

peaceful applications of nuclear energy, with emphasis on thermonuclear fusion. Some Russian planners see it as possibly linking up with an existing international fusion project involving the United States, Russia, Japan, and European nations.

The British counter-offensive

The British are frantic to impede such developments. As we have reported, the British have been involved in an all-points diplomatic wrecker effort across Asia, including shaping the newly formed Asia-European Meeting (ASEM) forum, to their specifications (see *EIR*, March 22, "Britain's 'New Empire' Strategy Invades Asia," and Jan. 19, p. 28).

A well-informed Russian strategist has informed *EIR* that former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Bush, and Kissinger are super-active, including vis-à-vis Moscow and Beijing directly, to exacerbate whatever tensions may exist with the Clinton administration, in order, as he put it, "to topple Bill Clinton, and kill his chances for reelection."

This is reflected in the British media. The first shot was fired, by leading anti-Clinton poison pen Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, Washington correspondent for the Hollinger Corp.-owned London *Sunday Telegraph*. On March 10, he charged that the President had neglected the "great power diplomacy that upholds the international system," and that now, "everything is in ruins." Beyond the problems in the Middle East and Northern Ireland, and likely upcoming anti-American terrorism in the Balkans, the real problem is "the profound double crisis in U.S. relations with China and Russia." China's action in the Taiwan Straits is "precipitating the most serious foreign policy crisis of the Clinton Presidency," all of which is the President's own fault. Peter Rodman, a close associate of Kissinger, is quoted: "Bill Clinton has done serious damage to the international system, he's compounded instabilities all over the world. It is like termites eating away at your house: You do not notice the structural damage, and then one day the whole house falls down."

New York Council on Foreign Relations-linked writer Jim Hoagland, reflected what seemed to be a Kissinger line being circulated among policy circles, in an article on March 12. Hoagland claimed that he had received special information from a Chinese source, that the Chinese are acting provocatively vis-à-vis Taiwan, because "they are prepared to see, and may even welcome, the defeat of President Bill Clinton in the coming U.S. election," and to bring "a conservative, anti-Moscow Republican administration" into power. Stated Hoagland: "The President will argue during this election year that he kept his eye on the economy and avoided disaster abroad. The Republicans at this point must depend on the world's bad actors to act bad along the way, and ruin Mr. Clinton's applause lines, and help the Republicans regain the foreign policy edge. China, Fidel Castro, and the others have recently shown why that is far from a forlorn Republican hope."

Duma vote saves Yeltsin's regime

by Konstantin George

The floundering Yeltsin Presidency has been given a new lease on life by a Russian Duma Resolution, passed March 15. The resolution, initiated by the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF), and supported by the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) of the regime's in-house extremist, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, declared the December 1991 Belovezhoye accords that had terminated the U.S.S.R. "null and void," and thereby amounted to a parliamentary vote "reconstituting" the Soviet Union.

The Duma vote marked a stunning turning point in the internal Russian situation. Whether some of the CPRF leaders involved in this stunt intended it or not, the effect of the Duma vote was to hand the Yeltsin regime a full-blown constitutional crisis, which was the only remaining real option they had to cancel the June 16 Presidential elections, and thus prevent a certain defeat for President Boris Yeltsin. All attempts by the Yeltsin regime to create or exploit crises, such as the escalating war in Chechnya, as pretexts to force a postponement or cancellation of the elections, had failed.

As U.S. Democratic Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche observed in a March 20 interview: "This resolution in the Duma . . . is the one thing that might save Yeltsin's butt. Yeltsin was more or less doomed to be replaced by . . . the dynamic of events. And the Communist Party, the revised or neo-Communist Party's candidate [Gennadi Zyuganov] was likely to win."

Within Russia's immediate neighbors, which they term the "Near Abroad," the Duma resolution caused a stampede of all the other Community of Independent States (CIS) governments into supporting the continuation of the Yeltsin-Chernomyrdin regime past June, and thus of the damaging International Monetary Fund (IMF) dictated "reforms." The Duma vote unleashed another stampede among the nations of eastern Europe into wanting to accelerate their admission into NATO. The effects of these two trends on the already-obsessed minds of the CPRF and other neo-imperial currents in Russia is incalculably dangerous. It will tend to heighten an irrational view of many of their CIS neighbors and eastern Europe as a new belt of hostile countries encircling a besieged Mother Russia.

Along with this, a surge in undifferentiated anti-Western and above all anti-American rage is inevitable. This was not

helped by the appearance in Moscow of NATO General Secretary Javier Solana, on March 20, at the height of the storm over the Duma resolution. Solana used the occasion to bluntly declare that NATO extension is “irreversible” and will occur.

