are defenseless, "while ex-guerrillas and ex-criminals enjoy the protection of the state to excess." The letter protests recent changes in body-guard protection for judges, and denounces Justice Minister Jaime Giraldo Angel for his "total abandonment of security" for the judiciary.

The anti-drug, opposition daily *El Espectador* editorialized on March 12 that failure to protect the judges is the least of the government's crimes. The editors point to the "aberrant situation in the halls of the Justice Ministry of bending penal legislation to the interests of criminals. . . . This has not been explained by the justice minister, whose strange behavior seems to derive not from a defense of the institutions, but from his step-by-step surrender to the illegitimate interests of legal plunderers."

Ethnic tensions heat up in Czechoslovakia

Tens of thousands of demonstrators chanting, "Independence!" and "Down with Prague!" marched through the Slovakian capital of Bratislava on March 11, halting traffic for several hours. Marchers booed whenever the names of Czechoslovak federal officials were mentioned. According to the London *Guardian*, "the rally was in support of the campaign for the formation of a separate Slovak state which was launched with a declaration of sovereignty last week by a number of disparate nationalist groups."

EIR's intelligence sources in Vienna are

Briefly

looking at Czechoslovakia as a potential flashpoint for a crisis, if the economic collapse is not reversed. Because of the "free market" policies of Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus, the country is entering a period of grave difficulties, in which ethnic antagonisms are being expressed. At least five groups are making claims for independence, including Bohemians, Slovaks, Moravians, ethnic Hungarians (primarily in Slovakia), and Silesians.

President Vaclav Havel's spokesman Michael Zantovsky has charged that Slovak aspirations were being manipulated by a coalition of communists, separatists, and admirers of the wartime Nazi-sponsored state of Slovakia. "It seems to me that a new coalition is shaping up in Slovakia," he said. "Its opinion on political development and economic reform in Slovakia is quite different [from the federal view]. It revives the idea of National Socialism."

Is Cuba next target for 'new world order'?

Stella Calloni wrote in Mexico's *El Día* of March 15 that the next "great offensive" of the United States against the Third World, after Iraq, "seems to be located in the decision to get a consensus in the United Nations Human Rights Commission to designate a special rapporteur to check out the human rights situation in Cuba."

Calloni also reported that the U.S. ambassador to the Organization of American States (OAS), Luigi Einaudi, said in early March that the "human rights situation in Cuba is scandalous." On March 5, Pentagon staffer Nancy Dorn predicted that Fidel Castro would continue to be rabidly anti-U.S. as long as economic and political problems in Cuba continued, and warned that he might respond to the internal crisis with "an aggressive destabilization policy against democratic governments."

Calloni quoted Bernard Aronson, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, that Washington should help to "democratize the island."

The Cuban government responded

through an editorial in the official organ *Granma*, which noted that Bush had personally called up Argentine President Carlos Menem to persuade him "to break Latin American unity for a plate of beans." Bush was apparently successful.

Calloni concluded, "Washington ordered the invasion of Panama on Dec. 20, 1989, to 'democratize' that country, an invasion prolonged by the continued and strengthened military occupation that persists. . . . In fact, in the vocabulary of the new world order, 'democratization' is linked to the possibility of a 'military intervention' to impose it."

Pope: Church hails progress in science

Pope John Paul II, speaking at the University of Camerino in Italy on March 19, urged his audience "not to listen to the prophets of doom who are ready to see catastrophes behind every corner," because the Christian conception of science and progress gives every basis for optimism about the future. The daily *Avvenire*, reporting on his speech March 20, called it a preview of his forthcoming third social encyclical, on the 100th anniversary of Pope Leo XIII's *Rerum novarum*.

The conquest of space, said the Pope, is the crowning "of a technical progress which is unprecedented up to now and is open to boundless perspectives." In the same way, "nuclear energy, at first used for purposes of death, is advancing, even though amid risks which are anything but hypothetical, toward the goal of a production capable of satisfying growing needs."

"The Church," the Pope continued, "feels that it is living through one of the most innovative phases of history, in which the very concept of culture has expanded. For this reason, its social doctrine must commit itself forcefully to original initiatives." The Church's line must always be "affirming the primacy of man in the light of God, thus enlightening culture to overcome the fear that man often has of his own scientific conquests as potential instruments of destruction."

● **THE CHRISTIAN** presence in Lebanon "is not only weakened, but is about to disappear," wrote the Assembly of Mothers Superior of Lebanon to Pope John Paul II. "The implementation of the Taif agreements under Syrian protection has brought an attack on education, on freedom of thought, of belief, of expression. . . . We saw two buses—one belonging to a school taught by nuns—being burned, while the driver was compelled to remain seated in the driver's seat."

● **THE QUEBEC** Equality Party has passed a resolution calling for partition of the province, should Quebec separate from Canada. The plan would create an "English corridor" linking the English-speaking eastern maritime provinces to western Canada. This would cut Quebec's connections to the U.S. border.

● **MOSCOW'S** former foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, was received by Pope John Paul II for a private audience at the Vatican on March 15. The former Soviet diplomat spent some days in Italy, probing, among other things, political interest in his new project for an Institute of European Affairs.

● **IZVESTIA**, the Soviet government newspaper, has closed its bureau in Pyongyang, North Korea, because of North Korean complaints about its frequent articles criticizing North Korean rigidity in the age of perestroika.

● **THE POPE** said on March 11 that in the Italian region of Tuscany, "secularism and consumerism have weighed heavily on the culture; in the big cities people perceive the influence of occult power groups, while the practice of esoteric rites spreads; religious indifference grows and often becomes practical atheism." The speech is interpreted in the Italian press as an attack on Freemasonry.

Bush's new export controls: Third World, U.S. to suffer

by Kathleen Klenetsky

George Bush's war against the Third World entered a new phase March 7, when the administration released harsh new export control regulations that will virtually terminate the flow of high technology to the developing sector.

Supposedly aimed at stopping the spread of chemical weapons, the new policy—formally dubbed the Enhanced Proliferation Control Initiative (EPCI), but more aptly known as the Enhanced Population Control Initiative for the lethal effect it will have on the developing sector—is a key part of Bush's genocidal plans for the Third World under his new world order.

The 'dual use' hoax

Using the bogeyman of weapons proliferation, especially chemical and biological weapons—a bogeyman created largely by the United States, using Iraq's alleged chemical weapons capability as a pretext—the administration intends to bring about a policy of what one high European official has bluntly called "technological apartheid" against the developing sector.

Targeted by the Bush administration are what are known as "dual use" technologies, that is, technologies that are used in civilian applications, but which can also have a military use under certain circumstances. Given the state of science and technology today, the vast majority of high-technology goods could conceivably have both a commercial and a military use.

A fact sheet on the new non-proliferation regulations issued by the administration asserts that special licenses will now be required on "dual-use equipment with *legitimate commercial uses*, but also *potential* applications to chemical and biological weapons production" (emphases added). A State Department spokesman acknowledged recently that previously, only those goods with a direct military use were subject to such stringent controls.

The new controls raise from 11 to 50 the number of chemicals that will now require a special export license before they can be sold to most developing countries. Supposedly, these 50 chemicals could be used under certain circumstances as precursors to chemical weapons.

The "rub" is that almost all of these chemicals are also commonly used in a wide range of essential civilian and scientific enterprises, including the production of fertilizer, insecticides, beer, and petroleum, as well as in treatment of sewage and water.

Without access to these chemicals, countries lacking the ability to produce them themselves, as many Third World countries do, will see any hopes of economic development go up in smoke. Without the wherewithal to produce pesticides and fertilizers, they will be unable to increase food yields for their population; without the wherewithal to provide potable water and to treat sewage, epidemic diseases, such as the cholera now sweeping across Peru, will rampage through the Third World, killing millions.

But EPCI doesn't stop there. The regulations will also control, for the first time, exports of equipment that could hypothetically be used to produce chemical or biological weapons (CBW). In addition, they will restrict the export of plants that can manufacture any of the 50 chemicals on the restricted list, as well as services that might also be used in this way.

Again, much of this plant and equipment falls into the category of what is known as "dual use." "The equipment list, which reflects a three-month effort involving extensive consultations with industry, is unprecedented," states the administration fact sheet. "Never before have U.S. export licenses been required for dual-use, CBW-related equipment."

Moreover, the regulations would also enable the government to prohibit participation by U.S. citizens in overseas

construction projects that might be related to weapons production. They contain considerably stiffer penalties for those who export restricted goods without a license, including 10-year prison terms.

"The chemicals and equipment are used mostly for very innocent purposes from pharmaceuticals to beer," points out Jeffery C. Van, spokesman for the Chemical Manufacturers Association. "The same equipment that is used to brew beer can also make chemical weapons."

