

Transcaucasus countries became involved, this would become the kind of mutual-interest economic endeavor promoted in "Southwest Asia: The LaRouche Doctrine." Moreover, Azerbaijan and Iran began attempts to reconcile their positions on sovereignty over the Caspian Sea and its sea-floor resources; as two out of the five Caspian littoral countries, they have been on opposite sides of the years-long, stalled negotiations over its status. And, the two sides discussed ways to un-deadlock the Azerbaijan-Armenia dispute over Karabakh.

On April 28, Presidents Kocharian and Aliyev met in Warsaw, where they were attending the European Economic Summit, to discuss approaches to further negotiations on Karabakh. But Kocharian remains preoccupied with the street demonstrations against him, which he denounced on April 25 as "treason." Talks between the regime and opposition coalition leaders broke off on April 27. Council of Europe Secretary-General Walter Schwimmer then proposed, that the CoE come in to sponsor such talks. The Armenian weekly *Iravunk* reports that Kocharian's Prime Minister and the Speaker of the National Assembly have publicly threatened to join the opposition camp.

The "Roses Revolution" has been cited as an exemplary "velvet," or non-violent, regime change—a model to be followed in Armenia and, perhaps, Ukraine. But Georgia has not stabilized under Saakashvili. The new President has under-

taken balanced diplomacy with the great powers, visiting both Moscow and Washington since his inauguration. At the same time, he is viewed as a dangerous hothead even by some other members of his coalition. In particular, Saakashvili has been in confrontations with Aslan Abashidze, leader of the autonomous republic of Ajaria, who continues to insist that last year's election victory by Saakashvili's National Movement was fraudulent.

Turkey's Treaty Commitment

Earlier this year the showdown between them led to a blockade of the Black Sea port of Batumi, Ajaria's capital, and armed conflict loomed. Russian mediation, by Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov and shadowy businessman Grigori Luchansky, and the Foreign Ministry, cooled it out for now. However, Ajaria's Parliament declared a state of emergency on April 24, in response to a Georgian national Parliament resolution that called for disarming the militias in Ajaria. Saakashvili said that his regime would "not allow the country to be disintegrated," addressing a parade of Georgian troops who had just finished a U.S. military training program.

Ajaria's autonomous status within Georgia was enshrined in the 1921 Treaty of Kars between Turkey and Russia, which gave Ajaria to Russia, but reserved for Turkey the right of intervention, should that autonomy be threatened. Turkish officials have cited that clause several times in recent weeks.

Georgians Tell EIR: 'LaRouche Concept' Is Needed

Three politically active Georgian intellectuals spoke with EIR in February 2004 at the Academy of National and Social Relations, in Tbilisi. Prof. Grigori Zhvania, Prof. Vakhtang Goguadze and Valeri Kvaratskhelia, editor of Kalkhi (The People) magazine and former press secretary for ex-President Eduard Shevardnadze, are officers of the Academy. The interview was conducted by Dr. Vladimir Kilasonia, Schiller Institute representative in Georgia.

Dr. Kilasonia: Mr. Goguadze, as chairman of the Georgian-Russian Friendship Society and former Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia (1992-1995), how do you assess current relations between Georgia and Russia?

Prof. Goguadze: Why hide the truth? I have dedicated the Society to something that doesn't exist, insofar as there has been no real friendship between Russia and Georgia for the past ten years. Such aggravated, tense relations between our fraternal peoples have not been seen before in history. This is the doing of American politicians, who have driven a wedge between our countries. This unnatural state of affairs will pass. So, the Georgian-Russian

Friendship Society exists for the near-term future. In the meantime, we are preparing the ideological basis for the spiritual rebirth and development of our ties. The key to saving Georgia is in the global interests of the United States and Russia, just as, 400 years ago, our fate was determined by relations among the [Turkish] sultan, the [Persian] shah and the Kalmyks, on the one side, and Russia on the other.

Prof. Zhvania: We are planning a conference at our Academy, on the theme of "The Role of Russia and the USA in Deciding Georgia's Fateful Problems." In this connection, the concept of my young friend (seven years younger than I am) Lyndon LaRouche will serve as a positive, constructive element. Our American friend Lyndon LaRouche should know that he is loved and highly valued in Georgia! And if the American people were to follow LaRouche's concept, America would gain, as would our little Georgia, and the entire world.

Kilasonia: Mr. Kvaratskhelia, your popular newspaper *2000* has disseminated and popularized Mr. LaRouche's ideas. We appreciate this.

Valeri Kvaratskhelia: Thank you for the "thank you," but, to tell you the truth, we are more grateful to *him*, since such people ennoble the impression one has about a country. If it were not for Americans of the quality of this humanist, we would be infected with Americanophobia.