In tandem, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher appeared in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev, denouncing the Duma resolution as “totally irresponsible” and declared: “NATO extension is under way and will be realized.” He restated the U.S. support for Ukraine’s right to exist as a sovereign nation, but did not say anything about a prospective membership of Ukraine in NATO. Verbally, his declarations in support of Ukrainian independence were all fine and good; but U.S. deeds, namely, support for IMF looting policies, are systematically destroying the national fabric of both Russia and Ukraine, and creating the conditions for the emergence of the Russian security threat to Ukraine that Washington verbally condemns.

Christopher went from Kiev to preside over a meeting of the foreign ministers of 12 former East bloc states in Prague, where he declared: “NATO must not and will not leave the new democracies standing in a waiting room.” The 12 states were all from eastern Europe, including the three Baltic republics, i.e., what NATO might consider a “sop” to Moscow, inviting no participation by CIS members.

Election annulment drive amid a split CPRF

Regarding the political crisis launched within Russia, an additional problem lies within the CPRF itself. Our stress at the beginning of this report regarding only “some” of the CPRF leaders, reflects the fact that the Communist Party of today, in contrast to the ruling Soviet party, is not centrally run, top-down. The CPRF’s strength lies in its control through a communist cadre machinery of many of Russia’s regions. Its national weight and power are based on the agglomeration of these varied regional “baronies.” A further reflection of this lies in its factionalization, which openly manifested itself in the build-up to and aftermath of the Duma vote.

LaRouche, in the same interview, warned that the Duma vote “might be used by various people to postpone the Russian Presidential elections, which is something we’ve been afraid might happen. It’s very tricky and reflects the instability of the situation.”

The regime’s drive to annul the elections is already in motion. As the French daily *Les Echos* commented on March 21, reporting on a March 20 Kremlin meeting of Yeltsin and his political advisers: “It was noted that the Duma vote puts in doubt the holding of the Presidential elections.” Moreover, CPRF Presidential candidate Gennadi Zyuganov, at a Moscow press conference on March 19, accurately reported on election postponement maneuvers initiated that same day in the Russian Parliament’s Upper House, the Federation Council—up-front initiatives that are coordinated with covert moves by the Yeltsin regime.

Zyuganov declared that as a result of the Duma move, “the

Federation Council will be discussing a two-year extension of Yeltsin’s term in office,” and that this idea “came from above.” Zyuganov also announced that he would offer “no resistance” should the extension of Yeltsin’s term in office “actually appear on the agenda.” It was clear from this Zyuganov statement that the CPRF and other opposition forces, do not currently have the raw power in Moscow required to openly confront the Yeltsin-Chernomyrdin *ancien régime* over the June election timetable.

On the same day as Zyuganov’s press conference, the Russian press was filled with leaks from “sources in the Presidential apparatus,” declaring that the Kremlin is considering “dissolving the Duma” because of its “unconstitutional” March 15 resolution.

Zyuganov has anything but a united CPRF backing him. At the higher levels this was clear from the conduct of the CPRF member who presides over the Duma, Gennadi Seleznyov. While Zyuganov was denouncing the Yeltsin plot to annul the elections, Seleznyov was telling journalists the “conditions” on which he would support an extension—even an indefinite one—of the Yeltsin Presidency. Seleznyov said that, provided Boris Yeltsin agrees to change the Russian Constitution to abolish the Presidency, which would take effect after Yeltsin decides to step down, “x” number of years into the future, then, he, Seleznyov, would support the indefinite extension of a Yeltsin Presidency.

It should be noted that while Zyuganov and the entire CPRF leadership support the re-creation of the U.S.S.R. ideologically, it was Seleznyov who played the key role in the decision to go ahead with such an initiative in the Duma, three months before the elections, when a near-certain Zyuganov victory was developing. This made no sense, even within the ideologically colored “logic” of Soviet-nostalgia permeating the Communists. They could simply have waited three months, and then proceeded, from a position of strength, having the Presidency, with their neo-empire “crusade.”

As Zyuganov hinted in references to the Federation Council at his press conference, the Yeltsin team is guiding the annulment process and letting the Federation Council spearhead the drive. Already on March 19, regional heads of administration who sit in the Federation Council got up to demand postponement. The head of the region of Samara on the Volga, Titov, said: “We have to say it very clearly. Either the Duma revokes its resolution or we’ll set a new date for the Presidential elections.”

The events of March 20 closed with Yeltsin making his next move. He called on the Duma to pass a law confirming the validity of the dissolution of the U.S.S.R., and the creation of the CIS. A Presidential spokesman told the news agency Interfax that Yeltsin was giving the Duma a “face-saving way” of “correcting” their March 15 unconstitutional resolution. It was clearly implied that should the Duma not comply with this “face-saving” retreat, Yeltsin could order its dissolution.