Hit list

As published in the March 13 *Federal Register*, the new regulations will apply to nearly every country on the face of the globe, with the few exceptions being Australia, Austria, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, and NATO member countries.

Ten countries are singled out by name for the restrictions, on the grounds that their activities "may have CBW-related implications." These ten include Brazil, Argentina, North Korea, Ethiopia, India, and Taiwan.

That the restrictions will have catastrophic consequences for the developing sector has already been recognized by some. India's *Economic Times* published a commentary shortly after Bush's new export policy was announced, charging that the Gulf war was the beginning of a war against the Third World in the theater of technology transfer. The commentary noted that since the area of weapons technology brings together many disciplines, the U.S. can now be expected to keep a hawk-like watch on developing-sector activities in numerous scientific fields, including supercomputers, software, mathematics, metallurgy, chemical technology, communications, space programs, and that old bogeyman, nuclear technology.

The Third World will ultimately be left with what the West considers technology "appropriate" for its stage of development, the commentary concluded.

U.S. industry will 'be dying'

Although the Third World will suffer the worst as a result of Bush's new controls, exporting countries, including, emphatically, the United States, will also be hard hit.

The new regulations have come under strong attack from some U.S. business groups, which contend, rightly, that they will strangle U.S. exports. Randolph Stayin, a lawyer for several U.S. industry associations involved in the export of food-processing and other equipment, warned that the product list is "so broad that it could affect all of the machinery and equipment that is used in the petroleum, chemical, water, waste-water, and food-processing industries."

Stayin, an attorney with the Washington, D.C. firm of Barnes and Thornburg, told *EIR* that the new regulations will have a devastating effect on U.S. export-oriented businesses. "Many of the firms I represent are small. They can't possibly afford to hire the lawyers it will require" to navigate

through the complex, time-consuming process that the Bush administration will now require to obtain an export license, he explained.

Furthermore, he noted, it is virtually impossible for U.S. businessmen to be able to guarantee that someday, somewhere, a piece of equipment he may have exported for some clearly civilian use might never be diverted to a military use. "We sell things like olive-oil extracting and peanut butter processing equipment," he said. "Our people can't know whether this will someday be diverted to weapons manufacturing. How can we possibly tell?"

"The Commerce Department has been encouraging U.S. companies to gear up their export capabilities, and that's what the companies I represent have done," Stayin added. But with the new regulations, the government is making that near impossible.

Eric Hirschorn, an attorney for the chemical industry, has warned that the restrictions will "bring a whole new set of industries under control. They are going to get the shock of their lives when they learn they're going to have to apply for export licenses they may not get to sell overseas." As a result of the Bush regulations, chemical companies will "be dying."

The Commerce Department has admitted that the new rules could affect between \$50 billion and \$75 billion in U.S. exports annually.

Unfortunately, most representatives of those U.S. firms affected by the regulations, have reacted pragmatically. Instead of forging an alliance with other exporting countries and developing nations to prevent the restrictions from going into effect, they have instead demanded that the administration try to extend the restrictions to the competition. "Look, with the hysteria over Iraq's chemical weapons, the administration and the Congress are going to get this policy through," one industry rep told *EIR*. So, our only alternative to being put at a unilateral disadvantage, is to get other exporting nations to adopt the same restrictions."

That suicidal perspective suits the Bush team just fine. One of their main objectives is to sabotage the economies of other advanced nations—Germany and Japan in particular—which still believe that exporting high-technology goods to the developing sector is a sensible policy, since it will aid these countries in solving the economic problems that frequently lead to political and military instability. The U.S. considers Germany and Japan to be its new enemies, because they have rejected following America's lead into a post-industrial hell-hole, and therefore are much more economically competitive.

The administration has asserted officially that it will seek a global agreement among exporting countries to abide by the U.S. initiative. According to Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher, the administration intends "to seek maximum cooperation by other countries to adopt similar controls to stop the spread of these weapons."

Activists say: Free LaRouche, stop the 'new world order'

by Paul Gallagher

Just two weeks after the first formal presentation of the case of political prisoner Lyndon LaRouche to the United Nations, 450 people gathered in Arlington, Virginia on March 15 to mobilize for a new trial for LaRouche and an end to other abuses of the so-called "new world order." The conference was sponsored by the Commission to Investigate Human Rights Violations in the United States, and brought together American political and campus activists, lawyers, and human rights activists. It received calls supporting LaRouche's freedom from all over the world.

In the major developments at the conference:

- Odin Anderson, LaRouche's personal lawyer, reported that a legal motion is very near completion, demanding a new trial for LaRouche based on new evidence which has emerged since his 1989 appeals, evidence revealed by documents released from the federal government, by findings that the federally imposed bankruptcy against LaRouche movement publishing companies was illegal, and by attempts to prosecute his associates.

- Warren Hamerman, coordinator of the effort to win LaRouche's release, briefed the conference on the great interest his United Nations presentation on LaRouche's case had aroused in Geneva, particularly from delegates from Third World nations opposing Bush and Kissinger's "new world order."

- LaRouche's wife Helga Zepp-LaRouche, speaking to the conference from Germany by telephone, proposed the formation of an association of political prisoners in the United States. She has been backed in her efforts to win her husband's release, by the political prisoners' associations of Hungary and Lithuania.

- Hamerman released a new videotape on the LaRouche case, entitled "Lyndon LaRouche: George Bush's Man in the Iron Mask."

- Two political colleagues jailed with LaRouche in January 1989 and recently released from prison, Dennis Small and Joyce Rubinstein, spoke to the conference.

- Lyndon LaRouche himself, in a taped message from prison, told the conference, "We must fight the individual battles for human rights with the view that we are going to uproot—that is, expose to public view—and correct those

sometimes hidden and sometimes, unfortunately, not hidden, underlying assumptions of government and related agencies which lead to a persisting pattern of Nazi-like violations of human rights, here and abroad." LaRouche warned that "over 25 years, George Bush has been associated, whether as a member of Congress, CIA, President, or what-not, with the kinds of fascist, or fascistoid, economic and political policies which I foresaw as threatening back 30 years ago."

Worldwide calls for freedom

The calls for LaRouche's freedom which were presented to the Human Rights Commission's conference were extraordinary. The International Progress Organization, a non-governmental organization of the United Nations with members in 60 countries, officially wired the conference that "IPO will . . . support all initiatives for the liberation of Lyndon LaRouche." Its members include jurists and former justice ministers or attorneys general of several nations. Another telegram of support for LaRouche's freedom from prison came from an organization "which should know," the 120,000-strong Association of Lithuanian Political Prisoners.

Another valiant leader from Eastern Europe spoke at the conference, Romanian trade union leader George Brasoveneau, persecuted for 16 years for organizing against dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, including two years in prison. Brasoveneau made clear that the U.S. government, through Voice of America and other organs, rather than supporting him, had always told him to be more supportive of Ceausescu, who finally killed 50,000 Romanians in his attempt to hold onto power in 1989. Brasoveneau told the conference, "It is without question that Lyndon LaRouche's imprisonment is a human rights violation. Bush may become the Ceausescu of the U.S. Lyndon LaRouche must be freed immediately, and we must put an end to this kind of abuse if we are to see any freedom for mankind in the future."

Peruvian Congressman Carlos Calderon Carbajal, representing that nation's opposition APRA party, personally told the conference, "We have come here to join the crusade to defend the human rights of a great defender of Latin America, Lyndon LaRouche. We cry, 'justice may be slow, but it will arrive.'" Other such messages to the conference came from

the Catholic Church organization Pax Christi; from the great violinist Norbert Brainin; from former Maryland State Senate leader Clarence Mitchell, and from Dr. Abdul Alim Muhammed, national spokesman for the Nation of Islam, who addressed the conference directly. So did the American-Arab Muslim leaders Dr. Mohammed Mehdi, director of the National Council of Islamic Affairs, and Nisar Hai, head of a nationally known Islamic Center in California.

Mr. Hai told his audience that for the present situation of mankind, his view was that "the message of the Koran and the message of Lyndon LaRouche are the same—the development of the Third World."

Nation of prisoners

Helga Zepp-LaRouche's remarks to the conference strongly attacked the decline of human rights in the United States, a nation of swelling numbers of homeless, jobless, and prisoners. Indeed, one speaker, Michigan prisons chaplain Rev. Leroy Thornton, told a conference panel that the percentage of adult Americans in prison has more than doubled since 1980, and that their production is now a huge industry; another, California prisoners' advocate Anthony Banks, read the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which outlawed slavery *except* for convicts in jail.

