

IMF plans 'Yugoslav' scenario for Canada

by Gilles Gervais

Canadians will cast their ballots on Oct. 25 to elect a new federal government and a new House of Commons in Ottawa. These votes will, most probably, result in a novel configuration: an unstable parliament, in which no party has a majority.

While Canada has experienced minority governments before, nothing in Canada's recent political past has prepared Canadians for what is about to happen. While in the early 1960s, the small Social Credit Party had held the balance of power in the House of Commons for a number of years, it never posed a threat to the political existence of the country. In this election, the strategic positioning of two new regional parties is likely to bring about the political dissolution of Canada by 1995.

The two traditional parties, the Liberals and Conservatives, are now scheduled to form a coalition government, whose agenda will be to implement the demand of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that Canada reduce its Can \$35 billion budget deficit through draconian austerity measures.

The soon-to-be proclaimed new prime minister, the Liberal Party's Jean Chrétien, caused an uproar when he made the obvious point that there might be political dangers involved in bringing the budget deficit to zero before the end of the century. This "could be done," he said, but "you might have 25% unemployment, [and then] you don't worry about the deficit anymore. It's a revolution. Nobody in Yugoslavia is talking about the problem of the deficit there today."

The *Globe and Mail* retorted with an angry lead editorial on Oct. 15 entitled "Start the Revolution Without Us." During the entire election, the paper wrote, "no political candidate has said anything as silly as Jean Chrétien's claim that the budget cannot be balanced before the end of the century without turning Canada into a Yugoslavia."

The fact of the matter is that the government has been served notice by the IMF, that Canada is about to get its third and final public warning in less than five years. The first was delivered to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in spring 1989, when the IMF demanded that Canada drastically cut its budget deficit. Ottawa's response at that time was to unload the federal debt onto the backs of the provinces. That fanned the flames of regional discontent, including among the Quebec separatist parties. Last April came the IMF's second public intervention; this had everything to do with Mulroney's resig-

nation and the choice of the "Maggie Thatcher of Canada," Kim Campbell, to head the Conservative Party.

New opposition parties

Of the two new regional parties that gained in popularity after the 1990 failure of the Meech Lake Constitutional Accords, one will surely be called upon to form Her Majesty's loyal opposition.

The western-based Reform Party of populist Preston Manning is cashing in on the anti-Mulroney sentiment which is especially strong in the prairie provinces. The Reformists want a "One Canada" approach to Canada's constitutional crisis and reject Ottawa's attempts to reintegrate Quebec by offers of special status or other accommodations for the French-speaking province. During the campaign, Manning attempted to outdo Campbell's pro-IMF policy with his proposal to wipe out the deficit in three years flat!

The second new party is the Quebecois Bloc, which is attempting to court U.S. support for its separatist, anti-republican agenda by issuing a new foreign policy platform that emphasizes, as party leader Lucien Bouchard said, "We are not leftists. Quebec will not be a Cuba of the North. Quebecers love the United States more than anybody in the world."

There is a possibility that the Liberals will barely achieve a majority government and that Bouchard could become the leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons. This could paralyze the parliamentary process, creating a situation where the Opposition leader is more interested in scoring points for Quebec than in dealing with national or international affairs.

The LaRouche factor

The only political voice for sanity in the Canadian election has been that of the Party for the Commonwealth of Canada (PCC), Lyndon LaRouche's associates, whose "antigenocide slate" of 59 candidates ran for Parliament in Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia.

The PCC intervened several times, on national television, on radio, and in candidates' debates, to bring a larger international perspective into the campaign in order to break the controlled environment. The PCC widely distributed a national leaflet, "a call to arms to all Canadians to rise on their hind legs and take personal responsibility for the future of our nation and the world. . . . The world must rid itself of globalism and return to the principle of the sovereign nation-state as the foundation for relations between the countries of the world. Canada shall adopt the principle of national political economy, ending the control of the monetary and economic affairs of our nation by private bankers and globalist institutions such as the IMF and World Bank. We must eliminate private central banking systems that mandate policies like the North American Free Trade Agreement, as a vehicle for the globalization of the U.S. dollar."