

Editorial

The strategic assessment

While there is nothing new in the following assessment, received in early December from certain European representatives of the best of the older establishment of the Adenauer-de Gaulle period, what is new is the fact that, despite minor, secondary, or merely tertiary differences between the sources' points of reference, and that which Lyndon LaRouche summarizes in *EIR's* "Storm Over Asia" videotape, nevertheless, these very-well-situated sources have an overview which coincides in all general strategic considerations with LaRouche's own.

All significant U.S. domestic as well as international leading issues, must be situated from this determining standpoint of reference, as that is summarized in "Storm Over Asia," in LaRouche's report to the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, and in remarks included in his New York town meeting of Dec. 4. Tear up any contrary strategic and national assessment scripts accordingly. These sources report:

"First, within the trans-Atlantic establishments, there is one first commandment, which comes ahead of *everything else*: It is that *the financial system must be kept going, no matter what*. Because if the financial system goes, everything goes. This is being pursued with an almost psychotic determination,

"However, there is indeed a paradox, identified by LaRouche, that the very means—liquidity pumping—with which the meltdown has repeatedly been postponed, has itself created an antinomy, whereby the means to postpone the meltdown, might themselves detonate the system in an inflationary explosion. That antinomy is what the central banks, governments, and financial experts, so-called, are really worried about.

"Second, in terms of the global strategic situation, regarding Russia, Central Asia, and the Caucasus: Yes, the old British 'Great Game' operatives are at work. But there is another dimension to the problem, not limited on the U.S. side to [Secretary of State Madeleine] Albright and [former National Security Adviser Zbigniew] Brzezinski: the emergence of what one may call a new Carter Doctrine.

"The Caucasus, and more broadly, the Caucasus-Central Asia region, is defined, in effect, as the Persian Gulf of the 21st century. The energy and other raw material deposits there, are defined as of vital importance for

the U.S. and the West as a whole, into the 21st century. Access and control must be assured. The line is, 'You Russians can live with it. With your own vast resources in Siberia, you don't depend on Central Asia/Caucasus the way we do.'

"Third, that therefore, the two previous points are connected to a dynamic toward a Cold War. This should also be seen as a contingency option for the financial situation getting out of control. For that Cold War, you need the new *Feindbild* (enemy image). For that, the two candidates are obviously China and Russia. Russia's behavior in respect to Chechnya, is exactly the way the *Feindbild* is desired to emerge.

"Fourth, the trend toward an authoritarian, dictatorial regime in Russia is accelerating. It's a dictatorship on unstable economic/financial ground, but with a strong 'Third Rome' thrust. If IMF-World Bank funds are cut, which is likely, then the war will intensify economic/financial problems within the next three to five months, including a new inflation wave.

"War in Chechnya is going to last, but Russia may present a sort of victory in the short term, by destroying the Chechens in the cities and lowlands, while protracted guerrilla war continues in the mountains. A likely result will be targetting of Russian pipelines, in and beyond the Caucasus, severely affecting energy exports and revenues.

"Fifth point: The U.S. election process is incalculable; the situation is completely fluid in an unprecedented way. The only thing that seems certain is that Gore is finished. Everything else is in motion, and the view that things will be clearer by April, when basically all the important primaries are over, is questionable. The result of the primaries will not necessarily be the result of the elections. Even the conventions must not be seen as determining, because there are so many incalculables, that even a seemingly safe candidate of either party may drop out, or be shot down, even after the conventions—but certainly into the conventions.

"In conclusion, the situation in coming months is to be described as unprecedentedly chaotic, with incalculable, dramatic shifts, and anyone who does not take this as the basis for assessing the situation, and tries to rely on a false sense of certainty, is going to see nasty surprises."