Opponents of the death penalty spoke, and one death row prisoner, Joseph Giarratano, who has become a world-renowned legal scholar in prison and whose life had just been spared by an international mobilization on the eve of his execution, wrote to the conference. LaRouche had said he was "cheered by the Giarratano case in Virginia. A human life was saved from the execution chamber, by a midnight national mobilization."

"In the course of my studies—in trying to understand how life has become so cheap—I have come to understand that positive (man-created) laws cannot and must not be used to override Natural Law," Giarratano wrote. "Every human being possesses certain inherent and inalienable rights. These rights cannot be trampled on by the State. Inalienable rights *must* once again become the guiding life-giving force of nations and men: be it the right to life or the right to develop one's mind and contribute to reversing the collapse of the society of man. As incongruous as it seems, there is a trend in America that is similar to the dark days of Nazism: that trend is to erect 'legal artifice' against life itself."

"The more the United States gets into a depression," said Zepp-LaRouche, "the worse it gets. The state of human rights in the United States, is abysmal. The case of my husband, who is sitting innocently in jail for more than two years at the age of 68, and serving a jail sentence of 15 years, which means at his age a life sentence, represents the worst case. . . . He has made himself the representative of the poor and those who have no voice in the entire world."

Referring particularly to religious groups' opposition to this worsening state of affairs, Helga Zepp-LaRouche told

the conference, "Many people in the world today believe in political equality of the individual. They believe in economic justice. . . . But what is lacking, is not only the courage to fight for this, but also a clear understanding of what economic justice in this world really means. It has been especially the work of this organization to provide this. . . ."

"The new world order Bush is talking about, would be a world order based on the structures of sin. My husband clearly is the alternative to the new world order."

Zepp-LaRouche then outlined all the areas of the world for which her husband, since 1975, has devised and fought for large-scale economic development plans to stave off economic disaster: his Middle East "Oasis Plan; his "Productive Triangle" proposal on the agenda for Europe; "Operation Juárez" for Ibero-America; his 40-year development plan for India; his Pacific Basin development plan for Southeast Asia; and his promotion of a "water and power alliance" proposal for the western U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

"It is a crime to deprive one person of his or her human rights," she said. "But to deprive a man whose ideas represent the hope for the survival of the majority of mankind: Is that not the worst crime of all? . . . And, is his fate not immediately connected to that of those people? . . . I appeal to you, passionately: Help me to free my husband."

The motion for a new trial for LaRouche which is about to be filed, his attorney Odin Anderson told the conference, is "the last opportunity for him to receive justice, in the legal area."

Protest 'new order' ravaging Third World

Several conference speakers documented that the Kissinger-Bush "new world order" is in fact a policy of North-South economic, as well as military, war against the Third World.

The most dramatic presentation concerned South America, by Dennis Small of *EIR*, a 1988 co-defendant of Lyndon LaRouche. Small described the cholera epidemic which has exploded in Peru to 70,000 cases and 400 deaths, and called it "the price Ibero-America is paying for its political prisoners." The epidemic is now spreading from Peru to other nations. Small described how Peru, whose President Alan García broke with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 1985, enjoyed two years of growth, but was absolutely cut off from credit in retaliation and eventually squeezed into economic breakdown. Current President Alberto Fujimori, a darling of the Bush administration, has slashed what remained of public services, and his finance minister actually stopped his health minister from taking any emergency measures when the cholera broke out.

This wholesale surrender of human life and health, said Small, came from the successive imprisonment of those leaders who opposed IMF policies for Ibero-America. First, Lyndon LaRouche in 1989; then Mexican oilworkers leader Joaquín Hernández Galicia; then Panama's Gen. Manuel Noriega; then Argentina's hero of the 1982 war against Britain, Col. Muhammed Alí Seineldín. Today, Small said, the

nations of Ibero-America pay five times the annual debt interest alone, that they would have paid under the debt reorganization and national investment proposals of LaRouche in his 1982 economic plan, "Operation Juárez."

Oil blackmail

From Africa, a representative of the Republic of Sudan, Abu Bakr al Shingaiti, demonstrated the devastating oil blackmail against Third World nations resulting from Bush's Gulf war. As a result of the war, Sudan must now spend 70% of its foreign currency earnings on oil, and has had its currency devalued by 65%—this is typical of those many nations whose oil supply depended, in whole or in part, on Iraq. In the wake of the war, he said, the Bush administration is now asking Congress to cut off all development and humanitarian aid to the nations of the Horn of Africa: Sudan, Somalia, and Ethiopia.

After oil, the next priceless economic element to be lost by Third World nations in the "new world order" will be refrigera-

tion; this was described by Rogelio Maduro, author of a forthcoming book on the scientific hoaxes being used to ban the basic refrigeration chemicals, chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). Maduro showed that if these bans tighten as planned during the course of the 1990s, the nations of the world will have to scrap 620,000 refrigerators, 120,000 industrial-size refrigerators, and 100,000 refrigeration trucks and railcars by the year 2000. The "replacement technologies" will be 30 times as expensive and far less effective than those based on CFCs.

Kathleen Klenetsky of *EIR* demonstrated that the Anglo-American establishment is actually moving to ban export of many of the most vital industrial and agricultural chemicals to Third World nations right now, through new export-control regulations put forward by the Bush White House and follow-up legislation in Congress. She quoted one of their backers, Sen. Albert Gore, Jr., (D-Tenn.) through his aide: "I don't give a damn if this hurts the Third World. If it's a choice between that and American troops having to go into battle, then I say, screw 'em."

George Bush and the Emperor Augustus

The following is an excerpt from the speech by Warren Hamerman to the conference of the Commission to Investigate Human Rights Violations in the United States. It was delivered on the Ides of March.

Through a crudely organized world media campaign, George Bush has initiated his own "apotheosis" or "deification" in the pattern of the Roman emperors. The process of "apotheosis" is characteristic of pagan empires such as Egypt and Rome which literally make the emperor one among many gods to be worshipped. The closest historical parallel to George Bush's intentions is the case of the Emperor Augustus who died in 14 A.D. and was voted a "god" by the Roman Senate three days later. It was under the son of Augustus, the Emperor Tiberius, a decade and a half later, that Jesus Christ was crucified.

After the Roman Senate deified Augustus, it issued a document entitled "The Acts of the Deified Augustus" edited by the late Emperor himself before his death, to explain how he "placed the whole world under the sovereignty of the Roman people" and brought back "the spoils of war" and "war tribute" to fill the Empire's central treasury.

A few quotations from Augustus's Acts has the unmistakable tone of George Bush's triumphalism:

"I gave the people the spectacle of a naval battle beyond the Tiber. . . . After my victory I replaced in the temples in all the cities of the province of Asia the ornaments which my antagonist in the war, when he despoiled the temples, had appropriated to his private use. Silver statues of me, on foot, on horseback, and in chariots were erected in the city to the number of about 80. . . . The whole of Italy voluntarily took oath of allegiance to me and demanded me as its leader in the war in which I was victorious at Actium. The provinces of the Spains, the Gauls, Africa, Sicily, and Sardinia took the same oath of allegiance. Those who served under my standards at that time included more than seven hundred senators. . . . I extended the boundaries of all the provinces which were bordered by races not yet subject to our empire. The provinces of the Gauls, the Spains, and Germany, bounded by the ocean from Gades to the mouth of the Elbe, I reduced to a state of peace. The Alps, from the region which lies nearest to the Adriatic as far as the Tuscan Sea, I brought to a state of peace without waging on any tribe an unjust war. . . . On my order and under my auspices two armies were led, at almost the same time, into Ethiopia and into Arabia which is called 'The Happy,' and very large forces of the enemy of both races were cut to pieces in battle and many towns were captured."

These themes of Augustus—"reducing nations to a state of peace," or inviting conquered populations to "voluntarily swear" allegiance to him, or gloating of "cutting to pieces" whole armies, or justifying all carnage in the name of self-proclaimed "just wars"—are the model for George Bush's "new world order" today.

Interview: Dr. Robert J. Lifton

Many people are not happy about this war

Writing in the London Guardian on March 12, well-known author and psychologist Robert J. Lifton asserted that many Americans have "grave misgivings" about the Bush administration's conduct of the Gulf war, and forecast a "national reassessment" of the entire affair. Dr. Lifton, who is presently Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology at the City University of New York, elaborated on these views in an interview with Kathy Klenetsky on March 13. We publish excerpts here:

EIR: You said there will be a "national reassessment" of the war. How will this come about?

Lifton: It's very hard to predict how profound it will be, how extensive it will be. I think there will be some reassessment, and even a measure of revulsion on the part of Americans. There will be further exploration of casualties, especially Iraqi casualties. that will be disturbing to Americans. . . . I don't think the present wave of triumphalism is going to continue without interruption. And I don't think that the enthusiasm and euphoria in relation to the claim of victory is going to last in this form.

EIR: Do you think one of the reasons for this reassessment will be the reality of the U.S. economic collapse?

Lifton: That's quite possible. It could be a combination of that and more information about casualties [and] about why this was really an example of mass slaughter rather than a war. Over time, the war psychology will diminish. . . . I'm the national convenor of a group called the Ad Hoc Committee for Peace, which raised money for a full-page ad in the Feb. 12 and 14 *New York Times*. The heading of the ad was, "Is There Nothing Left But the Killing?" The ad appeared in the middle of the war. To everybody's amazement, we got about a thousand replies from all over the country—an enormous response. My sense from that is that are large numbers of people all over, who have been unhappy and uneasy about the war. So, there's a false picture of monolithic support in the United States.

EIR: Who in Congress is sympathetic to what you're doing?

Lifton: There's a whole group of senators who are at least open to our views. Senator [Paul] Wellstone [D-Minn.], who spoke out against the war; others like Senator [Mark] Hatfield [R-Ore.], and to some extent Senator [Ted] Kennedy [D-

Mass.], have been interested in what we've been doing. There are also a number of people in the House; two people in the House signed our ad—Democrats Major Owens and Charlie Rangel, both black congressmen from New York. There's the Dellums group in Congress. . . .

EIR: Will Bush be a target of this national reassessment?

Lifton: I think so and I would hope so, and I think what we did [in Iraq] has to be questioned very profoundly, and rivals some of what we did in Vietnam.

EIR: What was Bush trying to do when he ordered the shooting of the withdrawing Iraqi troops?

Lifton: Part of what went on was a strange psychological dance between Bush and Saddam Hussein, and a pattern they brought out in each other. Bush behaved like Captain Ahab in *Moby Dick*. He developed an obsession with his version of the White Whale—Saddam Hussein—on which he projected all evil, and then it took on a certain dynamic, which was extended into the annihilation project, including the annihilation, or the destruction, the mass killing, of fleeing Iraqi troops. By that point, Bush had become absolutely intransigent about any peacemaking process, or proposing any peacemaking process. And I think that is scandalous and unworthy of an American statesman.

EIR: When Rep. Henry Gonzalez (D-Tex.) introduced his resolution to impeach George Bush, he used the term "war crimes" to apply to what the U.S. was doing vis-à-vis Iraq. Do you think this is a useful or correct definition?

Lifton: It is a difficult political direction to pursue, but, on the other hand, there is considerable justification for the claim of American war crimes. And that has to do with bombing civilians, and destroying the infrastructure of cities, water supply, electricity, really the life-sustaining structures of a city, which I think could be seen as war crimes, and certainly brought about undoubtedly many, many deaths. And that's why counting victims, identifying victims, becomes extremely important.

EIR: Doesn't the use of the term war crimes impute a certain deliberate brutality on Bush's part?

Lifton: There's an area which we have intentionally kept fuzzy that has to do with primary and secondary military targets. The claimed logic of the Pentagon goes something like this: We only bomb military targets. But, we bomb not only primary military targets, but also secondary military targets. But what are secondary military targets? Those are targets which have to do with communications, with anything that may indirectly support, or lend some support, to the Iraqi military. By the time you get to secondary military targets, especially in a very small country which had absolutely no air opposition to us, you're bombing civilians extensively, and you're destroying civilian lives directly and indirectly.

So I think that has to be evaluated in relation to war crimes.

EIR: How about the Pentagon's admitted disinformation about the size of the Iraqi war machine?

Lifton: That should be looked into also, because the whole Iraqi war machine was built up as a vast monolith, or as a vastly effective war machine, which required half a million Americans to be sent there. . . . The disinformation about the Iraqi war machine was part of the drumbeating for American warmaking.

EIR: In terms of Bush's psychological state, what would bring him to wage this kind of war?

Lifton: There's an obsession in this country with doing profiles on Saddam Hussein. And it's useful sometimes, because personality can matter in relation to leadership and warmaking. But the way it's been done has been a kind of walled-off demonization of Saddam Hussein, and you can't understand the war, unless you have a double profile of Saddam and Bush. In both cases, you want to ask about individual psychology, ideology, and relationship to history and culture. You would want to stress in Saddam not just his having been beaten as a child, but also his ardent nationalism—his extreme nationalism—as part of the Baathist movement. And his relationship to a kind of collective Arab Mideastern rage toward the West, that stems from Western colonialism and Western domination, extending through American influence in the Middle East.

[In Bush's case], you'd look at his individual psychology, but also his ideology, which has to do with American hegemony and a certain kind of American elitism, and his relationship to culture and history, his vision of himself as having a great moment on the world stage in relationship to this war, and as probably buttressing American power at a time when it's been threatened, American influence in the world, and at a time when there are grave problems at home, in the cities, in the economy, and in other areas. . . .

EIR: You talked in the *Guardian* about the effect of the war on the American psyche. Does it make Americans more inured toward human suffering at home?

Lifton: One of the goals, consciously or preconsciously, in promoting this triumphalism, is to help people forget about terrible human problems like homelessness, and the collapse of our cities, drugs, violence and poverty. As one maximizes triumphalism and militarism, one is likely to diminish and minimize one's commitment to dealing with dire social problems.

EIR: Do you see any connection between Bush's mentality on the war and his big push now for the death penalty?

Lifton: There's a whole mentality Bush is promoting that is vastly unhealthy for all of us and harmful to our polity and to our people. It has to do with militarism, American hegemony in the Third World, and a punitive approach to American problems, rather than a compassionate one.

Bush claims 'victory' in phony war on drugs

by Jeffrey Steinberg

The Bush administration has just released two annual reports on the so-called war on drugs, which represent a total whitewash of the true state of affairs.

The first report, dated February 1991, is the third annual National Drug Control Strategy, a document signed by President Bush and prepared by the White House drug czar. The report is a shameless collection of doctored statistics which proclaim virtual "victory" in a war on drugs that has been a joke—even by Washington standards. While claiming that the past two years saw sharp cutbacks in drug use by Americans—surpassing all goals set out in previous Drug Control Strategy reports—the White House document failed to provide any data whatsoever on the two crucial indicators: total availability of drugs and levels of domestic marijuana production. In both these critical categories, the White House claimed that "data were not yet available."

No data?

On Feb. 8, *EIR* published a cover story titled, "Where are the sorties against U.S. pot fields, Mr. Bush?" which documented the fact that in 1989, marijuana was the number one cash crop in America, bringing in over \$50 billion in profits to Dope, Inc. In 37 states, marijuana brought in more cash than the leading legitimate crops.

Despite the fact that these statistics were compiled from public sources, the Bush White House report claimed that no data were available. Had the pot statistics been published, the fraud of the Bush administration's war on drugs would have been exposed for all to see.

Another lie peddled in the new report is that hospital emergency room incidents of drug overdoses and drug-related injuries and deaths are down 18% since 1989. According to several federal drug enforcement professionals interviewed by this magazine, *the only decline is in the reporting procedures*. The Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN), a federally funded program for accumulating data from hospital emergency rooms, has experienced a 30% falloff in personnel and reporting rates in the past year, due to massive budget cutbacks. The system is in such a shambles that the government has decided to shift over from a system of

reporting every instance of drug-related emergency room treatment, to a random sampling method which is much less reliable. Last year, the system was totally chaotic as the result of severe manpower constraints and the logistical problems associated with the change in procedures. In short, the data are worthless.

Conspicuously absent from the White House report is any mention of the just-resigned drug czar, William Bennett, who reportedly walked out in disgust after he lost a power struggle to the megalomaniacal Attorney General Richard Thornburgh. His recently confirmed replacement, defeated Florida Republican Gov. Robert Martinez, presided over a state notorious as the entry-point of preference for every Ibero-American drug cartel. Governor Martinez was selected for the post on the basis of his close family links to the Bush clan—not his dubious commitment to fight against drugs.

During his governorship, Jeb Bush, the President's son, was the Florida secretary of commerce. Never one for discretion, Jeb got himself in the middle of one of the nastiest drug money-laundering scandals in the state's sordid history. The full extent of Jeb Bush's involvement with the cocaine-peddling Nicaraguan Contras has yet to be told in public.

So much for George Bush's domestic "victories" against drugs. The international situation is even worse.

State Department double standards

On March 1, 1991, the U.S. State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics Matters issued its annual "International Narcotics Control Strategy Report." In addition to providing an overview of international progress in combatting narcotics, the report officially certified those nations which had been, in the eyes of the Bush administration, actively committed to the war on drugs. Nations denied certification would be cut off from U.S. anti-drug funds.

Two cases in particular stand out in this year's report as shining examples of Bush administration hypocrisy.

The first is Panama, which, since the Bush administration's December 1989 invasion to "arrest" alleged drug trafficker Gen. Manuel Noriega, has become the hemisphere's most notorious safe haven for drug money launderers. *EIR* has documented this in great detail, and more recently even the *New York Times* wrote about the links between U.S.-installed President Guillermo Endara and the Colombian cocaine cartels. The same evidence has been widely published about the country's new Attorney General and Supreme Court chief justice, who sat for years on the board of one of Florida's leading drug money-laundering institutions, Dadeland Bank.

But the State Department report had the following to say, in listing Panama among the governments certified to receive U.S. drug enforcement aid:

"In the year after the military action which removed Manuel Noriega, Panama joined the international effort to fight

illegal drugs. The Endara government has taken important steps against money laundering, made record drug seizures, and entered into important narcotics control agreements with the U.S. Government. It has also begun to restructure, restaff, and professionalize its narcotics control agencies. The record of bilateral cooperation with the U.S. is good, but lack of resources and the need to rebuild institutions hamper Panama's efforts."

Apparently somebody at State experienced a pang of conscience at this coverup, because the rest of the Panama entry took a radically different tone:

"Money laundering continues to be Panama's most serious narcotics control problem. There have been charges of corruption or involvement in illicit narcotics against Panamanian officials. While some of these allegations seem to be politically motivated, possible corruption continues to be a concern. On balance, however, Panama's record of anti-narcotics cooperation is positive."

Praise with faint condemnation

The doublespeak in the Panama case was only outdone by the State Department's handling of Syria, which was denied certification, and remains the world hub of narcotics trafficking and narco-terrorism.

The harsh verbiage in the State Department's report was more than offset by Secretary of State James Baker III, who visited with Syrian President Hafez al-Assad just days after the report was released—not to discuss Syria's dope trafficking activities, but to chart out the "new world order" in the aftermath of the genocidal war against Iraq.

The State Department report had the following to say about the pals of Secretary Baker in Damascus:

"Syria is a transit point for illicit narcotics as well as a refiner of heroin. Much of Syria's drug trafficking activity stems from Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, where Syria maintains a military presence but fails to enforce anti-narcotics controls. Credible reports indicate that some Syrian officers are directly involved in drug trafficking."

Due to the fact that, during the reporting year, 1990, Lebanon became a virtual militarily occupied colony of Syria, the State Department report granted Lebanon a "national interest waiver," noting that "Lebanon had no means of taking actions against narcotics production and trafficking during the year because of continuing political upheaval."

It is a wonder that the State Department narcotics control strategy report didn't come right out and praise the Syrian regime. After all, it was Syria's dominant role in the worldwide narco-terrorist structure that allowed it to keep the lid on any terrorist violence, per agreement with Washington, while the United States bombed Iraq back to the Stone Age, paving the way for narco-terrorist Hafez al-Assad to emerge as the undisputed strong man in the Arab world.

Perhaps next year's report will include a new category of certification: "cooperating drug informant nations."

Urban leaders 'storm' Bush domestic policy

by H. Graham Lowry

With the elation over Desert Storm fading fast, George Bush is now under attack for his refusal to lift a finger to deal with America's worsening domestic crisis. In congressional testimony March 12, officials of the National League of Cities proposed a crash program of urban reconstruction, demanding that the scale of resources poured into the sand in the Gulf now be mustered to reverse the destruction of America's cities.

"Now that the liberation of Kuwait has been accomplished," said New York City's Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger, "my colleagues and I propose that the federal government immediately undertake the liberation of millions of Americans in our cities trapped by the tyranny of poverty, illiteracy, hunger, unemployment, crime, and hopelessness. We propose, in short, the launching of Operation Urban Storm."

Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.), whose Committee on Government Operations conducted the hearing on the urban crisis, charged that the central cities are in a "death spiral [of] unemployment, wanton violence, eroding tax bases, crumbling services, and despair." He drew an ironic contrast between the commitment to war far away, and the cold neglect of the nation's cities. "We moved hundreds of ships, thousands of aircraft and tanks, and one-half million men and women halfway around the globe to free Kuwait," Conyers noted. "We may have liberated Kuwait—a country of fewer than 2 million people—but we are in danger of losing many of our cities."

The cost of the Gulf conflict, Conyers emphasized, "is estimated at \$45 billion, or \$213 million each day. The city of Detroit receives a little more in one year (\$292 million in 1990) than we spent in one day. . . . Kuwait has \$100 billion in its bank account to rebuild the country. But our cities are told the federal till is empty. . . . I ask you, isn't the crisis in our cities just as much of an emergency as bailing out the S&Ls and fighting a war in a faraway desert? . . . The U.S. spent \$13 billion in four years on the Marshall Plan to rebuild the devastated cities of Western Europe after World War II," Conyers said. "We should do no less today to meet the crisis in our cities." He cited the figure of \$70 billion as the equivalent amount of aid in 1990.

In her testimony, Messinger declared, "Clearly, any nation capable of so dramatically projecting its power half a world away can also carry out the mission that we propose.

The mission we propose will take longer than 100 days, and will require a greater commitment of resources than those that were deployed in the Persian Gulf." Three-fourths of the nation lives in metropolitan areas of at least 100,000 people.

Messinger also called attention to the fact that the infrastructure of the nation's cities is in ruins. "Our cities are in desperate need of large-scale federal assistance simply to provide transportation, water, and other basic services. New York City is currently very near the limit of what it can borrow in the bond market—and still faces the massive tasks of rebuilding its bridges, streets, highways, sewage systems, and other elements of its infrastructure. . . . Many of our most heavily traveled bridges, for example, are only marginally safe, and need immediate rehabilitation. This is a challenge that Urban Storm also must meet."

Nearly half the urban population in poverty

The National League of Cities released a report at the hearing that documented the dismal standard of living in America's central cities. By 1989, over 43% of the urban population was living below the poverty level. Per capita income had already fallen below \$10,000 by 1987 in the cities of Newark, El Paso, Cleveland, Baltimore, Detroit, Buffalo, St. Louis, Dayton, Birmingham, Miami, New Orleans, Louisville, and San Bernardino—and was just barely above that level in Chicago, Philadelphia, Milwaukee, Memphis, Toledo, Tucson, Fresno, Columbus, Norfolk, and Pittsburgh. Newark's figure was only \$7,622.

Among the cities surveyed, official unemployment rates in 1988 had already topped 12% in Baltimore, Chicago, St. Louis, and San Antonio, while Detroit's was over 17%. Actual unemployment levels were far higher, and have risen even more under Bush. The U.S. Conference of Mayors has also reported that requests for emergency food assistance increased by an average of 22% during 1990, according to a survey of 30 major cities, and 75% of those seeking assistance were members of families.

Messinger drew a grim picture of the situation in New York City, as an example of "conditions facing every metropolitan region of this nation." More than 40% of the city's children currently live below the poverty level. "What does that mean for their lives? It means, for one thing," she said, "that their lives are likely to be brief. In the Borough of Manhattan that I represent, children in Central Harlem are less likely to live through the first year of life than are children in Cuba, Costa Rica, Singapore, and many other so-called 'Third World' countries."

More than one-third of all New York City public school students fail to complete high school. Unemployment in Central Harlem reached 41% a year ago. Tuberculosis cases in New York increased by 68% during the 1980s. The AIDS epidemic is spreading fastest among poor women in their child-bearing years, and is now the leading cause of death among women between the ages of 20 and 39.

Inslaw scandal still haunts Thornburgh

by Jeffrey Steinberg

If recent allegations presented to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Columbia prove accurate, Attorney General Richard Thornburgh and other senior Department of Justice (DoJ) officials may soon find themselves behind bars for their role in a grand larceny and perjury scheme directed against a Washington, D.C. computer software firm, Inslaw, Inc. This is not only the assessment of Inslaw president Bill Hamilton. House Judiciary Committee chairman Rep. Jack Brooks (D-Tex.) has apparently gathered independent evidence linking Thornburgh to what may prove to be a billion-dollar piracy of Inslaw's copyrighted PROMIS software.

The latest twist in the ongoing Inslaw saga surfaced on Feb. 18, when attorneys for Inslaw filed affidavits in federal bankruptcy court presenting eyewitness evidence that pirated copies of the Inslaw software had been sold to the governments of Canada, Israel, and Iraq. Since 1988, when a federal bankruptcy judge ruled that the DoJ had used "trickery, fraud, and deceit" to steal Inslaw's software, the department has been under a permanent injunction forbidding its further unauthorized use.

According to one affidavit by former Israeli intelligence officer Ari Ben-Menashe, sometime in 1987 the Israeli government purchased the PROMIS software from U.S. businessman Earl Brian. Ben-Menashe claims that he attended the meeting at which the contract between Brian and the Israeli government was signed. Ben-Menashe states that a Chilean arms dealer, Carlos Carduen, informed him that he had brokered a deal between Brian and Iraqi military intelligence to sell PROMIS to Baghdad in early 1989.

In congressional testimony last year, Elliot Richardson, the attorney for Inslaw, named Earl Brian as the principal accomplice of past and current senior DoJ officials in the PROMIS piracy.

Brian, who up until recently was the majority shareholder in United Press International and Financial News Network, has been implicated by several U.S. intelligence sources in the Iran-Contra fiasco. According to one account, he was a conduit of funds to the Iranian government in late 1980 that delayed the release of the American hostages in Teheran until after the U.S. presidential elections. That affair, known as the "October surprise," implicated both William Casey and George Bush, among others.

Canadian government documents

An affidavit submitted to the court on Feb. 18 by Patricia Hamilton, a sales manager for Inslaw, showed further evidence of illegal sales of PROMIS. According to the affidavit, Canadian government documents prove that over 900 copies of PROMIS are currently being used by the federal government, apparently in local offices of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Inslaw has never sold PROMIS to the Canadians.

According to the Ben-Menashe affidavit, Earl Brian, during his sales pitch in Tel Aviv, claimed that "all U.S. intelligence agencies," including the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the National Security Agency, were using PROMIS, and that they had obtained the software from him.

The scope of the PROMIS piracy now being revealed may be one explanation for Thornburgh's systematic effort to cover up the scandal since he took over the post of Attorney General from Ed Meese in August 1988.

For the past year, Thornburgh has adamantly refused to turn over 200 sensitive DoJ documents on Inslaw to House Judiciary Committee chairman Brooks. According to an article in the March 18 issue of *Legal Times*, a weekly newspaper of the Washington, D.C. legal and lobbying community, Brooks is probing the role of Thornburgh and other top DoJ officials in whitewashing the department's handling of the Inslaw case. Among the senior officials named by committee sources in the probe are: Gerald McDowell, chief of the Criminal Division's Public Integrity Section; Michael Shaheen Jr., head of the Office of Professional Responsibility; and Lawrence McWhorter, head of the Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys. All three senior officials of the Criminal Division are long-time protégés of Thornburgh, who headed that division during the Ford administration in the mid-1970s.

Thornburgh has so far survived a string of scandals, including the recent conviction on cocaine use and perjury of one of his top aides, Henry Barr. His name has been associated with the hated "Thornburgh Doctrine" under which U.S. intelligence agencies have been given *carte blanche* authority to go around the world, in violation of international law, kidnaping individuals.

Now, however, Thornburgh may find himself trapped in a criminal coverup or worse in a case that should have ended during the Reagan-Meese years. As syndicated columnist James Kilpatrick put it in a March 15 column published in the *Miami Herald*:

"In the matter of the Department of Justice and the Inslaw case, a remarkable thing is happening. The stench gets worse. . . . More in puzzlement than in anger, one has to ask: What has got into Dick Thornburgh? As Attorney General he ought to be doing his damndest to get to the bottom of this disgraceful matter. Instead, he has stalled; he has stonewalled; he has taken refuge in legalisms; he has obstructed efforts of two congressional committees to dig out the facts."

House fears taxpayers but passes new bailout

The House voted on March 15 to give the Resolution Trust Corp. an additional \$78 billion in funds to bail out the S&Ls in order to carry the RTC through September. This is the second round of the bailout which has already cost \$167 billion, excluding interest. The day before, the House had voted against allocating the additional funds, but, lacking any alternative policy, they agreed to the additional funding.

There was concern manifested that they were pouring money into a big black hole—payment for sins previously committed. “We’re about to pour \$30 billion down a rat hole,” commented Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.). “This is an extraordinarily unpleasant and difficult area of legislation,” said House Speaker Tom Foley (D-Wash.). “Members do not want to vote for this bill. They want someone else to vote for it.”

Dems start probe of Bush's pre-war policy

While George Bush basks in his Gulf war “victory,” which he hopes will carry him through the 1992 presidential election, congressional committees have begun examining his pre-war policy. The hearings may fizzle, but they have the longer-term potential to expose Bush's setup of Iraq and insistence on war, and tarnish Bush's image.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee, after threats to use a subpoena, finally got the White House to allow former U.S. Ambassador to Iraq April Glaspie to testify on March 20. Glaspie claimed that the taped transcript of her discussions with Saddam Hussein shortly before the war,

where she had told Saddam that the U.S. would view a conflict between Iraq and Kuwait as an Arab affair, was misleading. In response to a request by committee chairman Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.) that she release her record of the meeting (the Iraqis have publicly released the tape), Glaspie refused.

Glaspie was obviously under heavy administration pressure, and Secretary of State James Baker III was observed on the same floor of the Senate office building. But she did indicate some of the background to the leadup to the war, including the fact that Iraq was concerned by the U.S. arming of Iran exposed during the Iran-Contra affair, and the economic warfare by Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates in driving down the price of oil. Saddam Hussein “was broke,” said Glaspie. “The oil price in February was \$20 a barrel. Saddam Hussein thought it would go up. By July, it was down to \$14 a barrel.”

Cheney says Gorbachov relying on military

In testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney said that recent events raised a “question about the course of the Soviet Union.” Cheney expressed concern about Gorbachov's inability to reform and transform the Soviet Union.

While past administrations would use such dangers to justify needed defense spending, Cheney has been content to preside over the U.S. military pullout from Europe and the decline of the U.S. military to a force capable only of fighting wars against the Third World.

Consistent with this approach, Cheney criticized congressional

moves to impose arms limitations on the Mideast countries. “Such a move would not favor our friends or make them more secure,” said Cheney. “If they do not get the weapons they need,” warned Cheney, “they will have to rely even more on our own forces.”

Congress demands allies pay for war by April 15

On March 13, the House passed an amendment to the Persian Gulf supplemental appropriation, sponsored by Reps. Jim Chapman (D-Tex.) and Carl Pursell (R-Mich.), which demands that U.S. allies either pay their promised commitments to the Gulf war or present an agreed upon payment schedule by no later than April 15. Sovereign nations, it seems, if they are U.S. “allies,” now face the same deadlines as American citizens.

One House aide indicated that some congressmen wanted to make penalties for non-compliance explicit, although, he said, some countries are seen as simply having problems getting the money through their legislative bureaucracy, while others are “notorious for not meeting such commitments.”

Pressure will be increased on the allies to meet the payments in an atmosphere which is becoming ever more vitriolic. The Senate passed a similar resolution 98-1 on March 19 which would restrict arms sales to allied countries which did not comply with their Gulf war commitment. These measures would especially affect Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Total outstanding allied commitments are over \$53 billion, while the Treasury has received only \$16.9 billion.

In Germany, the Social Democrats have been up in arms over the German payments since the war lasted

such a short time. They feel that the total \$6.6 billion committed by Germany initially would therefore represent a form of tribute to the United States. The German government will be sending a delegation to the United States at the end of March to renegotiate its commitment.

Hollings blasts budget hoax, offers austerity

Sen. Ernest Hollings (D-S.C.) lashed out at the illusory budget agreement agreed upon by the Congress and the White House last year in a commentary in the *Washington Post* on March 15, calling the budget hoax "a dirty little secret" kept by 535 congressmen and one President. Hollings notes that the debt has skyrocketed toward \$400 billion.

The purpose of last year's agreement, says Hollings, was to allow Bush to get by the 1992 election. The exposure of this aspect of the "dirty little secret" may be the most important side of what Hollings says since, as one of the authors of the insane Gramm-Rudman-Hollings budget balancing measure, he offers no solutions to getting the economy growing, only more austerity.

"The great bulk of the painful 'proposed savings,' " writes Hollings, "a whopping \$108 billion worth—is put off until fiscal years 1994 and 1995, and only a fool believes that cuts of that magnitude will ever be made." He notes that the five-year agreement claims that fiscal years 1994 to 1996 will benefit from a \$110 billion "S&L bonanza," but notes wryly that with the problems the Resolution Trust Corp. now has of getting rid of the S&L assets, "we'll be lucky to get 10¢ on the dollar for these turkeys."

Hollings correctly notes that the

great bulk of the deficit is gross interest on the national debt—\$292 billion in fiscal year 1991. He adds that in financing the record budget deficits this year and next, "interest costs will jump in annual increments of \$30 billion or more.

"Sixty cents out of every dollar in personal income taxes now goes strictly to pay gross interest on the debt," reports Hollings.

SDI focus of renewed partisan infighting

Two sense of Congress amendments were introduced in the Senate on March 13 focused on the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). Sen. John Warner (R-Va.) first submitted a resolution calling for re-opening negotiations of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty to allow for the development of advanced missile defense systems, and to abrogate the treaty entirely if no progress is made within two years.

The amendment was added as a rider to a bill which authorizes a \$500 million package of benefits for military personnel and their families. The amendment was introduced after discussions with the White House, which thought they could capitalize on the "momentum" of the Gulf war.

Although the Warner amendment builds on the original Reagan proposal, with the lack of major funding the proposal is self-serving as a tool for bashing anti-defense Democrats and, in particular, to humiliate Senate Armed Services Committee chairman Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), who had voted against the Gulf war.

Nunn counterproposed directing SDI funds away from directed energy systems and in favor of rapid development of ground-based kinetic energy

devices, including \$100 million for new Patriots—something more palatable for liberal Democrats. The Nunn proposal, with stronger support in the Senate, prompted Warner to withdraw his amendment, and Nunn then withdrew his proposal.

Specter seeks stringent measures in crime bill

Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.), one of the sponsors of the crime bill proposed by the Bush administration, wants to outdo even the butchers in the White House. Specter proposes further amendments to further limit *habeas corpus* proceedings, by allowing for only one appeal in the state court for defendants facing the death penalty, which would comprehend all of the issues involved, including the competency of counsel.

Specter, a former district attorney in Philadelphia, wants to limit the time for filing a *habeas corpus* petition in federal court to 120 days, while the Bush crime bill had already demanded a time limitation for filing of 180 days.

The right to *habeas corpus* is the only legal means that indigent prisoners convicted to die have to rectify any discrepancies or irregularities in the judicial system which condemned them to death. The limitations placed on the time to file could send a good number of innocent people to their deaths.

The Bush crime bill is a mixture of "reforms" which would also allow into court evidence from illegal search and seizure. Sen. Joseph Biden (D-Del.), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has indicated that he will work to pass the bill if the administration will agree to include gun control legislation.

National News

Electric utilities attack dereg push

A coalition of 40 investor-owned electric utilities, under the umbrella of the Electric Reliability Coalition, have begun an advertising campaign to warn the public of the Bush administration proposal to destroy the industry through deregulation.

"The same lures of financial schemes for easy profits and alleged lower costs that led to the deregulatory disasters of the 1980s—S&Ls, airlines, and telephones—are back again," one ad reads. "Now they're tempting some in Congress and the administration to experiment with America's electric utilities—who for generations have provided the most reliable and lowest cost power in the world."

The 40 utilities service more than 75 million people. They estimate that deregulation "will open the gates to heaping an estimated \$100 billion in highly leveraged debt onto the U.S. economy for projects that aren't needed." Dereg would allow any group that can talk venture capitalists into funding a project, to borrow money without any legal obligation to ever provide reliable power. The ad concludes, "If it ain't broke, don't break it."

Ridenhour says U.S. liable for war crimes

Will the "highway from Kuwait City" come to have the same meaning as "My Lai," asks Ron Ridenhour, in a commentary in the March 16 *Houston Post*. Ridenhour served in the U.S. military in Vietnam and was later a reporter there. His 1969 letter of complaint led to the official investigation of the My Lai massacre.

Ridenhour details the decapitation and systematic destruction of every vehicle in the seven-mile Iraqi column that was fleeing Kuwait City on Feb. 26. "It was, without question, a breathtaking slaughter. The killing of that caravan was universally hailed in the American press as an extraordinary

military victory. Was it?" asks Ridenhour.

"Maybe the President is right. Maybe we should have war-crimes trials. . . . If we do that, then why shouldn't what happened to the people trapped in the middle of that column—and the people who killed them—also come under that tribunal's jurisdiction? . . . It is not a happy question, especially for a press gallery so desperately leading the escape from the so-called Vietnam Syndrome."

Ridenhour asks readers to consider why it was necessary to kill the people trapped in the caravan, who were without an escape route. Weren't they effectively prisoners at some point? he asks.

"I hate to be the grinch, but I want to see, Live at Five, the on-board videos the aircraft cameras took of their handiwork on the highway from Kuwait City. . . . I want to see how the slaughter of the caravan was substantively different from that at My Lai where people were lined up and shot."

Scalia decision would expand death penalty

A recent decision by Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, which defense specialists say will make it much more difficult to find volunteer lawyers to serve inmates on death row, has set the stage for the Bush administration's efforts to expand the use of the death penalty.

Newly assigned by Chief Justice William Rehnquist as the administrative justice for the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, Scalia overturned past practice and ruled that lack of a lawyer would no longer be "good cause" for an extension of time in which to file a petition for a writ of *certiorari* in capital cases.

Scalia's ruling came in response to petitions for extension of time filed by the Texas Resource Center in Austin, a federally and privately funded group that recruits lawyers to handle death-row appeals. He said that none of the requests would meet the test of "good cause shown" for granting an extension, and said withdrawal of counsel does not automatically justify an extension of time. Scalia's decision is final, and cannot

be appealed.

In one of the cases, Scalia noted that an extension would go beyond the execution date, which would be "either futile or will disrupt the state's orderly administration of justice."

Texas bill would curb grand jury abuse

Legislation aimed at reining in the use of grand juries for fishing expeditions has been introduced into the Texas House of Representatives by Rep. Senfronia Thompson, (D-Houston). The bill would allow grand jury witnesses to be accompanied by their lawyer.

Austin District Attorney Ronnie Earle attacked the bill as an "outrage," calling it a "drug trafficker, organized criminal, corrupt politician amnesty act, and it is a slap in the face to every prosecutor and other law officer in Texas."

Thompson responded to Earle on the House floor, saying, "I'm demanding that Ronnie Earle not just apologize to the Honorable Senfronia Thompson but to every honorable member of this body for the outrageous conduct and sleazy tactics that he has employed." She said Earle's comments were meant to intimidate members from supporting her bill, and called upon House members to show "that you will not be bullied by Ronnie Earle and his McCarthy-like tactics."

Her attack on Earle provoked a standing ovation from House members. Earle brought evidence to a grand jury in January which led to a two-count misdemeanor indictment of House Speaker Gib Lewis. He is continuing to go after Lewis and others in the House leadership.

Exxon to pay fines for Valdez oil spill

In a precedent-setting agreement, Exxon Corp. and Exxon Shipping Co. agreed in mid-March to settle all federal and state civil claims resulting from the Exxon Valdez oil

Briefly

spill on March 24, 1989, and will pay \$900 million in damages. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh announced that Exxon had also agreed to plead guilty to federal environmental criminal charges and to pay a criminal fine of \$100 million.

This is the largest environmental criminal penalty in history, and sets a precedent for environmental criminal prosecutions in any type of accident. Exxon, which had agreed to pay \$1 billion in fines a long time ago, had fought the criminal charges for that reason. Exxon also pled guilty to a violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which is the first time a corporation has been convicted of violating an international environmental treaty. Exxon still has to contend with several other lawsuits, including one from an environmental coalition led by the National Wildlife Federation which is seeking \$1 billion in damages to be given by Exxon to the environmental groups so they can allegedly fix Alaska.

Although Exxon may be able to pay such fines, most middle-sized and smaller businesses would be bankrupted.

Ironically, scientists have now established that significantly greater damage was caused by the efforts to restore the damage from the spill than from the spill itself, and that, as has been seen in oil spills, within 5-10 years, there is no trace of damage.

Last case dropped against PANIC workers

The Office of Los Angeles District Attorney Ira Reiner announced March 15 that it is dropping charges against Bruce Kilber, the last remaining defendant in the indictments concocted by his office and that of California Attorney General John Van de Kamp over three years ago against supporters of Lyndon LaRouche.

Kilber was charged in January 1988 with illegally registering to vote. Charges against Andrea Diano-Smith, who had been indicted along with Kilber, were dropped two years ago after it was learned that a key piece of evidence had been manufactured by the family of her husband, Lewis du Pont Smith. The prosecutions were the product

of a combined "Get LaRouche" task force and Hollywood-gay lobby effort against Proposition 64, the anti-AIDS ballot initiative placed on the November 1986 California ballot by associates of LaRouche. Both Reiner and Van de Kamp were prominent and outspoken opponents of Prop. 64, and are closely tied to the circles of California's Hollywood-gay lobby which are controlled by the Anti-Defamation League.

The dismissal of charges came as the defense was ready to document that Reiner's office never prosecuted in instances of similar allegations, and that it had sat on charges made against his political allies.

Judge blocks 'Get LaRouche' document grab

Fairfax County Circuit Court Judge Thomas Fortkort granted a temporary restraining order (TRO) March 12 requested by four entities affiliated with the LaRouche political movement. The request, barring the execution of a search warrant for production of bank records until a motion to quash is heard, was identical to one denied earlier by Alexandria Circuit Court Judge Richard Kent, and is a blow to the "Get LaRouche" task force's harassment of the LaRouche movement. The search warrant was quashed in Fairfax on March 20.

Fortkort found that a reasonable basis to believe that the warrant was improper and illegal existed, thus requiring the protection the entities had asked for. Showing a considerably greater concern for constitutional questions, Fortkort enjoined both Signet Bank and Loudoun County Sheriff's Lt. Donald Moore (or any other law enforcement agent) from executing the warrant, until all arguments on its legality are heard.

The Fairfax County and Alexandria Circuit warrants were based on an affidavit from a Minnesota Attorney General's investigator that was also used to get a seizure order for bank accounts in Philadelphia. That order was subsequently vacated by a Minnesota judge, based on material omissions in the affidavit, particularly that the facts involved in a supposed "swindle" were the subject of a civil settlement.

● **J. BUSH AND CO.**, the firm of Jonathon Bush, President Bush's brother, agreed to pay \$4,000 to settle charges that it operated in Connecticut without properly registering, the March 11 *Wall Street Journal* reported.

● **STUDENTS** at Hampton University in Virginia are objecting to President Bush speaking at their commencement ceremony, the March 17 *Washington Post* reported. The students say that Bush is antagonistic to minorities.

● **'ONE OF THE** most expensive and pervasive public relation campaigns ever launched by a foreign country in the United States," is how the March 17 *Washington Post* defines the continuing campaign begun by the Kuwait ruling family during the Gulf crisis to draw Americans into supporting the war.

● **KUWAIT** "exaggerated" Iraqi atrocities for propaganda purposes, reported ABC News on March 15. The director of the Maternity Hospital told ABC that infants allegedly ripped from incubators by Iraqi soldiers had actually died when the neonate staff fled. The incubators were hidden by a thoughtful orderly.

● **PUBLIC HOSPITALS** in Houston may turn away all but the most seriously injured emergency room patients during periods of extreme overcrowding, the *Houston Chronicle* reported March 15. "It's something we might have to do when things get out of control," said Dr. Phillip Dellinger, director of emergency medicine at Ben Taub Hospital.

● **FEDERAL** prosecutors have failed to get any convictions on 238 fraud charges brought against 12 Chicago Mercantile Exchange yen traders. The government had alleged that the traders had conspired to defraud customers, but had failed to produce any victims that had suffered losses as a result of the alleged fraud.

Emergency relief for Iraq now

Famine and disease now threaten millions of people in the Persian Gulf region, as a result of the war. Conditions in Iraq now border on famine. The destruction of water and sanitation facilities, coupled with a lack of power-generating capacity, mean spread of disease unchecked.

We fully support the campaign for emergency relief to Iraq which is being launched by the Schiller Institute. The devastation of that nation has been so complete, that without emergency measures, the stage is set for the modern-day equivalent of the Black Death which swept Europe in the 1300s and destroyed three-fourths of the population.

Fewer than 1,000 calories per person per day are available to the people of Iraq. Over the next year, Iraq needs approximately 550,000 metric tons of rice, 3.1 million metric tons of wheat and wheat flour (in grain equivalent), plus other staples such as fats and oils, sugar, animal proteins, meat, vegetables, and infant formula.

Equipment, power, fuels, and chemicals are needed to supply 150 liters of safe water per person per day. At present, there is no system for safe water provision in Iraq. Required are: portable water purification units, power generators, diesel fuel, tank trucks, chlorine, alum and other chemicals, and spare parts.

Pharmaceuticals, equipment, staff, and facilities are needed both for primary health care (pre- and neonatal care, vaccinations, and other care) and for treating communicable diseases. Required are antibiotics and other medicaments, immunization doses (DPT, polio, measles), and basic supplies including syringes, sterilizers, blood tests, and refrigeration boxes.

Despite the cease-fire, the U.S. government has continued to pursue its genocidal policies against Iraq. Not only are there no moves on the part of the United States to provide humanitarian aid to the Iraqi people, but George Bush has put every conceivable obstacle in the way of those governments and agencies which have tried to deliver food supplies, water, or medicine. Offers of humanitarian aid to Iraq from private U.S. citi-

zens and charities and foreign governments are being blocked by Washington.

The European Commission has offered a grant to help clean up Baghdad's water supply, but the U.S. opposes it. Within hours of the cease-fire, a sum of £392,000 was offered by the EC to the Red Cross to pay for a mobile water treatment unit. EC Commissioner for the Middle East Abel Matutes, who is to oversee EC humanitarian assistance for the area, cited the dangers of polluted drinking water and epidemics. U.S. embassy officials in Europe immediately objected to the "haste" of the offer, and moved to prevent the U.N. sanctions commission from approving it.

A shipment of 50 tons of medical supplies has been jeopardized by Washington officials. Gathered by the Fellowship of Reconciliation, an interdenominational pacifist charity, the relief package has not received required export papers from the U.S. Treasury and State Departments, which are stalling, despite the humanitarian nature of the cargo. Representatives of the group have appealed to Congress to override administration stonewalling. A Fellowship of Reconciliation delegation wants to embark for Iraq on March 23 with the medicines, but they fear that administration officials may sue them.

A UNICEF arrangement for 12 refrigerated trucks to transport vaccines and other medical supplies, ordered in 1990 for humanitarian use in transport between Teheran and Baghdad, has been held up by the U.N. embargo. Seven health officials from the World Health Organization and UNICEF toured Baghdad and nearby areas Feb. 16-21, and reported on the emergency needs. They arranged for a meager 54 tons of medical supplies to be delivered.

What is needed now is an international task force to assess what is needed in detail. Even before such an assessment is completed, however, relief measures must be taken. An international outcry must be raised, so that George Bush is forced to lift the boycott which the United States is still illegally enforcing against the people of Iraq.



So, You Wish to Learn All About Economics?

by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

A text on elementary mathematical economics, by the world's leading economist. Find out why *EIR* was right, when everyone else was wrong.

Order from:
Ben Franklin Booksellers, Inc.
 27 South King Street
 Leesburg, Va. 22075

\$9.95 plus shipping (\$1.50 for first book, \$.50 for each additional book). Information on bulk rates and videotape available on request.

LaROUCHE

YOU MAY LOVE HIM

YOU MAY HATE HIM

BUT

YOU'D BETTER

KNOW WHAT

HE HAS TO SAY



The Power of Reason: 1988

an autobiography by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.



The Power of Reason: 1988

An Autobiography by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

Published by Executive Intelligence Review

Order from Ben Franklin Booksellers, 27 South King St., Leesburg, VA 22075. \$10 plus shipping (\$1.50 for first copy, .50 for each additional). Bulk rates available.

Executive Intelligence Review

U.S., Canada and Mexico only

1 year \$396
 6 months \$225
 3 months \$125

Foreign Rates

Central America, West Indies, Venezuela and Colombia: 1 yr. \$450, 6 mo. \$245, 3 mo. \$135

South America: 1 yr. \$470, 6 mo. \$255, 3 mo. \$140.

Europe, Middle East, Africa: 1 yr. DM 1400, 6 mo. DM 750, 3 mo. DM 420. Payable in deutschemarks or other European currencies.

All other countries: 1 yr. \$490, 6 mo. \$265, 3 mo. \$145

I would like to subscribe to *Executive Intelligence Review* for

1 year 6 months 3 months

I enclose \$_____ check or money order

Please charge my MasterCard Visa
 Card No. _____ Exp. date _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Company _____

Phone () _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Make checks payable to EIR News Service Inc., P.O. Box 17390, Washington, D.C. 20041-0390. In Europe: *EIR* Nachrichtenagentur GmbH, Postfach 2308, Dotzheimerstrasse 166, 62 Wiesbaden, Federal Republic of Germany, telephone (06121) 8840.

**Will your
supermarket
soon sell
legalized
cocaine
?**

Blame George Bush!

EIR Special Report, March 1991

Bush's Surrender to Dope, Inc.

Washington's Policies Are Destroying Colombia

Contrary to what the White House public relations moguls tell you, Bush has forced Colombia to give up its war on drugs, to stop extraditing the dope kingpins to the U.S., to make "peace" with the narco-terrorists, and to move toward legalizing drugs. The same policies are on line for the United States, and the drug legalizers are moving in fast for the kill. This report tells you what you need to know to stop them.

150 pages, with index

Price: **\$100**



Order from:

EIR News Service P.O. Box 17390 Washington, D.C. 20041-0390